

**Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting of Hawthorn Community Consolidated District #73, Lake County, Illinois conducted In-Person in accordance with Tier 3 Mitigation Requirements imposed through Executive Order 2020-73—reissued by Executive Order 2020-74
Meeting Location: Hawthorn District Office: 841 West End Court, Vernon Hills, IL 60061**

7:00 p.m. on the 16th day of December 2021

CALL TO ORDER

President Robin Cleek called the Board of Education meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The Board Secretary called attendance, and the following members attended in person: Joel Finfer, George Fievet, Michael Engle, Sonali Patil, Karl Borchers, and Robin Cleek. Also in attendance were the Asst. Supt. of Business & Finance Ms. LeeAnn Taylor; Asst. Supt. of Teaching & Learning Innovation Ms. Allison Stein; Asst. Supt. of Student Services Ms. Alicia Corrigan; Asst. Supt. for Human Resources Mr. Adam Palmer; and Superintendent Dr. Pete Hannigan. Wes Polen was not in attendance.

RECOGNITION

Board member, Karl Borchers, spoke on behalf of the Recognition Committee and recognized 22 Hawthorn students who participated in the ILMEA Junior Honors Music Festival last month. Hawthorn has always prided itself on the exceptional quality of its fine arts programs, and the accomplishments of these students are a testament to their dedication and commitment. The students performed as part of an honors band, chorus, or orchestra. The students were presented with a Hawthorn Medal of Excellence and a certificate from the Recognition Committee.

President Robin Cleek issued a two-minute recess.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Madeline Wright, Vernon Hills High School student, Senior Girl Scout

Madeline is working on her Girl Scout's Gold Award and has proposed a project for Hawthorn District 73. Madeline presented the board with the idea of starting a garden club at the Hawthorn elementary schools. She hopes to execute this idea by creating lesson plans that coincide with the common core standards, including raised garden beds, potato bins, and coordinating with the local service unit to get the other district 73 girl scouts involved to provide support in all the elementary schools. She also plans to get in touch with the boy scouts and seek their help with the project while earning their Eagle Award.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements at this time.

PRESENTATIONS

Director of Instructional Technology, Mr. John Reid, presented the Middle School STEM update. Mr. Reid reviewed the board of education, administrative leadership team, and staff collective commitments. The district's commitments align with the learning environment that is developed and fostered through engagement with STEM learning experiences. One of the board projects this year is to participate in planning and professional development to ensure readiness for the implementation of a consistent and robust STEM program at the middle school level in 2022-2023. As the district explored options to expand the STEM learning experiences for middle school students, one program rose to the top in terms of meeting the needs of the students. Project Lead the Way is a non-profit organization that creates a hands-on, project-based STEM curriculum for elementary, middle and high schools. Project Lead the Way will conduct virtual training and offer training several times during the year to provide flexibility for the teachers. The yearly cost of Project Lead the Way was presented to the board.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance, Ms. LeeAnn Taylor, reviewed the Food Service Contract Amendment. Hawthorn is currently operating with a waiver under the USDA to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students each day regardless of their free/reduced lunch status. The business office files a monthly claim and receives about \$4.31 per lunch and \$2.46 for breakfast. The reimbursement helps pay for Arbor Food Service. Unfortunately, due to multiple factors, including labor shortages, increased cost of food, and work towards the minimum wage law in 2025; the Arbor rates have increased. The business department is seeking approval in the next board meeting for the amended food service contract.

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Hawthorn District 73 will be able to implement this short-term solution for the remainder of the school year. In the Springtime, the business department should have a better understanding of the market, information regarding if the USDA waiver will or will not be extended for the next school year, and present the Board of Education with a new contract.

Ms. LeeAnn Taylor also reviewed the Middle South and Aspen preliminary bid results. As anticipated, the project came back highly-priced. The HVAC, electric and steel all range about 60%-100% more per square foot than last year at this time. The business and facilities offices will continue to work with Lamp Incorporated to come up with different possible recommendations, such as the scope of the project or adjusting the project timeline. The five-year plan that was presented back in August will be discussed in the following January meeting.

The last discussion item was the 2022-2023 proposed student calendar reviewed by Dr. Hannigan. The calendar committee met on November 3, 2021, and November 15, 2021, to define calendar parameters for the next school year, which include 176 student attendance days and four teacher institute days. The committee created a survey to solicit feedback from staff related to the calendar priorities. Specifically, the district requested feedback regarding whether the three teacher institute days at the beginning of the school year are more effective at the beginning of the week (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday) or the end of the week (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday); and whether fall conferences should be held on a Thursday and Friday in October or on November 21 and November 22. Based on the feedback, the district is recommending the enclosed calendar with the first day of student attendance being August 18 and the last day of school being May 30 and keeping parent-teacher conferences in November. The proposed dates align with the local high school calendars. Lincoln Early Learning Center's first day of school will be on August 22 to reflect their non-student attendance days during scheduled early release days and allow time for student evaluations. The calendar committee is composed of district administration, building administration, teachers and HEA. There was representation from Lincoln, elementary schools and middle schools.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hannigan reported the updates on the COVID-19 dashboard. Last week, Friday, December 10, 2021, the district reported 18 students who tested positive for COVID-19. The year-to-date number of students who have tested positive is 113. There was a slight increase following the Thanksgiving Holiday. Last week, Friday, December 10, 2021, the district reported two staff members who tested positive for COVID-19. The year-to-date number of staff members who have tested positive for COVID-19 is 18. Since the beginning of the school year, the overall number of positive cases is 131. The number of students who have been placed under quarantine as of last Friday is 43. The year-to-date number of students placed under quarantine is 187. There were two staff members placed under quarantine as of last Friday. The year-to-date number of staff and students who have been placed under quarantine is 197.

As of last week, Friday, December 10, 2021, there were 25 students and no staff members participating in "Test-to-Stay." Since the start of the school year, 162 students and staff members across the district have participated in "Test-to-Stay" rather than quarantine.

From September 30, 2021, through December 10, 2021, 4,729 samples have been submitted for COVID-19 screening through the partnership with U of I SHIELD. Seventeen students have been found positive since the beginning of SHIELD testing.

Hawthorn District 73 hosted vaccination clinics for ages 5-11 on Thursday, November 18, 2021, and Thursday, December 9, 2021. There were 467 vaccines administered for the 2nd dose clinic on December 9, 2021. There was a station designed for parents to upload their child's vaccination card to PowerSchool. The uploading of the COVID-19 vaccination cards helps the district with contact tracing.

The district hosted the Superintendent's Communication Council on Thursday, December 16, 2021. There were a lot of great celebrations across the district. There were a few operational questions that will be included in the minutes that will be shared with the board and staff members.

Dr. Hannigan closed his Superintendent's Report by wishing everyone a safe winter break.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Board President, Ms. Robin Cleek, would like to wish everyone a happy and safe winter break. President Cleek ended her report by inviting the rest of the board members to the next Sites & Facilities meeting to review bids and ensure a timely process for the next scheduled board meeting.

ED-RED REPORT

Board member, Mr. Joel Finfer, reported that the ED-Red Legislation Dinner is scheduled for January 31, 2022. Mr. Finfer was elected vice-chairman at their last meeting.

SEDOL REPORT

Board member, Mr. Michael Engle, reported that SEDOL held its governing board meeting on December 1, 2021. At that time, the board approved memorandums of understanding with the SEDOL teachers union and SEDOL support staff. Both include certain understandings related to paid administrative leave and employees who are absent from work for certain COVID-19 related reasons. They also provided an overview and update regarding SEDOL's strategic plan and the Humanex survey results there were completed in August 2021. SEDOL is hosting a free walk up vaccination clinic on Saturday, December 18, 2021 from 9:00 am-1:00 pm. It will be located at the SEDOL campus in Gages Lake. It is open to staff, parents and community members. The next governing meeting is scheduled for March 2022.

KEY to 73 REPORT

No report at this time

SITE & FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

No report at this time

CONSENT AGENDA

- 7.1 Board Meeting Minutes 11/16/2021
- 7.2 Closed Session Board Meeting Minutes 11/16/2021
- 7.3 Expenditure Report, 12/16/2021
- 7.4 AMEX Report, November 2021
- 7.5 Amazon Expense Report, 12/16/2021
- 7.6 Treasurer's Report, September 2021
- 7.7 Treasurer's Report October 2021
- 7.8 Personnel Report

11 New Hires: Linda Buettner, Psychologist, AE; Jacob Henkel, 5th-grade teacher, EN; Cristina Gonzalez, Lunch/Recess Supervisor, AE; Hannah Dreyer, Health Clerk, MN; Leena Patil, Lunch/Recess Supervisor, HSYL; Kripa Garg, SpEd Instructional Assistant, ES; Chandrika Reddy, Lunch/Recess Supervisor, HSYL; Lisa Dluger, 1:1 Instructional Assistant, MN; Devina Dixit, EC Instructional Assistant, Lincoln; Bridgett Gorman, 1:1 Instructional Assistant, MS; Colleen Bomkamp, SpEd Instructional Assistant, AE

3 Resignations: Stephanie Bonifazi, EC Instructional Assistant, Lincoln, 11/12/2021; Anna Toczycki, SpEd Instructional Assistant, MN, 12/3/2021; Guadalupe Roznowski, 1st-grade teacher, DL, 12/11/2021

13 Leave of Absence: Maureen Coutre, 4th-grade self contained teacher, TL; Katie Shannon, K-teacher, HSYL; Christina Baker, LBS1 teacher, DL; Christina Johnston, LBS1 teacher, EN; Stephanie Sordini, ELL Teacher, ES; Kristen Wilson, PE teacher, EN; Allysen Johnson, K-teacher, HSYL; Victoria Minarik, STEAM teacher, MS; Nicole Gallo, Interventionist, TL/AE;

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Alivia Polnow, 1st-grade teacher, EN; Matthew Polnow, PE Teacher, EN; Cathy Neuman, 7th-grade Sci teacher, MN; Stacey Amari, SpEd Instructional Assistant, EN

2 Retirements: Maureen Coutre, 4th grade self contained teacher, TL; Deborah Geib, Nurse, Lincoln;

2 Change of Status: Holly Salazar, SpEd Instructional Assistant, ES; Thiago Martins Amaral, Technology Support Tier 3 Admin,DO

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Joel Finfer moved that the Board of Education approve the **Consent Agenda** items as presented; seconded by Karl Borchers.

Roll Call Vote: Sonali Patil, Robin Cleek, Joel Finfer, George Fievet, Michael Engle and Karl Borchers.

Motion carried: 6 ayes; 0 nays

The Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Business Operations, Ms. LeeAnn Taylor, explained the action items on tonight's agenda. The district is seeking approval for the 2021 Tax Levy that was presented in October 2021. A public hearing was held in November 2021. In addition, there is a supplemental levy to pay the principal and interest on outstanding limited bonds. The action is taken on an annual basis, and it originated with the general obligation series in 2018. The third action item seeking approval is the disposal of surplus property. The board was presented with a memo that details all the property that would be disposed of. The district's first priority is to seek payment from a resale company for the items. The tech team will coordinate the sale and disposal of the items after the board's approval.

ACTION ITEMS –

Resolution to Levy 2021 Property Taxes

MOTION: Joel Finfer moved that the Board of Education approve the Resolution to Levy 2021 Property Taxes; Sonali Patil seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Sonali Patil, Robin Cleek, Joel Finfer, George Fievet, Michael Engle, and Karl Borchers.

Motion carried: 6 ayes; 0 nays

Resolution authorizing a supplemental tax levy to pay the principal of and interest on outstanding limited bonds of the district

MOTION: Joel Finfer moved that the Board of Education approve the Resolution authorizing a supplemental tax levy to pay the principal of and interest on outstanding limited bonds of the district; Sonali Patil seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Sonali Patil, Robin Cleek, Joel Finfer, George Fievet, Michael Engle, and Karl Borchers.

Motion carried: 6 ayes; 0 nays

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Disposal of Surplus Property

MOTION: Joel Finfer moved that the Board of Education approve the Disposal of Surplus Property; Karl Borchers seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Sonali Patil, Robin Cleek, Joel Finfer, George Fievet, Michael Engle, and Karl Borchers.

Motion carried: 6 ayes; 0 nays

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Enrollment-Uploaded
2. FOIA Log, Dr. Hannigan reported that there was one FOIA request received since the last board meeting that has been responded to as identified in Section 9.2 of the Board Agenda.
3. Board Email Log
4. Media Clips-Uploaded

TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

Board member, Karl Borchers, suggested getting an update on transportation for the next scheduled board meeting. All members agreed, and Ms. LeeAnn Taylor will provide the update on the January 20, 2022 board meeting.

President Cleek suggested adding tonight's public comment topic to the next agenda even if there is no need for board approval.

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), President Cleek *read the motion(s) to adjourn to CLOSED SESSION for the purposes of:*

The placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10).

President Cleek mentioned that the board does not anticipate taking any action following the closed session portion of the meeting.

With no further business to discuss, Joel Finfer *made a motion to adjourn to Closed Session, seconded by George Fievet. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m. to the Closed Session. All in favor? Yes.*

Motion carried: 6 ayes; 0 nays

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Flores

Robin Cleek, President

George Fievet, Secretary

Date Minutes Approved: _____