

**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 20th day of January 2022**

**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, Wes Polen, 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.

**RECOGNITION**

No recognition at this time

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Erin Roche, HEA President, spoke on behalf of the Hawthorn Education Association. Ms. Roche thanked the board of education for their continued support and dedication to ensuring everyone's health and educational needs are constantly considered in every decision the board makes. During the past school year, school boards across the country have made impactful and difficult decisions to reopen public schools. Ms. Roche thanked the board for keeping the best interest of everyone in mind while making difficult decisions and continuing to make them with grace and humility.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No announcements at this time

**PRESENTATIONS**

Family Liaison, Ms. Gabriela Cervantes, presented an update on the work she has done and plans to do on behalf of Hawthorn District 73. Some of the objectives she presented include bridging the communication gap between school and home, supporting the needs of families to ensure student academic success, and fostering collaborative relationships between Hawthorn staff and the community. Ms. Cervantes works closely with teachers, administration and social workers to identify students in need, increase parent involvement, and be a voice for all. Working closely with all stakeholders allows her to provide various resources to remove barriers that some families encounter daily. In September 2021, Hawthorn had three families registered to use the EagleNet service. As of December 2021, there were 30 families registered to use the EagleNet service, and the number continues to increase. The Hawthorn food pantry is running on a more consistent schedule and has had an increase in family participation. She is also working closely with the Hawthorn PTO by translating and promoting events to increase the participation of Spanish-speaking families. She looks forward to working with the neighborhood high schools, the Vernon Hills Park District, and other community stakeholders to support Hawthorn District 73 students and staff.

CSBO, Ms. LeeAnn Taylor, presented the transportation update. Since the beginning of the school year, Lakeside has faced multiple challenges that have impacted many routes. Challenges include: shortage of bus drivers, hiring and retaining drivers, the DMV currently being closed and re-opening on January 24, vaccination requirements and quarantine mandates, and moving to a three-tier tier system. Ms. Taylor reviewed the background history to compare previous years' student enrollment and the number of drivers. Ms. Taylor and the transportation department will continue to review the Townline/Dual after-school delay and collapsing a small afternoon route to accommodate the middle school bowling club. The plan for next year is to route students dependent on the number of drivers that are available and continue to coordinate with Libertyville D70, Oak Grove D68, and Community High School D128.

Ms. LeeAnn Taylor, invited Mrs. Katie Waggoner, Principal at Hawthorn Elementary North, to speak on behalf of the garden club. Mrs. Waggoner reminded the board that last month's public comment speaker, Ms. Madeline from Girl Scouts, has been in communication with the district to propose a garden club. Madeline is working on her Girl Scout Gold Award and has proposed starting a garden club in the elementary buildings. The school buildings often partner with community organizations to benefit the students. Last year, Elementary North partnered with the Boy Scouts to create better organization of both the food pantry and science consumables closet. Madeline's next step is to share a written proposal to

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review possible areas of partnership, short and long-term goals, and a timeline that aligns with her project needs and the school districts.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Hannigan reported the updates on the COVID-19 dashboard. Last week, Friday, January 14, 2022, the district reported 159 students tested positive for COVID-19. The year-to-date number of students who have tested positive is 382. Last week, Friday, January 14, 2022, the district reported 17 staff members tested positive for COVID-19. The year-to-date number of staff members who have tested positive for COVID-19 is 62. Since the beginning of the school year, the overall number of positive cases is 444. The number of students who have been placed under quarantine as of last Friday is 133. The year-to-date number of students placed under quarantine is 420. 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 435. Dr. Hannigan thanked and recognized the staff for stepping up from the return of winter break. There were a lot more students in remote learning, staff covering classes internally, and doing an outstanding job ensuring the district can continue with in-person learning.

As of last week, Friday, January 14, 2022, there were 65 students and three staff members participating in "Test-to-Stay." Since the start of the school year, 289 students and staff members across the district have participated in "Test-to-Stay" rather than quarantine.

From September 30, 2021, through January 14, 2022, 5,600 samples have been submitted for COVID-19 screening through the partnership with U of I SHIELD, and 39 students have been found positive since the beginning of SHIELD testing.

Hawthorn District 73 will be hosting a booster vaccination clinic on Tuesday, January 25, 2022, for anyone 12 years and older, including students, staff and internal community members. The event will be located at Hawthorn Middle North from 3 pm-6 pm.

Dr. Hannigan and Ms. LeeAnn Taylor attended the Vernon Hills village board meeting and the Hawthorn Middle South project was approved.

Dr. Hannigan closed his Superintendent's Report by informing the board that he will be releasing his evaluation website to the board on Friday, February 4 in respect to his mid-year evaluation.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Board President, Ms. Robin Cleek, reminded the rest of the board members that Dr. Hannigan's evaluation is coming up and they can expect his website in the upcoming weeks. She will also be emailing the board with an evaluation tool so board members can have the opportunity to provide feedback such as strengths, successes, areas of growth, etc. Ms. Cleek also updated the board on an energy commission meeting she attended along with CSBO, Ms. LeeAnn Taylor. She summarized the meeting by explaining that there will be federal dollars available through grants for clean energy projects coming up. The meeting was spearheaded by Vernon Township and any district that has part of its boundary in Vernon Township were invited to join the energy commission meeting and apply together to hopefully have a better chance for the grant approval. If any board member would like to be the board energy commissions liaison, she asked to please email her.

### **ED-RED REPORT**

Board member, Mr. Joel Finfer, reported an update regarding the SpEd residential placement issue. ISBE refused reimbursement to the district for a non-ISBE approved facility, even though there wasn't an approved facility available. The potential cost to the district would be \$500,000 on an annual basis. Thanks to the collaborative effort of Dr. Hannigan, Ms. Alicia Corrigan, ED-RED, Representative Dan Didech and Caroline Roselli of Robbins Schwartz, ISBE reversed its position, which will save the district between \$160,000-\$200,000 for the remainder of the school year as a short-term solution. Additionally, Representative Dan Didech has introduced House Bill 4365, which should make the short-term fix a long-term solution.

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The ED-RED legislative dinner has been rescheduled to April 25, 2022. Governor Pritzker may be the keynote speaker but has arranged for a recorded message and his representatives to be there if he is unable to attend. Any board members interested in attending the dinner should contact Jessica Flores.

### **SEDOL REPORT**

Board member, Mr. Michael Engle, reported that SEDOL sent out a notification with updated guidance. SEDOL's pandemic team reviewed and planned the implementation of the new COVID-19 procedures that went into effect on January 18, 2022. The Superintendent sent out an email to specify what the new guidance would look like in their buildings. The next governing board meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2022, and the executive board meeting will be scheduled for February 27, 2022.

### **KEY to 73 REPORT**

No report at this time

### **SITE & FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

No report at this time

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Vice-President, Wes Polen, discussed Public Comment Policy 2:230. At the November board meeting, the board discussed the public comment policy and asked for clarification on the language of the policy. After connecting with the district's legal team, the policy is in accordance with the language proposed and suggested by the Illinois Attorney General. The district's legal team recommends leaving the public comment policy as is.

CSBO, Ms. LeeAnn Taylor, explained the next discussion items on tonight's agenda that relate to the business department. The Resolution Transferring Funds from the Operations and Maintenance Fund to the Capital Projects Fund of the District was the first discussion item that Ms. Taylor explained. Ms. Taylor reminded the board of the different facility projects and the five-year plan that has been presented in previous board meetings. This evening, a resolution to move \$3 million dollars from the operating funds to capital projects was provided in the board packet. The operating funds would still maintain a balance that would exceed 50% of the district's annual expenses.

Ms. Taylor introduced Jennifer Akin, business office and payroll supervisor, to discuss the next item on the agenda. Ms. Akin discussed the new TRS Employer Participation Agreement for the 457(b) Supplemental Savings Plan. Illinois lawmakers passed an amendment to the pension code a couple of years ago requiring TRS to offer an optional defined contribution plan to all of its active members. Starting this March, the plan is to offer a 457(b) retirement plan. The master plan document was provided in the board packet for the board's review. The program includes both pre-tax and post-tax options. Employers with TRS members are required to withhold contributions from any active TRS member that wishes to participate in this program. The employer participation agreement is included in the board packet for review and this is what authorizes the district to collect and distribute those contributions. The agreement also states that at this time, the district will not contribute matching contributions and the district will not make any employee-only contributions. This resolution will be brought back to the next board meeting for approval and if approved, the district will send out notifications to employees and start withholding contributions beginning in March.

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### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- 7.1 Board Meeting Minutes 12/16/2021
- 7.2 Closed Session Board Meeting Minutes 12/16/2021
- 7.3 Expenditure Report, 1/20/2022
- 7.4 AMEX Report, 12/16/2021
- 7.5 Amazon Expense Report, 1/20/2022
- 7.6 Personnel Report

2 New Hires: Elizabeth Battaglia, Database Administrator, DO; Michael Wallace, Day Driver Dist Maintenance 1 Apprentice, DO

3 Resignations: Rebecca Prince, 5th-grade teacher, DL, 1/14/2022; Natalie Sanchez, Lunch/Recess Supervisor, ES, 1/18/2022; Lisa Dluger, 1:1 Instructional Assistant, MN, 1/6/2022

3 Leaves of Absence: Stephanie Sordini, ELL teacher, ES; Jennifer Scharfenbeg, LBS1 teacher, MN; Maureen Coutre, 4th-grade teacher, TL

1 Dismissal: Marlene Wences, Communications Specialist, DO

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The Open and Closed Minutes from December 16, 2021, were pulled from the Consent Agenda to vote on them separately as requested by Vice President, Ms. Wes Polen because she was absent during those meetings.

George Fievet moved that the Board of Education approve the **Open Meeting Minutes and Closed Meeting Minutes from December 16, 2021**; seconded by Joel Finfer.

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

**Motion carried: 6 ayes; 1 abstain**

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Michael Engle moved that the Board of Education approve the remaining **Consent Agenda** items as presented; seconded by Wes Polen.

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

**Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 naves**

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Superintendent, Dr. Hannigan, reviewed the 2022-2023 Proposed Student Calendar. The proposed calendar represents a total of 176 student attendance days, four teacher institute days, with the first day of student attendance being August 18, 2022, for grades K-8 and the last day of student attendance on May 30, 2023. The calendar closely aligns with the neighboring school district's calendar. As a reminder, there is a slight change to Lincoln Early Learning Center's first day of school being August 22, 2022, and no student attendance during early release days in order for staff to facilitate screenings and be able to participate in the afternoon early release staff schedule.

CSBO, Ms. LeeAnn Taylor, explained the action items on tonight's agenda. The district is seeking approval for the amendment to the current food service contract. This amendment only applies to the rest of this school year. Ms. Taylor will be revisiting Arbor's renewal contract and thoughts about possible bids and will keep the board informed in the next coming meetings. The district held a special meeting to go over the contracts and bids for the Middle South and Aspen projects. The recommendations and documents are included in the board packet. The last action item is seeking approval to work with Arcon and not exceed \$40,000 to start the parking lot project. The contract is included in the board packet for board review.

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**ACTION ITEMS –**  
**2022-2023 Proposed Student Calendar**

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MOTION: Joel Finfer moved that the Board of Education approve the 2022-2023 Proposed Student Calendar; Karl Borchers seconded the motion.

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

**Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nays**

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Food Service Contract Amendment

MOTION: Joel Finfer moved that the Board of Education approve the Food Service Contract Amendment; Michael Engle seconded the motion.

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

**Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nays**

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Middle School South and Aspen Renovations and Additions-All Contracts

MOTION: Wes Polen moved that the Board of Education approve the Middle School South and Aspen Renovations-All Contracts; George Fievet seconded the motion.

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

**Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nays**

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Appropriating Funds for Initial 2022 Summer Project Engineering and Architectural Preparation

MOTION: George Fievet moved that the Board of Education approve the Appropriating Funds for Initial 2022 Summer Project Engineering and Architectural Preparation; Karl Borchers seconded the motion.

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

**Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nays**

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**GENERAL INFORMATION**

1. Enrollment-Uploaded
2. FOIA Log, Dr. Hannigan reported that there were four FOIA requests received since the last board meeting that have 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, Joel Finfer, would like to continue the discussion of the substitute compensation at a future meeting.

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**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, Wes Polen *made a motion to adjourn to Closed Session, seconded by Joel Finfer. Meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m. to the Closed Session. All in favor? Yes.*

**Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nays**

Respectfully submitted,  
Jessica Flores

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Robin Cleek, President

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George Fievet, Secretary

Date Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_