

**Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting of  
Hawthorn Community Consolidated District #73, Lake County, Illinois  
841 West End Court, Vernon Hills, IL 60061  
7:00 p.m. on the 24th day of February 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, 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. for Human Resources, Mr. Adam Palmer; Asst. Supt. of Student Services, Ms. Alicia Corrigan; and Superintendent, Dr. Pete Hannigan. Karl Borchers was not in attendance.

**RECOGNITION**

Dr. Hannigan recognized officer Courtney Blaul from the Vernon Hills Police Department for her service to Hawthorn during the last year as the School Resource Officer. Officer Blaul has been promoted to Sergeant and he wished her the best of luck in her new position. Dr. Hannigan presented Officer Blaul with a brick engraved "Big Things are Built One Brick at a Time".

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment at this time.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No announcements were made at this time.

**PRESENTATIONS**

Assistant Superintendent of Teaching, Learning, and Innovation, Ms. Allison Stein, presented the GVC Leadership Team Update. The presentation gave an update on the work from Hawthorn's GVC Leadership Teams that are aligned with the Board Projects and Hawthorn's efforts to ensure high levels of learning for all students. The purpose of Hawthorn's GVC Leadership Team is to advance student growth and learning by prioritizing and aligning learning standards. The team uses prioritized standards to refresh and refine unit plans, pacing calendars and assessments. Hawthorn's GVC Leadership Team participates in formal training and planning sessions in which they engage in thoughtful, respectful discussion and solution-oriented decision making. Members are charged with facilitating structured feedback cycles with colleagues to ensure consistency and collaboration. Progress made this year includes hosting a two-day professional development program for the original ELA/SLA (K-8) and Math (6-8) GVC Leadership Teams, developing proficiency scales for priority standards, and hosting four full-day professional development sessions for the Math (K-5) GVC Leadership Team. The purpose of these sessions is to ensure a shared understanding of key GVC components and the critical connection to the PLC efforts. Ms. Stein thanked the GVC Leadership Team members for all their hard work.

Ms. Allison Stein also co-presented the Dual Language Audit with the Audit Team, including the Director of Assessment & Language Services, Dr. Arturo Abrego; Principal of Dual Language, Ms. Nicole Rodrigo; Principal of Middle North, Mr. Robert Collins; and five Dual Language teachers: Ms. Kristi Aguilar, Ms. Lauren Watts, Mr. Brendan O'Brien, Mr. Maggie Kirst, and Ms. Laura Gitzinger. Hawthorn School District 73 used The Guiding Principles for Dual Language Education to complete a comprehensive evaluation of District 73's current dual language program. The Guiding Principles for Dual Language Education is a comprehensive and research-supported tool designed to be utilized for ongoing planning, self-reflection and improvement. This instrument provided the district with the opportunity to critically examine the structures, policies and practices within the program, and align them with researched-based criteria to achieve the intended equitable outcomes of dual language programming: bilingualism and biliteracy, grade level academic achievement, and socio-cultural competence. The comprehensive evaluation also incorporated staff, parent and student surveys; teacher interviews; a site visit; and review of programmatic documents from dual language programs in neighboring districts. Based on the survey results and the Guiding Principles of Dual Language resource, a new goal was added and the current language allocation plan updated. The new goal is for students to perform academically at grade level and commensurate with their monolingual, English-speaking peers. The language allocation plan has been updated to reflect a 50/50 model for all grade levels starting in the 2022-2023 school year. The staffing structure will be updated to support the new model; each teacher will serve as a language specialist and a content specialist. At the conclusion of the presentation, Dr. Abrego reviewed the timeline for next steps.

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Mr. Adam Palmer, presented the 2022-2023 Staffing Plan. The Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, Ms. Alicia Corrigan; Assistant Superintendent of Teaching, Learning, and Innovation, Ms. Allison Stein; and the Director of Instructional Technology, Mr. John Reid, were also present during the presentation. The 2022-2023 staffing plan began last fall when the district engaged in the analysis of enrollment trends and current staffing. From there, the district determined staffing projections based on enrollment trends identified and started conducting conversations with building administrators about their school's needs. Enrollment trends and projected enrollments were presented to the board. The new staffing plan includes five instructional coaches, a Dual Language specialist, two behavior specialists, a social worker, a certified school nurse, two Library Media Specialists, and five elementary library assistants.

Mr. Palmer ended the presentation by providing an overview of funds being utilized for the new staffing plan. There are 17 licensed staff members retiring at the end of this year, a reduction of six licensed staff, and the use of grant funding will all support the new staffing plan.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

Mr. Adam Palmer gave an overview on 19 policy updates under the human resources department. The 19 policies are included in the Press issue 108 from IASB. Many of the policies that were updated include legal references, cross references, and footnotes to align with new and updated amendments and procedures. The 19 policies will be brought back as an action item in the next board meeting.

Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Business, Ms. LeeAnn Taylor, discussed items related to the business department. The American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) fund provides state and school districts help to safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the nation's students. The plan for the use of funds must be posted on the Hawthorn District 73 website. It must explain how the funds will be used to implement prevention and mitigation strategies that are consistent with the CDC guidance; how the funds will address the academic impact of lost instructional time; how the funds will be used for interventions to respond to the socio-emotional, mental health, and academic needs of all students; and how the remaining funds will be used.

Ms. Taylor also discussed the bid results for the Townline/Dual Language parking lot. The results were discussed at the last Site & Facilities committee meeting. The total of the base bid and the alternate bid to upgrade to heavy duty asphalt in the bus lanes and high traffic zones are recommended. The total for this project is \$384,600, which fits within the budget.

Ms. Taylor discussed the student fees. The only change to the student fees next year relates to the heart rate monitors for middle school students. The fee is decreasing to \$12.50. The reason for the decrease is because the students will be using an arm band style versus the current heart rate monitors.

Ms. Taylor ended the discussion with the summer school fees update. Hawthorn District 73 hosts three different summer school programs. The only summer program with a fee is the Hawthorn Enrichment Institute program, which is \$7 per attendance hour.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Hannigan reported the updates on the COVID-19 dashboard. The updated COVID-19 dashboard has been uploaded on the website to indicate school buildings and grade levels. As of last week, February 18, 2022, the district reported 13 students and one staff member who have tested positive for COVID-19. The district reported eight students and no staff members who have been placed under quarantine.

As of last week, February 18, the district had no students or staff members participate in "Test-to-Stay." This will be the last "Test to Stay" data reported as the district no longer is eligible for the testing program because it requires school districts to require universal masking. As of September 30, 2021 through February 18, 2022 there have been 6,903 samples that have been submitted for COVID-19 screening through our partnership with U of I SHIELD. A total of 72 students have been found positive since the beginning of SHIELD testing. The district will be reopening the SHIELD consent window next week.

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Based on the numbers, the district will determine the frequency of testing. Vaccinated and unvaccinated students will have the opportunity to be included in SHIELD testing.

Dr. Hannigan detailed the district's decision to move to a mask-recommended learning environment. This included a detailed timeline of mandates, court decisions and legislative developments that led to the February 18, 2022 announcement. Dr. Hannigan reviewed the mitigation strategies that the district will continue to implement, and he encouraged everyone to practice collective responsibility to keep each other safe. Hawthorn District 73 will continue to identify and notify parents of students known to be close contacts to positive cases and strongly recommend COVID testing for all close contacts. These students may remain in school following a COVID-19 exposure as long as they are symptom-free.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Robin Cleek reminded community members that the board cannot do anything about the traffic around the schools. Dr. Hannigan and the administrators work closely with the Vernon Hills Police Department and the Village of Vernon Hills in regards to school traffic. Ms. Cleek also reminded community members to drive safely and follow the traffic rules around school zones and parking lots to ensure the safety of the students and staff members.

### **ED-RED REPORT**

Mr. Joel Finfer briefly updated the board in regards to HB4365. This bill was scheduled to be in front of a committee on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 but unfortunately has been postponed.

### **SEDOL REPORT**

Mr. Michael Engle reported that SEDOL's last governing board meeting was on December 1st. The next governing board meeting is scheduled for March 2nd. SEDOL's website has information about their 31st Annual Heart of Gold Gala Dance and Auction on May 6, 2022. If anyone is interested in registering or donating, please visit their website.

### **KEY to 73 REPORT**

No report at this time.

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

Dr. Sonali Patil reported that the Site & Facilities committee meeting met and had several items to discuss such as; the bid results for the Townline/Dual Language parking lot, progress at Elementary South project, and the need for new district vehicles to replace old and worn current vehicles. The last item was the Lake County board information related to the Energy Savings Committee. After receiving more information, the Site & Facilities committee does not recommend participating at this time. At this time, there is not enough information related to available funding. The committee recommends revisiting this topic at a later date with more information.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- 7.1 Board Meeting Minutes: February 16, 2022
- 7.2 Closed Session Meeting Minutes: February 16, 2022
- 7.3 Expenditure Report: February 24, 2022
- 7.4 AMEX Report: January 2022
- 7.5 Amazon Expense Report: February 2022
- 7.6 Treasurer's Report: November 2021
- 7.7 Personnel Report

5 Resignations: Stacey Dimond, 2nd Grade Teacher, ES, 02/07/2022; Jennifer Klein, Enrichment Teacher, EN, 02/07/2022; Aruna Jain, 1:1 Instructional Assistant, EN, 02/25/2022; Crystal Bratman, Instructional Assistant, EN, 02/04/2022; Anjanae Stieber, Nurse, MS, 02/25/2022.

2 Leave of Absence: Jessica Sanchez, Pre-K Teacher, Lincoln; Elizabeth Mariella, Instructional Assistant, HSYL

3 Retirements: Kathleen Ford, Science Teacher, MN; Faith Becker, Speech/Language, MS; John Langelund, Social Worker, MS

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

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

**Motion carried: 6 ayes; 0 nays**

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Wes Polen summarized the two action items related to the Policy Committee. The action items seeking approval is section 1 of Policy Press Issue 108 which included 10 policies under the Board/Superintendent department and six policies under the Student Services department.

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**ACTION ITEMS** –  
Policy, PRESS Issue 108 (Section1)

MOTION: Wes Polen moved that the Board of Education approve the Policy, PRESS Issue 108 (section1) ; Joel Finfer seconded the motion.

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

**Motion carried: 6 ayes; 0 nays**

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Policy 7:270 Administering Medicines to Students

MOTION: Wes Polen moved that the Board of Education approve the Policy 7:270 Administering Medicines to Students; Michael Engle seconded the motion.

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

**Motion carried: 6 ayes; 0 nays**

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**GENERAL INFORMATION**

1. Enrollment-Uploaded
2. FOIA Log, Dr. Hannigan reported that there were three 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

**TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION**

No future discussions at this time

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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 appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent*

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*contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with this Act. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).*

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, George Fievet made a motion to adjourn to Closed Session, seconded by Wes Polen. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. **All in favor? Yes.**

**Motion carried: 6 ayes; 0 nays**

Respectfully submitted,  
Jessica Flores

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Robin Cleek, President

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George Fievet, Secretary

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