

**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 19th day of May**

**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**

Jessica Flores, Assistant to the Board of Education, called attendance and the following board members attended: Joel Finfer, Michael Engle, Sonali Patil, Karl Borchers, Wes Polen, and Robin Cleek. Also in attendance were Asst. Supt. of Finance & Business Operations 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. George Fievet was not in attendance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dr. Youseff Yomtoob, former District 73 Superintendent, made a public comment to thank students, staff and administration at Hawthorn District 73 for all their hard work and dedication to maintain a strong community. Dr. Yomtoob worked at Hawthorn for 13 years and still appreciates the experience he received while working as the Superintendent. He has been able to return to Hawthorn for many years and proudly present qualified students with the "Most Improved Award" in honor of his late son. The students that were nominated for this award were invited to a ceremony and presented with a certificate of excellence and a gift card. He also thanked Dr. Hannigan for his strong leadership and dedication to Hawthorn.

John Hetzel, community member, made a public comment to thank the Hawthorn teachers, administrators, personnel and staff for bringing the students back to in-person learning this school year. He also thanked the parents and students for creating a strong community together. He finished his public comment by also thanking Dr. Hannigan and his team for their efforts in bringing the students back to in-person learning and wished the community a great summer.

Erin Roche, HEA President, made a public comment to address the Hawthorn Board of Education, Administration, and the community. Erin spoke on behalf of the Hawthorn Education Association to extend their gratitude to the Hawthorn PTO for an amazing Teacher Appreciation Week. The Hawthorn PTO did an outstanding job by making all Hawthorn staff feel appreciated and special. Erin was proud to announce two Hawthorn alumni that have been selected to receive the HEA scholarship. Each year, HEA donates a percentage of the HEA dues to a local organization. This year they will be donating to the Elementary North/Aspen food pantry and the Middle South store. Finally, she thanked the Board of Education for continuing to be an advocate to all Hawthorn students during this challenging school year.

**RECOGNITION**

Vice President Wes Polen spoke on behalf of the recognition committee and recognized a number of exceptional Hawthorn students for their athletic and scholastic achievements. The Middle South and Middle North bowling teams were recognized for placing 22nd place in State and a number of Middle North girls placed in the top 90 of 150 individual bowlers at State. Additionally, the Middle South boys team placed 17th, and the Middle North boys team placed 12th at State. Congratulations to coaches Lisa Wilgus and Didi Andonova. Both coaches were present and spoke on behalf of the team. Team members were presented with a Hawthorn Medal of Excellence and certificate.

Mr. Karl Borchers also recognized the Science Olympiad teams from Middle North and Middle South for placing 18th out of the top 50 teams in the state and the Middle North team placed 6th overall. Additionally, several students earned individual awards and medals in the events that they competed in. Congratulations were made to the students and coaches Cindi Frayman, Anthony Akmakjian and Noopur Bindal. The coaches were present and spoke on behalf of the team. Team members were presented with a Hawthorn Medal of Excellence and certificate.

Ms. Wes Polen also recognized 10 Hawthorn students from Middle North and Middle South for their performance in the MathCon finals competition on April 30, 2022. MathCon was founded in 2008 in Chicago, IL as a regional competition and has since grown into a nationally recognized organization. Congratulations were made to the students and coaches Lisa Wilgus and Gayathri Narayanan. The coaches were present and spoke on behalf of the team. Team members were presented with a Hawthorn Medal of Excellence and certificate.

In addition to the Hawthorn athletes that were recognized this evening, the recognition committee recognized three outstanding staff members that were nominated for recognition by their peers. Faith Becker, a speech-language pathologist at Middle South; Cathy Gross, library/media specialist at Townline and Dual Language; and Brian Rude, a PE teacher at Middle South were

recognized for their dedication and support to the Hawthorn students and community. All three staff members were presented with a certificate of appreciation.

Finally, a group of dedicated and hardworking employees were recognized by Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Mr. Adam Palmer, for completing Hawthorn's first Leadership Academy. Mr. Palmer facilitated the academy over the 2021-2022 school year for those staff members who were interested in learning and developing their leadership skills. The program was designed to recognize and cultivate the current leaders at Hawthorn. The academy welcomed 21 participants and conducted 5 sessions as a group. All participants were presented with a certificate of completion.

President Cleek issued a 10-minute recess at 7:40 pm.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No announcements at this time.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Cleek reminded the board that the Key to 73 Golf Outing is scheduled for June 9, 2022 at White Deer Run and the 8th grade promotion is being held at Vernon Hills High School on May 31, 2022. She also asked board members to inform her if anyone would like a change to their committee assignments for the upcoming school year. President Cleek ended her report by acknowledging the Hawthorn teachers for going above and beyond their typical duties and job descriptions to give students the best learning experience possible. On behalf of the Board of Education, she extended a heartfelt thank you to the teachers and staff for their continued support and dedication to Hawthorn.

### **ED-RED REPORT**

Mr. Joel Finfer reported that HB4365 officially became the residential placement public act that allows school districts to place students in non-approved ISBE residential facilities if there are no ISBE approved facilities available. The public act was successfully implemented due to the efforts of ED-RED, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services Ms. Alicia Corrigan, State Representative Dan Didech, and Caroline Roselli at Robbins Schwartz.

### **SEDOL REPORT**

Mr. Michael Engle reported that SEDOL's last governing board meeting was held on March 2 and the last executive board meeting was held on April 28. The last meeting gave an overview of SEDOL's extended bargaining agreement for the 2022-2023 school year, which will be presented at the board meeting on June 1 for potential approval. The board approved a one-year lease agreement with Marling Management and SEDOL for the purpose of housing the SEDOL transition program. There was a presentation made with updates to their strategic plan. The board recognized Ms. Juliana Wetterberg, John Powers Center Paraprofessional as April's employee of the month.

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

Dr. Sonali Patil reported there was a Site & Facilities meeting held on Tuesday, May 17, 2022. Agenda items included phones and construction updates. The district phones will be updated to a new system that will be cloud-based to allow more flexibility and use of soft phones. The new system will also allow staff members to communicate with parents from home with a "Hawthorn" line instead of using their personal cell phones. Essentially, it is a more cost effective and efficient system.

Lastly, Dr. Patil gave a brief update on the construction plans. Elementary South's final walkthrough was successful and occupancy has been approved. The playground for Aspen/Elementary South has been selected and conversations are being made with the park district for helpful feedback. The last phase of the referendum will include Townline and Elementary North.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Hannigan reported the updates on the COVID-19 dashboard. As of last week, May 13, the district reported 65 students and 17 staff members have tested positive for COVID-19. The district reported nine students and one staff member being placed under quarantine. This was Dr. Hannigan's last COVID update for the school year. Dr. Hannigan will re-evaluate the need of COVID updates for the upcoming school year during summer break.

As of September 30, 2021 through May 15, 2022, a total of 11,162 samples have been submitted for COVID-19 screening through our partnership with U of I SHIELD. A total of 122 students have been found positive since the beginning of SHIELD testing. The district concluded the last week of SHIELD testing for 2021-2022 school year. Dr. Hannigan reminded the board and community that the SHIELD screening was a grant funded partnership between ISBE and the University of Illinois. At this time, the Grant has not been extended to the 22-23 school year. If the Grant is extended and Hawthorn is able to continue to provide SHIELD testing as an option for families, the district will notify families.

Dr. Hannigan thanked the staff for working above and beyond this year. Words cannot express how happy and proud he is of all staff for stepping up this year to help and support the students at Hawthorn.

Lastly, Dr. Hannigan has been proud to see all the end of school year activities that have been happening throughout the district. Middle North and Middle South had awesome student musicals, end of year parties are being planned, field days have been great to see, and the 8th-grade trip was a fun event to end the school year.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Business Operations Ms. LeeAnn Taylor presented the FY22 Year in Review. Ms. Taylor was also accompanied by Ms. Jennifer Akin, Business Office and Payroll Supervisor. The presentation was focused on the financial position of the district for the Fiscal Year 2022. The information provided gave an insight into the tentative budget for next year that will be discussed at the June board meeting. The presentation demonstrated savings from new business office procedures and systems that were put into place. Ms. Taylor and Ms. Akin discussed ways the district has been able to save money while actively finding and pursuing more grants. Additionally, they provided an overview of what was promised in the 2018 referendum compared to where the district currently is now. In addition an update on non-referendum capital projects was included. scheduled for 2022-2023 include the parking lot at Townline/Dual Language, partial cost of the HVAC at Aspen, and the playground updates at Aspen and Elementary South.

### **DISCUSSION TOPICS**

Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Business Operations Ms. LeeAnn Taylor reviewed the Resolution Transferring Funds from the Operations and Maintenance Fund to the Capital Projects Fund of the District. As Ms. Taylor presented in the board meeting, there are capital projects that have been selected to use the allocated funds of \$1 million that were set aside. This discussion item will be brought back in the next meeting for approval to schedule the capital projects.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- 7.1 Board Meeting Minutes from April 14, 2022
- 7.2 Closed Session Minutes from April 14, 2022
- 7.3 Expenditure Report from May 19, 2022
- 7.4 AMEX Report from April 2022
- 7.5 Amazon Expense Report from April 2022
- 7.6 Personnel Report

18 New Hires:

6 Resignations:

3 Leaves of Absence:

1 Change of Status:

18 New Hires: Katie Shaevitz, 1st Grade Teacher, Aspen; Haley Paustian, 3rd Grade Teacher, DL; Vera Pflugardt, PE Teacher, MS; Pamela Conrad, Behavior Specialist, DO; Sophie Leskis, PE Teacher, MN; Elizabeth Nasci, Behavior Specialist, DO; Gabrielle Bye, LBS1 Teacher, DO; Christina Fanellis, 8th Grade Teacher, MN; Jacob Rubin, 5th Grade Teacher, EN; Abigail Hess, LOP Teacher, EN; Jamie Esperson, 2nd Grade Teacher, ES; Kelly So, LBS1 Teacher, ES; Abigail Gorvett, Elementary Teacher, DL; Jennah Hirsch, 7th Grade Teacher, MN; Lindsay Morley, Instructional Coach, DO; Rhiannan Gahgan, Social Worker, Aspen; Lizette Ramos, Registered Nurse, MS; Molly Staehle, Registered Nurse, HSYL.

6 Resignations: Alivia Polnow, 1st Grade Teacher, EN, 6/1/2022; Julia D'Agostino, 3rd Grade Teacher, DL, 4/19/2022; Itzel Hernandez, 1st Grade Teacher, DL, 6/1/2022 ; Kimberly Weinberg, Occupational Therapist, DO, 6/1/2022 ; Michael Brennan, 7th Grade Teacher 6/1/2022 ; Emilia Pennino, Occupational Therapist, 6/1/2022 .

3 Leaves of Absence: Jennifer Binek, Speech-Language Pathologist, EN; Stephanie Arnopolin, 7th Grade Teacher, MN; Natalie Torres, Library Assistant, TL.

1 Change of Status: Aparna Soleti, 1:1 Instructional Assistant, HSYL.

---

Joel Finfer requested to remove section 7.1 and 7.2 from the consent agenda.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Karl Borchers moved that the Board of Education approve the **Open and Closed Session Minutes from April 14, 2022**, as presented; seconded by Wes Polen.

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

**Motion carried: 5 ayes; 0 nays; 1 abstain**

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

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

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

---

Dr. Hannigan reviewed the Intergovernmental Agreement for the Sharing of Student Data for Educational Study. He recommended an Intergovernmental Agreement with District 120, District 125 and District 128 for the purpose of educational study after students graduate from Hawthorn. Having these agreements will officially allow the district to receive data to see how previous students are performing once they leave Hawthorn. In the spirit of continuous improvement, the district will be able to closely monitor how their interventions and enrichment plans are working and allow middle school staff to successfully prepare students for high school.

Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Business Operations Ms. LeeAnn Taylor reviewed the Vehicle Disposal, Approval of the ES/Aspen Playground, and the Appointment of Treasurer for the 2022-2023 School Year. The business department is getting ready to purchase two vehicles and is seeking approval to dispose of two very old vehicles in the facilities department. The disposal will be tied in the replacement as they will be traded in for the new vehicles. The ES/Aspen playground has been picked and ready to be put on schedule. The last action item sought approval to assign CSBO Ms. LeeAnn Taylor as the FY23 district treasurer.

---

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **Intergovernmental Agreement for the Sharing of Student Data for Educational Study**

MOTION: Joel Finfer moved that the Board of Education approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for the Sharing of Student Data for Educational Study; Wes Polen seconded the motion.

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

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

---

#### **Vehicle Disposal**

MOTION: Karl Borchers moved that the Board of Education approve the Vehicle Disposal; Wes Polen seconded the motion.

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

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

---

#### **Approval of the ES/Aspen Playground**

MOTION: Michael Engle moved that the Board of Education approve the ES/Aspen Playground; Wes Polen seconded the motion.

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

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

---

#### **Appointment of Treasurer for the 2022-2023 School Year**

MOTION: Wes Polen moved that the Board of Education approve the Appointment of Treasurer for the 2022-2023 School Year; Sonali Patil seconded the motion.

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

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

---

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

1. Enrollment - Uploaded

2. FOIA Log, Dr. Hannigan reported that the District received two FOIA requests since the last board meeting and 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**

None at this time

---

**ADJOURN SESSION** – With no further business to discuss, Sonali Patil *made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Michael Engle.* *The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m. All in favor? Yes.*

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

---

Respectfully submitted,  
Jessica Flores

DocuSigned by:

*Robin Cleek*

4298A9F6ADEC4DE...

Robin Cleek, President

DocuSigned by:

*George Fievet*

924E5418FC544D3...

George Fievet, Secretary

Date Minutes Approved: JUNE 16, 2022



RESOLUTION transferring funds from the educational fund to the debt service fund of Community Consolidated School District Number 73, Lake County, Illinois.

\* \* \*

WHEREAS, the Board of Education (the "*Board*") of Community Consolidated School District Number 73, Lake County, Illinois (the "*District*"), has heretofore executed and maintains an educational fund in and for the District (the "*Ed Fund*") and a debt service fund in and for the District (the "*Debt Service Fund*"); and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined and does hereby determine that it is necessary and in the best interests of the District that funds be transferred from the Ed Fund to the Debt Service Fund for the payment of computer leases; and

WHEREAS, Section 100.50(d)(2) of Title 23 of the Illinois Administrative Code (the "*Code*"), authorizes the Board to make such transfer:

NOW, THEREFORE, Be It and It Is Hereby Resolved by the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District Number 73, Lake County, Illinois, as follows:

*Section 1. Incorporation of Preambles.* The Board hereby finds that all of the recitals contained in the preambles to this Resolution are full, true and correct and does incorporate them into this Resolution by this reference.

*Section 2. Transfer.* In accordance with the rules and regulations of the Illinois State Board of Education and specifically the Code, the School Treasurer of the District is hereby authorized and directed to forthwith transfer the amount of \$544,381.79 from the Ed Fund to the Debt Service Fund.

*Section 3. Severability.* If any section, paragraph, clause or provision of this Resolution shall be held to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, the invalidity or unenforceability of such section, paragraph, clause or provision shall not affect any of the remaining provisions of this Resolution.

*Section 4. Repealer and Effective Date.* All resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith be and the same are hereby repealed and that this Resolution shall be in full force and effect forthwith upon its adoption.

Adopted JUNE 16, 2022.

DocuSigned by:

*Robin Clark*

4298A9F6ADEC4DE...

\_\_\_\_\_  
President, Board of Education

DocuSigned by:

*George Fienet*

924E5418FC544D3...

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, Board of Education

RESOLUTION transferring certain funds from the operations and maintenance fund to the capital projects fund of Community Consolidated School District Number 73, Lake County, Illinois.

\* \* \*

WHEREAS, the Board of Education (the “*Board*”) of Community Consolidated School District Number 73, Lake County, Illinois (the “*District*”), has heretofore created and maintained an operations and maintenance fund (the “*O&M Fund*”) and a capital projects fund (the “*Capital Projects Fund*”) in and for the District; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined and does hereby determine that it is necessary and in the best interests of the District that certain funds be transferred from the O&M Fund to the Capital Projects Fund; and

WHEREAS, Section 100.50(d)(2) of Title 23 of the Illinois Administrative Code (the “*Code*”), authorizes the Board to make such transfer:

NOW, THEREFORE, Be It and It Is Hereby Resolved by the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District Number 73, Lake County, Illinois, as follows:

*Section 1. Incorporation of Preambles.* The Board hereby finds that all of the recitals contained in the preambles to this Resolution are full, true and correct and does incorporate them into this Resolution by this reference.

*Section 2. Amount of Transfer.* In accordance with the rules and regulations of the Illinois State Board of Education and specifically the Code, funds to the credit of the O&M Fund in the amount of \$1,000,000 (the “*Transfer Amount*”) shall be transferred from the O&M Fund



to the Capital Projects Fund as of the date hereof, such funds to be used as provided in said rules and regulations.

*Section 3. Severability.* If any section, paragraph, clause or provision of this Resolution shall be held to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, the invalidity or unenforceability of such section, paragraph, clause or provision shall not affect any of the remaining provisions of this Resolution.

*Section 4. Repealer and Effective Date.* All resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith be and the same are hereby repealed and that this Resolution shall be in full force and effect forthwith upon its adoption.

Adopted June 16, 2022.

DocuSigned by:

Robin Clerk

4288A9E6ADEFC4DE...

President, Board of Education

DocuSigned by:

George Fivet

924E5418FC544D3...

Secretary, Board of Education