

**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  
6:00 p.m. on the 15th day of June 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Robin Cleek called the Board of Education meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll call was taken prior to the meeting during the closed session portion of the meeting. Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ATTENDANCE**

The following members attended: George Fievet, Karl Borchers, Joel Finfer, Wes Polen and Robin Cleek. Also in attendance were Asst. Supt. of Business & Finance, Ms. LeeAnn Taylor; Asst. Supt. of Teaching & Learning, Dr. Allison Stein; Asst. Supt. of Student Services, Ms. Alicia Corrigan; Asst. Supt. of Innovative Learning, Dr. Karen Maturo; Asst. Supt. for Human Resources, Mr. Adam Palmer; and Superintendent, Dr. Pete Hannigan. Joel Finfer entered the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

PTO President Ms. Jenna Garcia presented the board with the annual disbursement of the PTO funds. The Hawthorn PTO was excited to present \$37,500 to be donated to the schools of Hawthorn District 73.

**RECOGNITION**

No recognition at this time.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No Announcements at this time.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- 5.1 Board Meeting Minutes from May 18, 2023
- 5.2 Closed Session Minutes from May 15, 2023
- 5.3 Closed Session Minutes from May 18, 2023
- 5.4 Closed Session Minutes from May 30, 2023
- 5.5 Closed Session Minutes from June 4, 2023
- 5.6 Expenditure Report from June 15, 2023
- 5.7 Mastercard Report from April 21, 2023
- 5.8 Mastercard Report from May 22, 2023
- 5.9 Amazon Expense Report from June 15, 2023
- 5.10 Personnel Report

**18 New Hires:**

**17 Resignations:**

**3 Leaves of Absence:**

**4 Retirement:**

**1 Change of Status:**

**18 New Hires:** Annie Anderson, Instructional Coach, District; Danielle Boisvert, PE Teacher, MN; Skyler Greene, 3rd Grade Teacher, TL; Samantha Greenberg, 4th Grade Teacher, TL; Sarah Greenwood, 2nd Grade Teacher, TL; Nicole Jones, 4th Grade Teacher, ES; Sydnie Kaufman, 1st Grade Teacher, TL; Sophia Paparone, 1st Grade Teacher, DL; Paige Rosenbloom, 1st Grade Teacher, TL; Samuel Soto, 6th Grade Teacher, MN; Nesrin Unlu, Social Worker, ES; Mikela Villanueva, LBS1 Teacher, MS; Madison Zoot, 5th Grade Teacher, TL; Sean Chatterjee, Instructional Assistant, MN; Colleen Hehr, Payroll Specialist, District; Dominique Neidenbach, Student Secretary, MS; Anna Osis, Library Media Assistant, DL; Ryan Preuss, Instructional Assistant, MN.

**17 Resignations:** Jaclyn Schwartz, Coordinator of Student Services, District, 06/30/2023; Lisa Duran, Social Worker, Aspen/DL, 05/30/2023; Alesia Dzelikatnaya, EL Teacher, EN, 05/30/2023; Marni Emerman, Social Worker, Lincoln, 05/30/2023; Rachael Girmscheid, LBS1 Teacher, EN, 05/30/2023; Sophia Knebelkamp, 4th Grade Teacher, EN, 05/30/2023; Victoria Minarik, STEM Teacher, MS, 05/30/2023; Haley Paustian, 3rd Grade Teacher, DL, 05/30/2023; Alison Pearl, Social Worker, TL, 05/30/2023; Kathryn Pinkos, Instructional Coach, District, 06/16/2023; Joelle Rumoro, 4th Grade Teacher, TL, 05/30/2023; Kristen Sink, Kindergarten Teacher, DL, 05/30/2023, Kelly So, LBS1 Teacher, ES, 05/30/2023; Tiffany Soler, LBS1 Teacher, MN, 05/30/2023; Samantha Peters, Registered Nurse, Lincoln, 06/15/2023; Hind Salih, Instructional Assistant, HSYL, 05/30/2023; Donisha Smith, Office Clerk, DL/TL, 05/30/2023.

3 Leaves of Absence: Natalie Mares, Assistant Principal, MS, 11/16/2023; Sarah Merza, Kindergarten Teacher, HSYL, 08/21/2023; Kathleen Raupp, LOP Teacher, EN, 08/21/2023.

4 Retirement: Debbie Haines, Officer Clerk, EN, 06/13/2023; Janet Howard, Nurse, TL/DL, 05/30/2023; Arturo Navarrete, Custodian, District, 06/30/2023; Julie O'Hara, Human Resources Specialist, District, 06/30/2023.

1 Change of Staus: Jennifer Scharfenberg, Coordinator of Student Services, District, 07/01/2023

Dr. Hannigan was pleased to recommend Ms. Jennifer Scharfenberg to transition into the role of Coordinator of Student Services. The position was posted on May 24, 2023. The district received 18 applications and went through the rigorous hiring process consisting of phone screens, committee interviews, etc. Ms. Scharfenberg is transitioning from her role as an LBS1 teacher from Middle North.

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

**Roll Call Vote:** Wes Polen, Robin Cleek, George Fievet, and Karl Borchers.

**Motion carried: 4 ayes; 0 nays**

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#### **ACTION ITEMS**

Superintendent Dr. Hannigan reviewed the settlement agreements with the Hawthorn Education Association and Individual Teachers. This action item relates to the 6% litigation that was first filed against the District in 2017 based on compensation-related practices affecting five employees dating back to 2010. The administration team worked diligently to resolve this issue. Dr. Hannigan was pleased to announce that they have reached agreements to the mutual satisfaction of the Hawthorn Education Association and the five affected employees to resolve the litigation in its entirety.

President Cleek was excited to announce the appointment of Julie Clifford as the new Hawthorn board member. Julie Clifford resides in Libertyville with her husband and their two children, both of whom attend Hawthorn District 73. She has lived in the district for 12 years observing education as a cornerstone of the community as well as a key value in her home. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Art Education from Illinois State University, and a Master of Business Administration from Lake Forest Graduate School of Management. Julie works remotely as an eCommerce Brand Manager for Church & Dwight out of Ewing, NJ. She is excited to join the board as she is eager to contribute her energy, knowledge, and dedication to ensure our schools continue to thrive and provide the highest quality education for our students.

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#### **Approval of Settlement Agreements with the Hawthorn Education Association and Individual Teachers**

MOTION: Karl Borchers moved that the Board of Education approve the settlement agreements with the Hawthorn Education Association and Joan Weinberg, Lynn Pate, Lilia Davis, Gerri Silver, and Pam Kouris; George Fievet seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Wes Polen, Robin Cleek, George Fievet, and Karl Borchers.

**Motion carried: 4 ayes; 0 nays**

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#### **Administration of the Oath of Office**

MOTION: Wes Polen moved that the Board of Education appoint Julie Clifford as the new board member; George Fievet seconded the motion.

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

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

Julie Clifford was administered with the oath of office at this time.

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## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Cleek reminded the board members that the board retreat will be held on July 6, 2023 at the district office.

## **ED-RED REPORT**

Mr. Joel Finfer announced that he was elected chairman for ED-RED on June 12, 2023. ED-RED is busy planning retreats, meetings, etc. this summer.

## **SEDOL REPORT**

No report at this time.

## **SITE & FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. George Fievet reported that the Site & Facilities committee met on June 6, 2023 and discussed the five-year plan, the demolition at Elementary North and Townline has started, and wrapping things up at Elementary South. There was also a conversation regarding signage/building identification and landscape. Lastly, they reviewed the 2023-2024 Site & Facilities dates as the referendum is slowly closing its phases, the committee does not need to meet as frequently and will align their meetings with the budget calendar.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Business Operations Ms. LeeAnn Taylor reviewed the FY24 Tentative Budget. Ms. Jennifer Akin, Business and Payroll Supervisor was also present to discuss the FY24 tentative budget. Ms. Taylor reviewed the timeline for the tentative budget, including the hearing scheduled for August 17, 2023 and recommended for board approval on September 7, 2023. As the 2022-2023 budget comes to an end, the business department predicts a budget surplus and will present the surplus at the next board meeting as Lake County property tax receipts are still in progress. It is the goal of the business office to budget a minimum of \$500K surplus on an annual basis to allow for unexpected fluctuations in revenues or expenditures. Certain key highlights include a projected uptick in local revenue derived from the Levy, largely attributed to an unusually elevated Consumer Price Index (CPI) in comparison to the preceding year. Additionally, state revenue stemming from transportation reimbursement is poised for an augmentation, primarily due to the augmented number of buses in operation during FY23 relative to FY22. However, it is worth noting that federal revenue is anticipated to diminish as the termination of emergency relief grants comes into effect. They provided an overall summary of the projected surplus and operating expense and stressed that the numbers presented tonight are tentative as they will have access to additional data over the next few weeks.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Pete Hannigan shared that the district has been busy planning for the upcoming school year. The staff have been engaged in professional development including the instructional coaches attending the Lake County ROE's county-wide SPLASH conference, Administrative Leadership Retreats, and Middle School ELA departments met to engage in curriculum planning meetings with a focus on thematic, standards-aligned, and developmentally appropriate novel selections for next year's literature circles, as well as curricular pacing.

Summer school has been successful. The district has completed two weeks of Early Start Kindergarten, Extended School Year, Hawthorn Enrichment Institute, and Summer Scholars. Hawthorn Music camp will begin the following week. Dr. Hannigan thanked all the staff that work summer school for their dedication and helping make the summer programs successful.

The demolition for Elementary North is underway as well as the library renovations at Townline/Dual Language. Over the past two weeks, remarkable progress has been made with these projects. Both projects are aligned with the construction timeline.

Dr. Hannigan ended his report by wishing everyone a great summer and is eager and excited to welcome back students on August 24, 2023.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

1. Enrollment-Uploaded
2. FOIA Log, Dr. Hannigan reported that there was one FOIA request since the last board meeting as identified in Section 11.2 of the Board agenda.
3. Media Clips

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## **TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION**

No future topics at this time.

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## **ADJOURN MEETING**

With no further business to discuss, Joel Finfer made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Karl Borchers. The meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m. **All in favor? Yes.**

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

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Respectfully submitted,  
Jessica Flores

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Robin Cleek, President

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George Fievet, Secretary

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