

**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 7th day of September 2023**

**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: Joel Finfer, Michael Engle, Julie Clifford, Karl Borchers, George Fievet, Robin Cleek, and Wes Polen. Also in attendance were Asst. Supt. of Finance & Business Operations Ms. LeeAnn Taylor; Asst. Supt. of Teaching, Learning & Innovation 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.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment was made or emailed in.

**RECOGNITION**

Vice President Wes Polen spoke on behalf of the recognition committee and looks forward to recognizing students and staff this year. She attended the Middle North/Middle South Cross Country Meet and was impressed with all the fast runners and hopes to recognize them in the near future.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No announcements at this time.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Cleek welcomed everyone back to the 2023-2024 School Year. She reminded the board members to RSVP for the upcoming IASB Lake Division dinner on October 11, 2023. President Cleek also provided an overview of the recent Mental Health Committee meeting hosted by D128, which includes feeder representatives and staff. The committee's goal is to collaborate and share resources to bolster mental health support within school communities. During the last meeting, the committee received a presentation on the gun violence prevention initiative led by the Lake County State Attorney's office. President Cleek concluded her report by opening the floor for discussion regarding the board agreements sent out to board members electronically prior to the meeting. Vice President Wes Polen agreed to an addition that was made related to board committee appointments, and all board members reached a consensus to move forward with the presented board agreements for the 2023-2024 school year.

**ED-RED REPORT**

Mr. Joel Finfer reported that ED-RED is hosting a retreat on September 11, 2023 and a luncheon on October 6, 2023. The keynote speaker for the ED-RED luncheon and the ED-RED Spring conference will cover AI in education.

**SEDOL REPORT**

Mr. Michael Engle reported that SEDOL's last governing board meeting was on August 23, 2023 and the last executive board meeting was on August 24, 2023. There was an update on staffing, a review of the current vacancies, and an overview of the final budget which was approved. Additionally, Mr. Engle gave a summary of the comprehensive review of SEDOL, which was conducted by Exceptional Learning Solutions (ELS) and divided into three distinct phases: pre-evaluation, program-evaluation site work, and post-evaluation. This extensive review encompassed 12 categories, featuring recommendations for actions and associated timeframes for implementation. On August 21, 2023, Mr. Engle collaborated with fellow governing board members from D75, D120, and D79, joined by Dr. Myers from D120. Together, they convened to discuss the review findings and share their respective concerns. On September 1, 2023, Mr. Engle had a phone discussion with SEDOL's Superintendent Val Donnan as a follow up and he requested a monthly progress report on the 12 categories that were discussed in the review. He ended his report by reviewing the survey results that were shared in the review. He will be receiving more updates and will be sure to share with the board.

**SITE & FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

No report at this time.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

Hawthorn's Communication Specialist, Ms. Samantha Cook, presented the 23-24 D73 Communication Strategy. The presentation gave an overview of the Communications Strategy for the upcoming 2023-24 school year. The goal of the communications strategy is to offer a clear and compelling framework for engaging with all stakeholders of D73, encompassing both internal and external audiences. Ms. Cook also shared a detailed analysis of the refined communication objectives, insights into its evolution, a review of the latest communication initiatives, and a fresh perspective on potential opportunities for growth and enhancement.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Hannigan started his report by echoing Mr. Engle in regards to the SEDOL review. On September 8, 2023, Dr. Hannigan has a scheduled meeting with the SEDOL superintendent, while Mr. Palmer and other surrounding HR professionals plan to convene on September 14, 2023. Their aim is to acquire updates and relevant communications pertaining to the SEDOL review. He also shared with the board and staff to look forward to the next Drive podcast episode that will be released by the Innovation Department that will include exciting information on AI in education. Lastly, he concluded his report by expressing his gratitude to the Hawthorn staff, students, and families for their support and effort in successfully implementing the new schedule.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- 6.1 Board Meeting Minutes from August 17, 2023
- 6.2 Closed Session Minutes from August 17, 2023
- 6.3 Personnel Report

16 New Hires:

6 Resignations:

1 Leaves of Absence:

2 Change of Status:

16 New Hires: Paul Mazzetta, Social Worker, District; Karla Najera, Spanish Teacher, MS; Lisa Sansiper, 5th Grade Teacher, EN; Tatyana Zhuravleva, ELL Teacher, ES; Nicholas Broeker, Instructional Assistant, MN; Ujwala Chebrolu, Instructional Assistant, Lincoln; Jekaternia Choumiatsky, Instructional Assistant, EN; Maria Cortes Guerrero, Instructional Assistant, EN; Danae Hernandez, Instructional Assistant, Aspen; Carolyn Husnick, Student Secretary, EN; Ankita Jain, Lunch/Recess Supervisor, TL; Vidhyalakshmi Krishnamoorthy, Instructional Assistant, Lincoln; Daisy Morales, Lunch/Recess Supervisor, HSYL; Jaime Paul, Health Clerk, TL; Johanna Trockenbrodt, Instructional Assistant, MS; Swathi Vasantham, Lunch/Recess Supervisor, HSYL

6 Resignations: Sara Kowalski, 5th Grade Teacher, EN, 8/11/2023; Haley Pullen, ELL Teacher, ES, 8/13/2023; Holly Hovagimin-Beck, Instructional Assistant, EN, 8/16/2023; Karen Lieb, Nurse, Lincoln, 8/21/2023; Gladis Magarelli, Instructional Assistant, Dual Language, 5/24/2023; Kimberly Wagner, Instructional Assistant, Aspen, 7/24/2023

1 Leaves of Absence: Shelby Behrens, Social Worker, DL, 8/21/2023

2 Change of Status: Drake Berman, .5 PE Teacher, TL; Marlene Lippert, District Registrar/Clerk, District, 9/18/2023

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Robin Cleek requested to remove section 6.1 **Board Meeting Minutes from August 17, 2023** from the consent agenda.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Karl Borchers moved that the Board of Education approve 6.1 Board Meeting Minutes from August 17, 2023 as presented; seconded by Wes Polen.

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

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

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

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

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

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Dr. Hannigan reviewed the first action item seeking board approval. The policy sub-committee met on July 31 to review Policy PRESS Issue 111 and 112. A total of 26 policies were reviewed by the policy committee. The bulk of these policy updates stem from routine 5-year reviews, incorporating minor adjustments tailored to align with the current operational practices of the district.

Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Business Operations Ms. LeeAnn Taylor reviewed the Final 2023/2024 Budget, The 2023/2024 Budget Calendar and persons to work on the 2024/2025 Budget, and the Teacher and Administrator Compensation. In accordance with State Code, the final budget must be approved by a deadline of September 30th each year. A public hearing was held during the August 17, 2023 board meeting. The FY24 budget is projected to have an \$830,000 surplus. The business department also seeks approval to start working on next year's budget along with her designee, Ms. Jennifer Akin. Lastly, the Teacher and Administrator compensation report seeks approval to be posted on the website as an annual requirement.

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### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **Policy PRESS Issue 111 and 112**

MOTION: Joel Finfer moved that the Board of Education approve Policy PRESS Issue 111 and 112; Michael Engle seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Robin Cleek, Joel Finfer, Wes Polen, Julie Clifford, Michael Engle, George Fievet, and Karl Borchers

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

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#### **Final 2023/2024 Budget**

MOTION: George Fievet moved that the Board of Education approve the Final 2023/2024 Budget; Karl Borchers seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Robin Cleek, Joel Finfer, Wes Polen, Julie Clifford, Michael Engle, George Fievet, and Karl Borchers

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

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#### **Approval of the 2024/2025 Budget Calendar and Persons to Work on the 2024/2025 Budget**

MOTION: Joel Finfer moved that the Board of Education approve the following budget calendar, as presented, for the preparation of the 2024-2025 budget, and that the Board of Education designate LeeAnn Taylor or her designee as the person(s) responsible for preparing the tentative budget for July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025; George Fievet seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Robin Cleek, Joel Finfer, Wes Polen, Julie Clifford, Michael Engle, George Fievet, and Karl Borchers

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

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#### **Teacher and Administrator Compensation**

MOTION: Michael Engle moved that the Board of Education approve the Teacher and Administrator Compensation Report that will be posted on the Hawthorn District 73 website; Wes Polen seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Robin Cleek, Joel Finfer, Wes Polen, Julie Clifford, Michael Engle, George Fievet, 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 the District has not received any FOIA requests since the last board meeting and has been responded to as identified in Section 8.2 of the Board agenda.
  3. Media Clips
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**TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION**

Vice President Wes Polen has requested to add information about the Middle School Flex Periods on a future agenda. The board agreed and Dr. Hannigan will schedule it for a future agenda item.

There was discussion on the topic of receiving an update on the current logistics and programming of the 7-hour instructional day as school has now begun. Dr. Hannigan informed the group that an update regarding the 7-hour instructional day is scheduled for the December 15, 2023 board meeting.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, Joel Finfer made a motion to adjourn the Open Session, seconded by Karl Borchers. The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m. **All in favor? Yes.**

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

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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: \_\_\_\_\_