

**Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting of
Hawthorn Community Consolidated District #73, Lake County, Illinois
841 W. End Court, Vernon Hills, IL 60061
7:00 p.m. on the 8th day of February 2024**

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

Ms. Jessica Flores called attendance and the following members attended: Joel Finfer, Michael Engle, Julie Clifford, Karl Borchers, 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 Innovative Learning Dr. Karen Maturo; Asst. Supt. for Human Resources Mr. Adam Palmer; and Superintendent Dr. Pete Hannigan. Board Member George Fievet was not in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sretha Chitikela, a junior student at Vernon Hills High School, represented the Mentor Center Tutoring Group during her public comment. This group is dedicated to assisting children in grades K-8 with various academic subjects, including math, reading, and science. With approximately 200 high school tutors volunteering their time, grade-level students can benefit from their support in exchange for volunteer hours. The public can find more information about this program on the community corner page of the Hawthorn D73 webpage.

RECOGNITION

Vice President Wes Polen and Board member Karl Borchers spoke on behalf of the recognition committee to formally acknowledge exceptional Hawthorn staff members. Kyle McKenzie, a Physical Education Teacher at Middle North, was nominated by Interim Principal Ms. Jenna Stern for his ongoing dedication to the student body. Kyle tirelessly fosters connections and relationships with each student, encouraging their involvement. In recognition of his efforts, Kyle was presented with a certificate of recognition.

Andrea Malec, a teacher at Middle South, was the second staff member to receive recognition. Nominated by student Adrian Bratman, Ms. Malec was described as a diligent educator who fosters meaningful relationships with her students. Known for her personalized approach to teaching, she works closely with each individual student to ensure their understanding and success. In appreciation of her dedication, Ms. Malec was presented with a certificate of recognition.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board President Robin Cleek extended her heartfelt congratulations on behalf of the entire Board of Education to Dr. LeeAnn Taylor, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Finance, for successfully defending her dissertation.

Vice President Wes Polen commended the Hawthorn Middle North and Middle South Pom teams for their upcoming participation in the State competition this weekend.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Cleek presented the board members with a tentative 2024-2025 board meeting calendar. All present board members unanimously agreed to proceed with the proposed schedule.

President Cleek also reported that on January 24, she and board member Julie Clifford went down to the Apple offices in the city and joined the Hawthorn admin team for a day of learning how their tools could enhance our students' time spent on devices. The intention is not a way to increase the time spent on devices but a way to make the time spent more meaningful and more engaging. They also visited a district in Berwyn that was currently using Apple devices at a 1:1 district-wide. It was great to see students fully engaged on the Apple devices. Ms. Cleek also expressed how impressed she was with what these devices would be able to do for our learners who had some accommodations through 504's or IEPs and what they could do to enhance their opportunities to prove mastery in the content area.

On February 1, Ms. Cleek, Mr. Michael Engle, and Dr. Hannigan met with Mundelein District 75 and Fremont District 79, along with Ms. Alicia Corrigan, to hear about how things were going at Lincoln, Hawthorn's early learning center. The meeting discussed the things that were going well, what challenges they were facing, and how Hawthorn was working with the other districts to create an identity at Lincoln where everybody felt like they were part of one cohesive school instead of three separate districts. She also publicly thanked Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, Ms. Alicia Corrigan, for her thoughtful presentation and acknowledged how thankful Hawthorn was to have someone in such an important role who was passionate about serving the students and achieving the outcomes that were best for them.

She ended her report by reminding board members to RSVP for the upcoming IASB Lake Division Dinner on March 13. Superintendent Hannigan and Communication Specialists Samantha Cook will be the keynote speakers.

ED-RED REPORT

Mr. Joel Finfer reported that ED-RED hosted their annual Legislative Dinner on January 29, 2024. The primary purpose of that dinner was to develop relationships with ED-RED legislators in an effort to ensure that the organization was consulted about matters relating to education. The last portion of the dinner ended with a town hall format with 14 legislators in attendance.

SEDOL REPORT

Mr. Michael Engle reported that SEDOL's last governing board meeting was on December 6, 2023, and the last executive board meeting was on January 25, 2024. The ELS review took place on site to monitor and meet with Principals, Supervisors, Administration, and SEDOL staff. A five-year safety and security plan was proposed by SEDOL's newly appointed Safety Specialist. The executive board approved the Lakeside Transportation three-year extension contract for \$610,000. They also approved the recommendation of a contract of sale for South School to Mundelein D75 in the amount of \$630,000 that is pending approval at the upcoming governing board meeting. The next executive board meeting will be held on February 15, 2024, and the next governing board meeting will be held on March 6, 2024.

SITE & FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

No report at this time.

WELLNESS COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Julie Clifford reported that the committee last met on January 23, 2024. The committee reviewed the five pillars to measure when looking for whole child well-being. The five pillars are; healthy, supported, challenged, engaged, and safe. The group worked to outline the assessments/data points already in place to measure the 10 indicators for each pillar. The committee also reviewed data from office referrals from last year and this year, and they were happy to announce that referrals have decreased. Additionally, they reviewed the rollout of the Harvest tables in each school cafeteria and discussed opportunities to continue evolving and improving on that concept. The committee will be presenting at the May 16 board meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

The Hawthorn School Principals presented the Operationalizing Board Projects Update. The presentation provided an overview of how school principals use the Professional Learning Community (PLC) framework to operationalize Hawthorn's major systems, ensuring academic and social-emotional growth for all Hawthorn Eagles. These systems include the Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum (GVC), foundational resources adopted and aligned to the GVC, Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) for academics and social-emotional development, Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), and Social Emotional Learning (SEL). The Hawthorn team has worked diligently to operationalize these systems and assess their effectiveness via implementation of the PLC framework. The success of these systems enables the team to achieve Hawthorn District 73's goals.

Hawthorn's daily operations are directed by the four district goals, with staff consistently striving across all schools and grade levels to promote student achievement and development. Each initiative highlighted in the presentation is aligned with these goals, and Hawthorn continues to track its' efforts to ensure success.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Vice President Wes Polen, Superintendent Dr. Hannigan, and assistant superintendents conducted a review of Policy Press Issues 113. The policy sub-committee convened on January 31 to review any policy modifications within multiple departments, which were incorporated into PRESS Issue 113. A total of 30 policies were reviewed by the policy committee. Department heads presented their policy updates, seeking feedback from the board on any necessary questions that needed to be addressed. The policies will be brought back for pending approval at the next board meeting.

Director of Instructional Technology, Mr. John Reid, and Technology Systems & Infrastructure Administrator, Mr. Dave Hunwick, reviewed the Device Refresh Proposal. During their presentation, they analyzed data spanning 2019 to 2021, recognizing the significant changes faced by Hawthorn District 73, particularly the rapid transition to remote learning. This shift underscored the urgent need for equitable access to cutting-edge technology. Subsequent to the last device refresh covering the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years, substantial progress has been achieved. This progress ensured the replacement of outdated devices across all levels, from students to administrative staff. As a continuation of these efforts, the proposal delineates device purchase recommendations for the 2024-25 academic year including the removal of student chromebooks and replacing them with ipads. By choosing iPads for the K-8 students, the district not only will be providing a tool that best meets their educational needs but also fostering a flexible learning environment that encourages agility in using various technologies, an essential skill in today's world.

To assess the success of the technology initiative, metrics including user engagement, satisfaction, and operational efficiency will be utilized. Financial analysis will focus on cost-effectiveness, while the effectiveness of professional development will be

evaluated through participation rates and educator feedback. The rationale for a comprehensive device refresh in the 2024-25 school year extends beyond traditional focus on student and teaching staff devices. It includes all district and building office staff, administrators, and members of the facilities department. This approach ensures compatibility across roles, simplifies technical support, and creates financial efficiencies through consolidation of leases, buyback systems, and bulk purchasing. This strategy aligns with the plan for regular device refresh cycles, enhancing operational effectiveness and supporting Hawthorn District 73's educational mission.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hannigan was excited to congratulate Dr. LeeAnn Taylor on her recent successful defense of her doctoral dissertation. This is a significant accomplishment, and Hawthorn takes immense pride in her achievement.

He also reported that the district hosted its annual Kindergarten Information Night on February 6 to share what Kindergarten looks like at HSYL and Dual Language. Approximately 150 families attended the event. New Student/Kindergarten Registration officially opens on February 8, 2024. Returning Registration will open after Spring Break.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 7.1 Board Meeting Minutes from January 11, 2024
- 7.2 Treasurer's Report from September 2023
- 7.3 Personnel Report

2 New Hires:

1 Leave of Absence:

7 Resignations:

1 Change of Status:

1 Retirement:

2 New Hires: Sowmya Satyanarayana, Lunch/Recess Supervisor, TL; Deborah Zajac, Lunch/Recess Supervisor, TL.

1 Leave of Absence: Kimberley Taube, Music Teacher, TL, 01/25/2024.

7 Resignations: LeeAnn Taylor, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Finance, DO, 06/30/2024; Lauren Broches, Speech/Language Pathologist, Aspen, 01/24/2024; Julie Raab, LBS1 Teacher, ES, 01/05/2024; Matthew Collins, Instructional Assistant, MS, 01/29/2024; Madeline Schanke, Instructional Assistant, EN, 01/10/2024; FNU Shalini Shruti, Lunch/Recess Supervisor, ES, 01/26/2024; Jennifer Sotirovic, Lunch/Recess Supervisor, Aspen, 01/19/2024.

1 Change of Status: Ummai Habiba, Instructional Assistant, TL, 02/05/2024.

1 Retirement: Shari Niemesz, Administrative Assistant, DO, 06/30/2028.

Karl Borchers requested to remove section 7.1 **Board Meeting Minutes from January 11, 2024** from the consent agenda.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Joel Finfer moved that the Board of Education approve 7.1 Board Meeting Minutes from January 11, 2024 as presented; seconded by Julie Clifford.

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

Motion carried: 5 ayes; 1 abstain

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

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

Motion carried: 6 ayes; 0 nays

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Mr. Adam Palmer reviewed the first action item seeking board approval. As discussed at the last meeting, the Resolution Authorizing Hiring of Personnel gives the superintendent the authority to hire qualified applicants prior to the board taking action on the personnel report. As mentioned, current practices for prospective employees are to wait to begin employment until the next board education meeting for approval, which can be a few weeks from the time of the initial offer. This time frame has and can result in candidates selecting other positions outside of the district due to

the delay from the time of the offer to the start date. By authorizing the superintendent to hire candidates, the board retains the right to approve the hiring of all personnel. The employment of any individual hired by the superintendent is still again subject to the formal approval by the board.

Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Business Operations, Ms. LeeAnn Taylor, presented the action items related to the business department. The first item pertained to the approval of the 2024-2025 Student Fees, which remained consistent with the previous year except for a new 10% early bird registration discount for parents who register by May 1st. The second item was the approval of the 2024 Summer School Fees, which had no changes. Lastly, the business department sought board approval for the disposal of surplus technology. The tech department identified specific outdated devices no longer in use and proposed them for declaration as surplus property.

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution Authorizing Hiring of Personnel

MOTION: Joel Finfer moved that the Board of Education approve the Resolution Authorizing Hiring of Personnel; Wes Polen seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried: 6 ayes; 0 nays

2024-2025 Student Fees

MOTION: Michael Engle moved that the Board of Education approve the 2024-2025 Student Fees; Karl Borchers seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried: 6 ayes; 0 nays

2024 Summer School Fees

MOTION: Wes Polen moved that the Board of Education approve the 2024 Summer School Fees; Joel Finfer seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried: 6 ayes; 0 nays

Disposal of Technology Surplus

MOTION: Karl Borchers moved that the Board of Education approve the Disposal of Technology Surplus; Michael Engle seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Robin Cleek, Joel Finfer, Wes Polen, Julie Clifford, 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 has received one FOIA request since the last board meeting and has been responded to as identified in Section 9.2 of the Board agenda.
 3. Media Clips
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TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

President Robin Cleek sought board consensus to discuss the potential need to revisit the Board's communication strategy based on some community feedback regarding highlighting certain agenda topics, how the board agendas are being shared, and sharing with the public the role of the Board of Education to create a level of understanding on what's involved. All present board members unanimously agreed to proceed with the future agenda topics.

Board Member Julie Clifford requested to revisit the transportation update, including the district's communication related to the bus service. Ms. LeeAnn Taylor will bring up this topic, along with the Lakeside's renewal contract, after the next Site and Facilities meeting.

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11) 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 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).

With no further business to discuss, Joel Finfer *made a motion to adjourn to Closed Session, seconded by* Wes Polen. The meeting *adjourned at 9:08 p.m.* **All in favor? Yes.**

Motion carried: 6 ayes; 0 nays

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Flores

Robin Cleek, President

George Fievet, Secretary

Date Minutes Approved: _____