

**Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting of
Hawthorn Community Consolidated District #73, Lake County, Illinois
600 N. Aspen Drive, Vernon Hills IL 60061
7:00 p.m. on the 18th day of April 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

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 Dr. LeeAnn Taylor; Asst. Supt. of Student Services Ms. Alicia Corrigan; Asst. Supt. of Innovative Learning Dr. Karen Maturro; Asst. Supt. for Human Resources Mr. Adam Palmer; and Superintendent Dr. Pete Hannigan.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment at this time.

RECOGNITION

Vice President Wes Polen spoke on behalf of the Recognition Committee to acknowledge the achievements of Kristin Wagner, Elementary South's 4th grade teacher. Kristin was nominated for being an exceptional and passionate 4th-grade homeroom teacher who consistently exceeds expectations by meeting the diverse needs of her students daily. She serves as a committed leader within the 4th-grade team, utilizing her expertise across multiple domains to craft engaging and innovative learning opportunities. Ms. Wagner was awarded with a certificate of recognition.

Board member Karl Borchers spoke on behalf of the Recognition Committee to acknowledge the achievements of the Hawthorn Tech Department. They were nominated for expanding device access from middle school to all staff and students district-wide in just four years, a key step towards making Hawthorn a lighthouse district. The tech team was awarded a certificate of recognition.

Vice President Wes Polen recognized the Hawthorn Middle South Poms team for their outstanding performance this season. Competing for the first time in the 2024 IDTA State Poms competition held in Springfield, Illinois, they placed 14th among 20 middle schools in the "open poms" division. This achievement is a testament to their hard work and determination. The team was awarded medals of excellence.

Board Member Karl Borchers recognized the Hawthorn Middle North Poms team. In their debut at the 2024 IDTA State Poms competition in Springfield, they showcased exceptional talent and teamwork, placing 12th among 20 competitive middle schools from across the state. This impressive achievement in their first season competing at this level highlights their dedication and spirit. The team was awarded medals of excellence.

Vice President Wes Polen recognized the Hawthorn Middle South Cheer team for their spirited performance this season. Competing in the 2024 IESA State Cheer competition in Peoria, Illinois, they took part in the large routine division and achieved a commendable 15th place. The team was awarded medals of excellence.

Board Member Karl Borchers recognized the Hawthorn North Cheer team. Also competing at the 2024 IESA State Cheer competition in Peoria, in the large routine division, they secured 13th place. The team was awarded medals of excellence.

Vice President Wes Polen recognized the Middle South State Wrestling Team. These young athletes showcased exceptional skill and determination, earning their places at the IESA State Meet in DeKalb, Illinois, by finishing in the top four of their weight classes at the sectional meet. The team was awarded medals of excellence.

Board Member Karl Borchers recognized the Hawthorn Middle North State wrestling team. This team had a record number of wrestlers qualify for the IESA State Tournament in DeKalb, each securing their spot by finishing in the top four at the sectional tournament.

Vice President Wes Polen ended the recognition portion of the meeting by recognizing the Hawthorn Middle South 7th grade girls volleyball team. This talented group of athletes moved through the state series, claiming titles as both IESA Regional and IESA Sectional Champions. Their triumph at the sectional championship secured their spot in the IESA State Series in Normal, Illinois, placing them among the top 8 teams in the state in the 4AA Division. The team was awarded medals of excellence.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice-President Wes Polen reported that The Physical Education Department at Middle School South recently underwent the application process for the esteemed Illinois Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance PE Blue Ribbon Award. Interviews were conducted on Tuesday, April 16th, as part of the evaluation process. The committee visited Middle South to observe selected PE classes and conduct interviews with PE staff, select students, parents, and the administrative team. Ms. Polen participated on behalf of the board and as a parent. She is immensely proud of the Middle South PE department for taking the initiative to apply for this honor. Now, the district eagerly awaits the results, hoping to secure the award.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Cleek reminded the board members to RSVP for the upcoming retirement ceremony scheduled for May 22, 2024 at the district office. She also reminded the board members to file their statement of economic interest form by May 1, 2024.

ED-RED REPORT

Mr. Joel Finfer reported that he and other ED-RED Members attended Advocacy Day, which took place on April 10 in Springfield, Illinois. The members had the opportunity to tour the State Capitol Building, attend committee hearings, meet with local legislators, and advocate for public education. This event provided members with the opportunity to witness the legislative process, meet their local officials, and engage in advocacy firsthand. ED-RED provided members with talking points to share with legislators, highlighting the issues impacting their districts.

SEDOL REPORT

Mr. Michael Engle reported that the last executive board meeting was on April 4 and the last governing board meeting was on March 6. Information was presented regarding the proposed tentative budget for FY25. The full proposed budget will be presented for approval at the April 25 executive board meeting. If approved, the governing board will vote on the proposed tentative budget at the June 5 meeting for final approval in August. Board members received the draft of the FY25 budget, which included budget summaries with projected tuition rates proposed with a 5% increase. During the June meeting, the governing board will elect a Board President and Secretary. President Kerry McHugh from District 118 will not be seeking another one-year term, while Secretary Stephen Mack from District 46 is open to returning. The governing board nominating committee will review all applicants, and their recommendations will be included in the agenda for the June 5 meeting. Additionally, bids are being taken for the Fair Haven school gym floor, but a limited number of bids received exceeded the budget amount. The SEDOL foundation agreed to revise the specifications and go back out for bids. The next executive board meeting is on April 25, and the next governing board meeting is on June 5.

SITE & FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. George Fievet reported that the last Site & Facilities meeting was held on April 4, 2024. The committee addressed several key topics in the meeting. Firstly, regarding the Townline/Dual Language intercom system, the committee reevaluated the project due to budget constraints and now have a bid from Sound Inc for \$190K, which is within the district's budget and will align Townline/Dual Language with other buildings in the district. Secondly, the committee discussed waste disposal and the need to control rising costs. The committee will soon release a bid package to explore alternative vendors and regain control over refuse prices. Additionally, the committee reviewed busing options in light of statute changes and will continue discussions on potential contract adjustments and vendor alternatives. The committee plans to meet with Lakeside at the next Site & Facilities meeting to discuss bus routes and contracts. Lastly, the committee conducted a closed session to review the security audit report, which is ongoing and addresses system-wide improvements and future planning. The next Site & Facilities meeting is scheduled for May 2, 2024.

WELLNESS COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Julie Clifford reported that the last Wellness Committee meeting was held on April 16, 2024. The committee conducted a comprehensive review covering several key areas including Whole Child Success Goal Update, Goals for the 2024-2025 School Year, Food/Nutrition Discussion, and Disciplinary Data Review. Quest Food Service shared feedback that was received from a student focus group at the middle school regarding school lunches. Quest indicated the feedback was helpful in planning school lunch options for the 24-25 school year. Disciplinary data shows significant improvements compared to the previous year, with decreases in bullying incidents and physical altercations despite a growing student population. The committee will present their findings at the upcoming board meeting on May 16, 2024, which will include an overview of the committees work and final recommendations for data collection around Board Goal #4; Whole Child Wellness.

PRESENTATIONS

Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, Ms. Alicia Corrigan, accompanied by Coordinator of Student Services, Ms. Debbie Dubin, presented an update on the Special Education Board Project.. The update highlighted the department's strategic efforts to integrate students with special education needs into general education classrooms or their home district, in alignment with the district's mission, vision, and goals. The Department has focused on structures, systems and staff capacity. Initiatives in these three areas include the addition of occupational therapy and sensory rooms, adjustments to support systems like MTSS and PBIS, and

professional development for staff. Data indicated a 33% increase in students' time in general education classrooms after the first year of data collection. Success was measured through least restrictive environment data, aiming to serve as many students as possible within the district. The Student Services Department will provide updates to the board annually on this goal.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Dr. Pete Hannigan thanked the Key to 73 Foundation for their generous donation of MetaQuest VR headsets, Spectrum VR30 Storage and Charging Carts, and iMac Desktop Computers, which provide invaluable support in enhancing the educational technology within our STEM classrooms. He also extended appreciation to the PTO for raising a total of \$5,614.07 during the district-wide book fair this year. This donation provided ongoing support and wouldn't have been possible without the partnership and collaboration with the district's amazing PTO.

Additionally, Dr. Hannigan announced that returning student registration for the next academic year is open and almost at a 50% completion rate. He emphasized the importance of early registration, scheduled to conclude by May 1, highlighting that it facilitates academic planning and preparation, ensuring a seamless transition for students and staff into the new year.

Superintendent Dr. Pete Hannigan concluded his report by viewing the next episode of "Hawthorn Buildings' Superpowers." The series aims to highlight each school building's distinctive strengths, emphasizing their unwavering commitment and collective efforts. Townline Elementary School and Hawthorn School of Dual Language showcased their unique superpowers.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 6.1 Board Meeting Minutes from March 14, 2024
- 6.2 Closed Session Minutes from March 14, 2024
- 6.3 Expenditure Report from April 18, 2024
- 6.4 Mastercard Report February 21, 2024
- 6.5 Amazon Expense Report April 18, 2024
- 6.6 Treasurer's Report February 2024
- 6.7 Final Calendar for FY24
- 6.8 Approval of FY24 Administrative Salaries
- 6.9 Approval of FY25 Building Assistant Supervisor Salaries
- 6.10 Approval of FY25 Salaries for Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3, and Tier 4 Personnel
- 6.11 Personnel Report

New Hires: 8

Resignations: 7

Leave of Absence: 7

Change of Status: 3

Retirement: 2

8 New Hires: Rodney Erb, Safety and Security, District; MS; Nicole Merryfield Coy, Multilingual Learner Supervisor, District; Alyson Spagnoli, Building Assistant Supervisor, EN; Lana Carnazzola, Social Worker, TL/DL; Carmen Terselic, ELL Resource Teacher, EN; Marlenee Villasenor, 4th Grade Teacher, DL; Paulina Zajkowska, 1st Grade Teacher, ES. Yesenia Cisneros, Instructional Assistant, EN.

7 Resignations: Amy Bennett, 1st Grade Teacher, TL, 06/04/2024; Caitlin Narantic, ELL Teacher, Aspen, 06/04/2024; Breana Pitsenberger, 3rd Grade Teacher, EN, 06/04/2024; Kiersten Teresei, 5th Grade Teacher, Aspen, 06/04/2024; Gabrielle Wilke, LBS1 Teacher, TL, 06/04/2024; Carrie Young, ELL Teacher, ES, 03/12/2024; Kalpana Palanismay, Lunch/Recess Supervisor, ES, 01/19/2024.

7 Leaves of Absence: Kathryn Balmes, Social Studies Teacher, MN, 03/18/2024; Anne Foley, Art Teacher, Aspen, 04/10/2024; Haemi Lee, Music Teacher, Aspen/ES, 05/28/2024; Miriam Sanchez, ELL Teacher, MS, 03/21/2024; Kelsey Curran, Instructional Assistant, HSYL, 05/23/2024; Nancy Estrada, Student Secretary, HSYL, 02/26/2024; Udani Hettiarachchi, Instructional Assistant, ES, 04/01/2024.

3 Change of Status: Kimberly Stergios, Building Assistant Supervisor, Lincoln, 08/07/2024; Samantha Willingmyre, Dual Language Specialist, District, 08/14/2024; Vasantham Swathi, Instructional Assistant, HSYL, 04/01/2024.

2 Retirements: Renee Rosinski, Principal Secretary, MS, 06/28/2024; Cathy Henders, 2nd Grade Teacher, ES, 06/04/2024.

Dr. Hannigan discussed four positions for the board, beginning with the Multilingual Learners Supervisor role. The district posted the position on March 15, 2024, receiving 21 online applications. Following initial screenings and interviews, he was excited to recommend Ms. Nicole Merryfield Coy for the position.

Next, he highlighted the Safety and Security role, a new addition to the district. Out of 23 applicants, Sergeant Rodney Erb was recommended as the top candidate. His responsibilities will include overseeing crisis procedures, staff training, and student support.

Lastly, he reviewed the Building Assistant Supervisor positions at Elementary North and Lincoln Early Learning Center. The Elementary North vacancy was posted on February 23, 2024 and the Lincoln Early Learning Center vacancy was posted on March 15, 2024. The district received a total of 35 applications for the Elementary North vacancy and 18 applicants for the Lincoln Early Learning Center's vacancy. After thorough interviews, the district has selected Ms. Alyson Spagnoli for Elementary North's Building Assistant Supervisor and Ms. Kimberly Stergios for Lincoln Early Learning Center's Building Assistant Supervisor.

All positions underwent rigorous screening and interviews, ensuring the has chosen the best candidates to serve Hawthorn District 73.

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

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

Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nays

Dr. Hannigan reviewed the first two action items on tonight's agenda. Dr. Hannigan presented to the Board of Education the recommendation to approve contract extensions for Adam Palmer, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Dr. Allison Stein, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, and Alicia Corrigan, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services. The contract extensions are for a term of three years.

The next action item was the Resolution of the Board of Education of Hawthorn D73 Regarding the Impact of Tax Increment Financing on School Districts. As mentioned in the previous board meeting, ED-RED continues to work on advancing TIF reform. Legislators have made it clear that advocacy of school boards is becoming more and more valuable in advancing TIF reform in Springfield. Therefore, this TIF reform resolution was drafted for school boards to consider adoption. With that being said, Hawthorn District 73 actively backs economic development in the broader community, recognizing its potential to strengthen the district and offer numerous advantages.

Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Business Operations Dr. Taylor reviewed the last action item related to the business department. Dr. Taylor reviewed the Middle North Domestic Water Heater Bid Results sharing that on Wednesday, February 21, 2024 the district received two sealed bids that were opened and publicly read for the Domestic Water Heater Replacement at Middle North School project. The low qualified bidder is Abitua Sewer, Water & Plumbing, Inc. in the Base Bid amount of \$119,500. The project requirements were reviewed, and Abitua demonstrated an understanding of the scope of work and project timeline.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Assistant Superintendent Contracts

MOTION: Wes Polen moved that the Board of Education approve the Assistant Superintendent Contracts; Michael Engle seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nays

Resolution of the Board of Education of Hawthorn D73 Regarding the Impact of Tax Increment Financing on School Districts

MOTION: Karl Borchers moved that the Board of Education approve the Resolution of the Board of Education of Hawthorn D73 Regarding the Impact of Tax Increment Financing on School Districts; George Fievet seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nays

Middle North Domestic Water Heater Bid Results

MOTION: George Fievet moved that the Board of Education approve the Middle North Domestic Water Heater Bid Results; Joel Finfer seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nays

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Enrollment - Uploaded
 2. FOIA Log, Dr. Hannigan reported that the District has received three 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

No future topics at this time.

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:*

Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2).

With no further business to discuss, Michael Engle *made a motion to adjourn to Closed Session, seconded by Julie Clifford.* The meeting *adjourned at 7:59 p.m.* **All in favor? Yes.**

Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nays

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Flores

Robin Cleek, President

George Fievet, Secretary

Date Minutes Approved: _____