

**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 16th day of May 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 Teaching & Learning Dr. Allison Stein; 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 at this time.

RECOGNITION

The board meeting featured the final recognition segment for SY 2023-2024, celebrating the dedication and passion of Hawthorn's educators, students, and community members.

Vice President Wes Polen and Board Member Karl Borchers, on behalf of the Recognition Committee, acknowledged the achievements of students and groups who were presented with Certificates of Excellence and Medals of Achievement:

- Presley Schenk received the IESA Scholar Attitude Award for Division A, an accolade awarded to only 15 students statewide for exemplary attitude, academic excellence, and athletic participation.
- Daniel Wolfe was recognized for his outstanding performance in the IESA State Bowling Tournament in Joliet, securing an 18th place finish as Hawthorn's sole representative.
- The Hawthorn Middle South National Anthem Performers were commended for enhancing the spirit and pride of school events through their performances.
- The Hawthorn Middle South Math Team was acknowledged for their 10th place finish at the State MathCounts competition, with Dylan Shen receiving special recognition for his 27th place individual ranking.
- The Hawthorn Middle School Science Olympiad Teams achieved notable success, with Hawthorn Middle North placing 3rd and Hawthorn Middle South placing 8th at the State competition in Champaign, Illinois.
- Members of the Hawthorn Multilingual Leadership Team, including Lauren Boardman, Stephanie Sidaway, Nikki Rodrigo, Lauren Watts, Megan Faith, Gaby Cervantes, and John Reid, were honored for exemplifying leadership in our school community.
- Additionally, the ISBE Those Who Excel award winners were recognized for their outstanding contributions to education. This group includes the 1st Grade Team from Elementary South (comprising Kelly Wilton, Sarah Lawless, Amanda Freeze, Meghan Bohn, and Addie Curcio), Yuri Mancilla from Dual Language, Lauren Timony from Aspen, Brandon White of Townline, and Dr. Jill Martin, Principal of HSYL. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and grateful for their contributions to our school community.
- Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Mr. Adam Palmer and Assistant Superintendent of Innovation Dr. Karen Maturo recognized the Hawthorn Leadership Academy. Staff participants were presented with certificates of completion.

The recognition segment concluded with a special brick ceremony, the highest level of recognition bestowed by the committee. Recipients included Hitz Pizza, Taco and Burrito Express, Quest (Hawthorn's food service provider), Mrs. Heidi Stern representing Lululemon Lake Forest, Jake Stern representing ULINE, and individuals such as Gaby Cervantes and Jessica Flores for their significant contributions to the tornado relief efforts in Mundelein. For the final brick, Ms. Jenna Stern was recognized for her outstanding efforts in the 23-24 school year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice-President Wes Polen was proud to share that the Middle South girls soccer team placed third at the conference.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Cleek reminded the board members to RSVP for the upcoming Triple-I conference in November. An anonymous letter was recently received, signed by a "concerned parent," expressing vague concerns about discipline and safety. President Cleek

clarified that the board only receives summaries of suspensions that do not include identifying details related to specific students. The only time the Board would receive detailed student information is in the event a family requested a suspension hearing in front of the Board. President Cleek emphasized that student records are confidential and cannot comment on disciplinary measures or alternative educational placements. Community members were encouraged to email the entire board for responses and to contact the police directly if necessary, especially outside school hours. She reiterated the importance of safety and community involvement.

President Cleek expressed gratitude for Hawthorn's support over 14 years as her third child graduates from eighth grade, thanking administrators, teachers, support staff, and everyone involved in her children's education. She also extended sincere thanks on behalf of the board to the dedicated team of teachers, support staff, administrators, secretaries, clerks, and facilities department for a wonderful year. She ended her report by congratulating the class of 2024 and wishing everyone a great, relaxing summer.

ED-RED REPORT

No ED-RED Report at this time.

SEDOL REPORT

Mr. Michael Engle reported that the last executive board meeting was on April 25 and the last governing board meeting was on March 6. SEDOL is pleased to announce that at the April 25 executive board meeting, Dr. Yesenia Jimenez-Captain was approved as the next Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for SEDOL beginning July 1. Interviews were conducted with representation from various stakeholder groups including staff and parents. The board approved the contract between SEDOL and Douglas Floor Co. in the amount of \$95, 900 for the gymnasium floor bid. The tentative start date for the gymnasium floor project is July 15 and expected to be completed by the second week of August. The board approved the administration's recommendation to present the tentative MOU to the governing board at the June 5 meeting. The MOU was reached with SEDOL Support Staff Association (SSSA) regarding items relating to extended school year, pay and paraprofessional placements in Lasso 3. The executive board provided updates for the FY2025 proposed budget. The board also approved the administration's recommendation to present the proposed budget to the governing board at the June 5 meeting. The final budget for FY2025 will be presented at the June 27 executive board meeting. There was also an update on the SEDOL fiscal forecast and information was presented regarding how current SEDOL tuition rates do not cover the amount of program costs. Teams are reviewing options to look at ensuring quality programs with equitable fiscal structures. Additional information was presented on a timeline for modifications to FY2026 and beyond. The next executive board meeting is May 23 and the next governing board meeting is June 5.

SITE & FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. George Fievet reported that the last Site & Facilities meeting was held on May 2, 2024. The committee met with Tom O'Sullivan from Lakeside Transportation which gave the committee and Lakeside an opportunity to converse regarding transportation issues, highlighting what works and what needs improvement, and explored ways to enhance the service for students. The focus was on communication and potential technology upgrades, with a pilot project for new technology possibly starting next year. This discussion aligned well with the upcoming renewal, a topic addressed later in the evening. There was also a brief conversation about the waste disposal bid results, which would be discussed further later in the meeting. Additionally, the committee touched on the cash transfer discussion, another agenda item for the evening. A final reminder was issued to respect traffic flow and signage around the buildings during drop-off and dismissal for the safety of students, staff, and families.

WELLNESS COMMITTEE REPORT

No Wellness Committee Report at this time.

PRESENTATIONS

Megan Goldman, Social, Emotional, Behavior Coordinator, along with wellness committee members Assistant Superintendent of Student Services Ms. Alicia Corrigan, Townline Principal Dr. Jennifer Haack, Board Member Julie Clifford, Parent Holly Aronoff, and student Alex Vaysberg, presented the Whole Child Success Update. Hawthorn District 73's Whole Child Success initiative, part of the strategic plan Goal 4, was dedicated to nurturing the academic, social, and emotional well-being of every student. The district effectively implemented the ASCD Whole Child Framework, focusing on five key tenets—Healthy, Safe, Engaged, Supported, and Challenged—to enhance educational outcomes through research-based methods and stakeholder collaboration. They began by discussing the scope and timeline, as well as the committee members who had been instrumental in driving this goal forward. They delved into the research supporting Whole Child Success and highlighted key data points and assessment tools they utilized. Next, they explored the implementation phase, including the indicators identified for measuring Whole Child Education. Finally, they outlined their future plans for assessing and measuring success as they continued to prioritize the well-being of every student in the district.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Vice President Wes Polen, Superintendent Dr. Hannigan, and assistant superintendents conducted a review of Policy Press Issues 114. The policy sub-committee convened on May 9 to review any policy modifications within multiple departments, which were

incorporated into PRESS Issue 114. A total of 20 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.

Superintendent Dr. Hannigan discussed the Hawthorn D73 Foundation Memo of Understanding. The district established a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Hawthorn Community Consolidated School District No. 73 and the Key to 73 - Hawthorn Education Foundation to support the district's mission, "Learning For All. Every One. Every Day." The MOU outlines the mutual commitments between the School District and the Foundation, aligning with the district's mission and values. The MOU represents a collaborative effort to enhance educational opportunities and community engagement within the school district. With this partnership, the district is committed to fostering a significant and positive impact on the lives of Hawthorn students and the broader community.

Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Business Operations, Dr. LeeAnn Taylor discussed the Disposal Bid Results, the Resolution Abating the Working Cash Fund of the District, the Resolution Transferring Funds from the Educational Fund to the Debt Service Fund, and the Transportation Contract Extension.

The business office initiated a public bidding process for district waste disposal. Two bids were received and opened on April 22, 2024, from Groot and Waste Management. The results were reviewed by the Site & Facilities Committee on May 2, 2024. The committee recommended approving the contract with Waste Management. This contract will be presented to the board for approval on June 20, 2024.

The Resolution Abating the Working Cash Fund of the District was presented to the board to continue funding ongoing projects. After reviewing the current balance and successful investments of the working cash funds, the Site & Facilities Committee discussed a \$4 million transfer at the May 2, 2024 meeting. The current working cash fund balance exceeds \$14 million. Transferring funds from working cash, an operating fund, to capital projects, a non-operating fund, would maintain a fund balance that exceeds 50% of annual expenses. It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the abatement of the working cash fund at the June 20, 2024 meeting.

The Resolution Transferring Funds from the Educational Fund to the Debt Service Fund was presented to the board to continue funding the technology lease payments totaling \$688,671.52 and are due on July 10, 2024. This transfer allows for the payment to be transferred from the educational fund to the debt service fund, the required fund for lease payments. These are the first payments for the device refresh that was approved by the Board of Education in February of 2024.

The Transportation Contract Extension was presented to the board following discussion at the last Site & Facilities meeting. The business office recommended a three-year contract extension with Lakeside Transportation, featuring an annual 6% increase. This proposal mirrored the financial terms presented to Libertyville 70 and District 128 School Districts. Effective January 2024, changes to the school code allowed for multi-year transportation contract extensions, with a requirement for schools to bid at least once every ten years. If approved by the board, legal counsel advised Hawthorn 73 to initiate a bid process in winter 2028.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Dr. Pete Hannigan thanked the Hawthorn Education Association (HEA) for their ongoing support. This year, the HEA contributed \$1,236 to the Hawthorn Food Pantry, recognizing increased community needs, including support for Mundelein tornado victims. Additionally, funds from HEA's annual fundraiser and dues were allocated towards scholarships for two Hawthorn alumni. Holly Faitsch from Middle North will attend Southern Illinois University for Aviation Management and Professional Flight, while Daniel Santiago from Middle South will pursue Baking and Pastry Arts at College of Lake County.

Special thanks were also extended to the Hawthorn PTO for their generous support during Teacher Appreciation Week, fostering a joyful atmosphere across the school buildings.

Dr. Hannigan was also proud to announce that Hawthorn Middle North and Middle South have been honored by Project Lead The Way (PLTW) for their outstanding commitment to providing broad access to transformative STEM education. This prestigious recognition is awarded to a select group of middle schools across the U.S. that excel in implementing the PLTW Gateway curriculum, designed to engage students in grades 6-8 with hands-on and real-world learning experiences.

He also shared that Chicago Parent has released its list of the top elementary schools and middle schools in Lake County. Out of more than 120 elementary schools and over 50 middle schools in the county, nearly every Hawthorn District 73 school made the list.

Hawthorn families were thanked for their proactive registration for the upcoming school year, with registration currently at a 94% completion rate. The district encouraged remaining families to register by attending the last evening registration event on May 29 at 4pm at the district office.

Superintendent Dr. Pete Hannigan concluded his report by viewing the final episode of “Hawthorn Buildings’ Superpowers.” The series aims to highlight each school building's distinctive strengths, emphasizing their unwavering commitment and collective efforts. Hawthorn Middle North and Middle South showcased their unique superpowers.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 7.1 Board Meeting Minutes from April 18, 2024
- 7.2 Closed Session Minutes from April 18, 2024
- 7.3 Expenditure Report from May 16, 2024
- 7.4 Amazon Expense Report May 16, 2024
- 7.5 Mastercard Report March 21, 2024
- 7.6 Treasurer's Report March 2024
- 7.7 Personnel Report

New Hires: 13

Resignations: 8

Leave of Absence: 4

Salary Adjustment: 1

13 New Hires: Ana Bach, Social Worker, Aspen; Beth Binder, Occupational Therapist, District; Brittany Garcia, Bilingual Teacher, DL; Brienne Honda, Library Media Specialist, MS; Jenna Jacoby, 2nd Grade Teacher, ES; Claire Jones, LBS1 Teacher, MN; Paige Kapitan, School Psychologist, MN; Jennifer Korol, LBS1 Teacher, Jenna Manos, 4th Grade Teacher, TL; Alexandra Pappas, Math Teacher, MN; Brooke Pieper, 3rd Grade Teacher, EN. Allison Walger, Math Teacher, MN, Ranjeeta Jain, Data Analyst, District;

8 Resignations: Breana Barker, Math Teacher, MN, 06/04/2024; Amy Flanagan, Math Teacher, MS, 06/04/2024; Hailee Milewski, Art Teacher, DL, 06/04/2024; Yessica Ocampo Toledo, Interventionist, DL, 06/04/2024; Anna Paprocki, Resource Teacher, MS, 06/04/2024; Jenna Repkin, Math Teacher, MN, 06/04/2024; Jinhee Kim, L/R Supervisor, TL, 05/24/2024; Natalie Smith, Instructional Assistant, MN, 06/04/2024.

4 Leaves of Absence: Katie Bartel, Music Teacher, EN, 08/14/2024; Gerogiann Massa, ECAT Speech/Language Pathologist, Lincoln, 06/25/2024; Modesta Rodriguez, Instructional Assistant, MS, 04/15/2024; Constantina Wroblewski, Principal Secretary, HSYL, 04/01/2024.

1 Salary Adjustment: Megan Faith, Building Assistant Supervisor, Aspen, 08/07/2024.

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

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

Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nays

Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Business Operations, Dr. Taylor, presented action items from the business department. These included the Appointment of Treasurer for SY 2024-2025, the IMRF Authorized Agent Resolution, and the NIHIP Resolution Appointing a Representative. Dr. Taylor recommended board approval to appoint Ms. Jennifer Akin as the authorized agent for the Treasurer role in the 2024-2025 school year, as well as for the positions of IMRF representative and NIHIP representative.

ACTION ITEMS

Appointment of Treasurer for SY 2024-2025

MOTION: Wes Polen moved that the Board of Education approve the Appointment of Treasurer for SY 2024-2025; Karl Borchers 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

IMRF Authorized Agent Resolution

MOTION: Michael Engle moved that the Board of Education approve the IMRF Authorized Agent Resolution; 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

NIHIP Resolution Appointing a Representative

MOTION: Wes Polen moved that the Board of Education approve the NIHIP Resolution Appointing a Representative; Karl Borchers 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 not received any FOIA requests since the last board meeting as identified in Section 9.2 of the Board agenda.
3. Media Clips-

TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

The board discussed a future agenda topic regarding Hawthorn's strategy for the substitute pool, focusing on marketing efforts and initiatives aimed at recruiting and retaining substitutes. Dr. Hannigan anticipates reviewing this topic in Fall 2024.

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, Wes Polen *made a motion to adjourn to Closed Session, seconded by Julie Clifford.* The meeting *adjourned at 8:47 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: _____