

**Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting of
Hawthorn Community Consolidated District #73, Lake County, Illinois
841 W. End Ct, Vernon Hills IL 60061
7:00 p.m. on the 20th day of June 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 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. Board Secretary George Fievet was not in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Madeline Wright, a Gold Award Girl Scout, publicly thanked the board and the Hawthorn community for their support of her Gold Award project. She updated the board that she has officially completed the project, which involved creating five garden beds on the north campus. She expressed her excitement for the ongoing implementation of this project in the Hawthorn community.

PTO President Jenna Garcia and PTO Treasurer Seema Lulla-Shah provided an update on the PTO activities for the 2023-2024 school year. Key achievements included filling all executive board positions, reinstating childcare at meetings, and hosting a successful staff teacher relay at the Hawthorn Hustle. The PTO organized book fairs at all schools, revived the box tops program, and added family programs like the BMX bike show. For staff appreciation, they introduced a new flower gram policy, resulting in a significant increase in messages. Additional initiatives included updating the PTO logo, developing a website, and creating new coordinator roles. They also organized a middle school dance, purchased eclipse glasses for students and staff, updated honor roll prizes, and launched a new popcorn fundraiser. Future plans involve rotating meeting locations to increase participation and distributing detailed financial information. The PTO was proud to donate \$25,000 to the district.

RECOGNITION

No recognition at this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements at this time.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Cleek began her report by congratulating Dr. LeeAnn Taylor on her new role in Frankfort. The board expressed gratitude for Dr. Taylor's contributions and wished her well in her future endeavors. Additionally, President Cleek distributed board agreements for review. The board discussed potential edits and will seek consensus at the next meeting.

ED-RED REPORT

Mr. Joel Finfer gave a brief update on the 23-24 year from ED-RED's perspective. He reported that over 700 education-related bills were filed, with only 45 passing both chambers. He also announced that ED-RED held its first mini summit, which received extremely positive feedback. The summit was attended by 138 people from 25 school districts and provided valuable educational presentations for the districts.

SEDOL REPORT

Mr. Michael Engle reported that the last SEDOL governing board meeting was held on June 5, and the last executive board meeting on May 23. Meeting dates for 2024-2025 were established: August 7, December 4, March 5, and June 4. A presentation of the tentative budget by Dr. Donnan was reviewed, which included a 5% increase in tuition rates. The governing board approved the tentative budget for FY25 and scheduled a public hearing for the final budget on August 7. Mr. Matthew Crowley, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, presented on fiscal restructuring efforts, focusing on shared services and tuition reset subcommittees. Four options for funding and services were discussed in detail at a June 13 meeting with district superintendents and business managers. The board also approved an MOU with the SEDOL Support Staff Association regarding extended school year pay and paraprofessional placements in the LASSO III program. The next executive board meeting is on June 27, and the next governing board meeting is on August 7.

SITE & FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

No report at this time.

WELLNESS COMMITTEE REPORT

No report at this time.

PRESENTATIONS

Principal of Dual Language, Ms. Nicole Rodrigo, and Building Assistant Supervisor, Ms. Meghan Caby, reviewed the End-of-Year Dual Language School Improvement Plan Update. They reported progress in meeting the school's improvement goals and supporting its staff. They highlighted that for the 2024-25 school year, the top priority is enhancing reading achievement for Dual Language learners. The school will continue successful practices from 2023-24, implement HMH structured literacy for K-2, and expand technology strategies for all teachers. The presentation showcased the assessment results for FastBridge, MAP, AAPPL, SAEBERS, and staff Humanex surveys. Staff will engage in professional development through learning teams focusing on multilingual learners, technology, differentiation, and classroom management. The presentation ended with reflections on the 23-24 school year and action steps to ensure the success of all students. The staff is enthusiastic about the progress and eager for the upcoming year.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Board President Robin Cleek discussed the Resolution Related to Polling Places in Schools. District 103 submitted the proposed language along with additional rationale behind the resolution. The Illinois Association of School Boards' shall support legislation to amend the election code to allow school districts to refuse to be polling places for student safety reasons. If a school is used as a polling place, voters must be physically separated from students, and the safety of children and staff should not be compromised. School districts should not be required to close on election day if none of their buildings serve as polling places. The rationale includes preventing disruption to the school week, avoiding extended school years, and mitigating childcare challenges for parents. Hawthorn is not used as a polling place, and there is discussion by board members regarding its relevance to Hawthorn.

Assistant Superintendent of Business & Finance Operations Dr. LeeAnn Taylor was accompanied by incoming CSBO Ms. Jennifer Akin to discuss the FY25 Tentative Budget. They presented the FY25 tentative budget, outlining the planning process which included reviewing current year revenues and expenditures, collaborating with district leaders, and assessing contract service agreements and student operations needs. The tentative budget projects \$67 million in revenue and \$66 million in expenditures, reflecting a 5.7% increase. The expenditure increases include bargained salary increases and higher costs for transportation, food service, and supplies. Despite tight expenditure projections, the budget anticipates a small surplus. Ms. Jennifer Akin discussed the next steps to finalize the budget, including booking final FY24 revenues and expenses, an audit in July, completing state reporting requirements, a budget hearing scheduled in August with final approval for the FY25 budget in September. It's important to note that all the information provided for both the current FY24 budget and the future FY25 budget is tentative and subject to change over the next couple of months.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Dr. Pete Hannigan reported on the busy last couple of weeks with the kickoff of Hawthorn's summer school programs and professional development sessions. He was pleased to share that Hawthorn has seen the highest interest in our summer program this year, welcoming over 800 students across all programs. Teachers and administrators have been attending professional development sessions in preparation for the 2024-2025 school year, and are excited to welcome Hawthorn students back on August 19.

This past Thursday, Hawthorn held its annual safety meeting with local stakeholders, including the Countryside Fire Department, Vernon Hills Police Department, and the Vernon Hills Park District. This annual meeting allows the school district to review Hawthorn's crisis plans, assess our safety audit, and address areas needing improvement before the school year begins. Dr. Hannigan appreciates the collaborative relationship with its stakeholders in supporting the safety and security of Hawthorn's students and staff.

Hawthorn families should pay attention to their email inbox towards the end of July for important upcoming school year communications, including key dates, PowerSchool instructions, and more. The PowerSchool Portal account officially goes live on Thursday, August 8 to display class schedules, teacher placements, and transportation information.

He also shared that Hawthorn's annual report will be mailed out to the community during the month of July.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 7.1 Board Meeting Minutes from May 16, 2024
- 7.2 Closed Session Minutes from May 16, 2024
- 7.3 Treasurer's Report from April 2024
- 7.4 Mastercard Report from April 22, 2024
- 7.5 Mastercard Report from May 21, 2024
- 7.6 Amazon Expense Report from June 20, 2024

- 7.7 Expenditure Report from June 20, 2024
7.8 Personnel Report

New Hires: 14
Resignations: 16
Change of Status: 2

14 New Hires: Alexa Ferraro, 1st Grade Teacher, Aspen; Jennifer Fragassi, ELL Teacher, ES; Jennifer Gafron, .5 Music/.5 Building Sub, MS; Abby Kamai, Math Teacher, MS; Courtney Odden, 5th Grade Teacher, ES; Alondra Perez, Speech Language Pathologist, EN; Miranda Randel, Art Teacher, TL; Ashley Reese, 3rd Grade Teacher, ES; Hannah Rubinstein, 4th Grade Teacher, DL; Gina Samuelian, Speech Language Pathologist, Aspen/MS; Alexi Viviano, Social Worker, District; Kelly Yasutake, LBS1 Teacher, Lincoln, Jennifer Nolan, Principal Secretary, Aspen.

16 Resignations: Maria Cortes, Instructional Assistant, EN, 06/04/2024; Priscilla Lowe, Nurse, EN, 06/04/2024; Dominique Neidenbach, Student Secretary, MS, 06/12/2024; Johanna Trockenbrodt, Instructional Assistant, MS, 07/09/2024; Katy Baker, Math Teacher, 06/20/2024; Jamie Crouch, LBS1 Teacher, DL, 06/04/2024; Abigail Dust, 3rd Grade Teacher, DL, 06/04/2024; Kara Hjerstedt, Math Teacher, MN, 06/04/2024; Sarah Lawrence, 7th Grade Teacher, MS, 06/04/2024; Diana Mejia, ELL Teacher, DL, 06/04/2024; Shannon Owsley, LBS1 Teacher, Aspen, 06/04/2024; Rodrigo Pozo, PE Teacher, MS, 06/04/2024; Katie Shaevitz, 1st Grade Teacher, Aspen, 06/04/2024; Katie Shannon, Kindergarten Teacher, HSYL, 06/04/2024; Lindsay Turner, Instructional Coach, District, 06/04/2024; Sabrina Urban, 4th Grade Teacher, Aspen, 06/04/2024.

2 Change of Status: Colleen Bomkamp, 2nd Grade Teacher, Aspen, 08/14/2024; Danae Hernandez, 5th Grade Teacher, Aspen, 08/14/2024.

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

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

Motion carried: 6 ayes; 0 nays

Dr. Hannigan reviewed the first two action items, including the PRESS 114 Policy Update and the Hawthorn D73 Foundation Memo of Understanding. The policy sub-committee convened on May 9 to review potential modifications across multiple departments, which were incorporated into PRESS Issue 114. A total of 20 policies were reviewed by the committee. Department heads presented their updates at the last board meeting. Tonight, the district seeks board approval to update the necessary policies in IASB's PRESS 114 packet.

As a reminder, the partnership with the Hawthorn Foundation underscores the district's commitment to creating a meaningful and positive impact on both Hawthorn students and the broader community.

Dr. LeeAnn Taylor reviewed the business department's action items, which included approving a three-year waste management disposal contract, transferring funds from the working cash fund to the capital projects fund, and from the Educational fund to debt service for lease payments on new devices. Additionally, the bus contract with Lakeside was extended with a 6% annual increase over three years.

ACTION ITEMS

PRESS 114 Policy Update

MOTION: Wes Polen moved that the Board of Education approve PRESS 114 Policy Update; Julie Clifford seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried: 6 ayes; 0 nays

Hawthorn D73 Foundation Memo of Understanding

MOTION: Joel Finfer moved that the Board of Education approve the Hawthorn D73 Foundation Memo of Understanding; Karl Borchers seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried: 6 ayes; 0 nays

Resolution Related to Polling Places in Schools

MOTION: Wes Polen moved that the Board of Education co-sponsor the Resolution Related to Polling Places in Schools; Michael Engle seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried: 6 ayes; 0 nays

Disposal Bid Approval

MOTION: Julie Clifford moved that the Board of Education approve the Disposal Bid Approval; Karl Borchers seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried: 6 ayes; 0 nays

Resolution Abating the Working Cash Fund of the District

MOTION: Michael Engle moved that the Board of Education approve the Resolution Abating the Working Cash Fund of the District ; Wes Polen seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried: 6 ayes; 0 nays

Resolution Transferring Funds from the Educational Fund to the Debt Service Fund

MOTION: Wes Polen moved that the Board of Education approve the Resolution Transferring Funds from the Educational Fund to the Debt Service Fund; Julie Clifford seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried: 6 ayes; 0 nays

Transportation Contract Extension

MOTION: Karl Borchers moved that the Board of Education approve the Transportation Contract Extension; Michael Engle seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried: 6 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-
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TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

No topics for future discussion.

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)

And

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 Karl Borchers. The meeting adjourned at 8:22 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: _____