

**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 15th day of August 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

President Robin Cleek called the Board of Education meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The Board Secretary called attendance and the following members attended: Joel Finfer, Michael Engle, Julie Clifford, George Fievet, Robin Cleek, Karl Borchers, and Wes Polen. Also in attendance were Asst. Supt. of Finance & Business Operations Ms. Jennifer Akin; 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

No recognition at this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements at this time.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Robin Cleek welcomed staff, students, and families to the 2024-2025 school year. She provided an update on the resolution the board co-sponsored for the delegate assembly at Triple I. At this time, the resolutions committee has agreed to include it and recommend adopting it so that districts could maintain local control over whether to close on election day if they were not a polling place. This is good news for Hawthorn, as the district is not a polling place, which would give the district control over whether to close on election day.

President Cleek informed the board via email that a representative was needed for the upcoming delegate assembly. She expressed appreciation to Ms. Julie Clifford for volunteering to represent the district at the November assembly. President Cleek concluded her report by revisiting the board agreements discussed in June, offering the board two options: to adopt the agreements as presented or to include additional language clarifying the board president's authority on determining when it is appropriate to respond to emails. After seeking feedback, the board unanimously agreed to adopt the agreements with the added language.

ED-RED REPORT

Mr. Joel Finfer reported that ED-RED hosted its annual legislative breakfast on Monday, August 12. A total of 88 people attended, including 22 legislators. The conversations were robust, and many of the issues discussed were not unique to any one district.

SEDOL REPORT

Mr. Michael Engle reported that the last executive board meeting took place on July 25, 2024, and the last governing board meeting was on August 7, 2024. He reminded the board that SEDOL is now under the leadership of co-interim superintendents Judy Hackett and Tim Thomas. At the August 7 meeting, the FY25 tentative budget and public hearing were held, which included a 5% increase in tuition rates and operational funds for facilities, technology plans, and future capital projects. The governing board approved the final budget and the sale of South School in Mundelein.

Superintendent Hackett also provided an update on the ELS program review, highlighting the twelve categories discussed and the development of priority goals for 2024-25, to be presented as part of a continuous improvement plan (CIP) in August. The CIP will be shared with the governing board to improve transparency.

Mr. Engle concluded his report by mentioning upcoming SEDOL events: the 27th annual golf invitational on September 9 at Stonewall Orchard Golf Club, the "Making Strides for Special Kids" 5K Run/Walk on September 14 at Independence Grove, and "One Special Night" on November 9, a fundraising evening of music, dinner, and entertainment. More information and registration can be found at sedolfoundation.org. The next executive board meeting is on August 22, 2024, and the next governing board meeting is on December 4, 2024.

SITE & FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. George Fievet reported that the Site & Facilities Committee held its first meeting on August 6, 2024, and welcomed Rodney Erb, the new safety & security specialist. The committee reviewed preparations for the 2024-2025 school year, including new signage at all Hawthorn buildings, which now display larger names and the new logo. Flooring was completed at Middle School North, and the intercom and clock project at Townline Dual Language was finished. Elementary North is ready for students, with only minor tasks remaining.

Looking ahead to the 2025-2026 summer projects, the committee discussed plans for the Middle North library and the second phase of the controls project, which was spread over two years to maintain budget efficiency. They also reviewed facility rental rates to ensure expenses are covered and that insurance coverage is sufficient for community use of district buildings.

The committee plans to meet on the Tuesday before each board meeting, with the next meeting focusing on the 2025-2026 projects, the GSF contract with Lamp, and energy rates.

WELLNESS COMMITTEE REPORT

No report at this time.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Jennifer Akin, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Business Operations, presented the fiscal year 2025 tentative budget. She highlighted an increase of \$720,000 in the overall revenue budget and a \$142,545 increase in the overall expense budget compared to the previous version shared in June. Ms. Akin emphasized that the tentative budget reflects collaboration between district leaders to allocate resources effectively for student success. A public budget hearing was held, and the FY25 budget will be brought to the Board of Education for final approval on September 19, with another opportunity for public comment before approval.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hannigan reported that Hawthorn District 73 is excited to welcome back all staff and students for the 2024-2025 school year. Hawthorn staff began on Wednesday, August 14 diving into institute day agendas, training sessions, and preparing their classrooms for the students. Dr. Hannigan ended his report by reviewing the 13 board projects for the 24-25 school year, which included collaborating with the teachers' union on a new contract, evaluating the middle school schedule, further developing the middle school social-emotional learning program, piloting new Tier 1 middle school science, math, and Spanish materials, updating the guaranteed and viable curriculum for middle school Spanish language arts, continuing work on MTSS procedures and supporting diverse learners, exploring updates to the K-3 report card language, introducing new educational technologies alongside iPads, and evaluating productivity processes for staff and students.

Board members inquired about report card changes to reflect prioritized learning standards, and pilot programs for new curricular materials that students will be involved in. Any report card updates will be communicated to families. Both students and families will be informed of participation in our middle school pilots for new foundational resources.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 6.1 Board Meeting Minutes from June 20, 2024
- 6.2 Closed Session Minutes from June 20, 2024
- 6.3 Expenditure Report from August 15, 2024
- 6.4 Amazon Expense Report from August 15, 2024
- 6.5 Mastercard Report from June 21, 2024
- 6.6 Treasurer's Report from May 2024
- 6.7 Treasurer's Report from June 2024
- 6.8 Personnel Report

43 New Hires:

22 Resignations:

2 Change of Status:

3 Leave of Absence:

43 New Hires: Miles Adamski, 1st Grade Teacher, TL; Shaylene Alanis, Spanish Teacher, MS; Colin Alexander, Language Arts Teacher, MN; Abigail Andre, Interventionist, MS; Jessica Baum, Math Teacher, MN; Michael Baxter, L.A./S.S. Teacher, MS; Emma Bernstein, 4th Grade Teacher, TL; Priya Bhatt, Library Media Specialist, DL/TL/YL; Thomas Bradford, .5 PE Teacher/.5 Building Substitute, TL; Jillian Brooks, Interventionist, MS; Emily Carlson, Language Arts Teacher, MS; Michael Cohen, 7th Grade Teacher, MS; Ana-Maria Dreptu, LBS1 Teacher, MN; Meghan Ehemann, 3rd Grade Teacher, EN; Peter Griffin, Math Teacher, MN; Sarah Groebe, Spanish Teacher, MN; Tahlia Gurevitz, Kindergarten Teacher, HSYL; Karina Hiltenbrand, 4th Grade

Teacher, EN; Marilyn Jaimes, LBS1 Teacher, DL; Stephanie Jakubowski, 4th Grade Teacher, ES; Adriana Martinez, .5 Music Teacher/.5 Building Substitute, MN; Deepti Mishrikotkar, STEM Teacher, MS; Amelia Misiak, ELA Teacher, MS; Chetna Patel, ELL Resource Teacher, DL; Denise Ralph, Math Teacher, MS; Emmalee Rhomberg, 3rd Grade Teacher, TL; Eric Ross, Math Teacher, MN; Annmarie Weinger Ward, Science Teacher, MN; Jason White, PE Teacher, MS; Jessica Astorino, Instructional Assistant, EN; Pooja Bajpai, Instructional Assistant, TL; Gonzalo Baza, Maintenance, District; Bridget Dvorak, Instructional Assistant, EN; Jessica Glezer, Office Clerk, MS; Vineetha Kattookaran, Instructional Assistant, EN; Haroula Lantvit, Instructional Assistant, Isabel Montoya, Student Secretary, MS; Ami Raval, Lunch/Recess Supervisor, HSYL; Priyanka Srikanta, Instructional Assistant, EN; Heidi Stankiewicz, Nurse, MS; Rachel Sternfield, Instructional Assistant, EN; Johanna Terrones, Instructional Assistant, EN; Kathy Tooley, Instructional Assistant, Lincoln.

22 Resignations: Amanda Banty, Office Clerk, Aspen, 07/11/2024; Emily Carido, Nurse, MN, 08/09/2024; Jekaterina Choumiatsky, Instructional Assistant, EN, 06/04/2024; Hannah Dreyer, Health Clerk, MN, 06/04/2024; Drake Berman, PE Teacher, TL, 06/04/2024; Jon Blaeser, LBS1 Teacher, MS, 06/04/2024; Julia Block, ELA Teacher, MN, 06/04/2024; Hannah Chally, 4th Grade Teacher, TL, 06/04/2024; Mara Corush, 6th Grade Teacher, MS, 06/04/2024; Daniel Faust, LBS1 Teacher, MN, 06/04/2024; Cara Giron, 7th Grade Teacher, MS, 06/04/2024; Michelle Hill, 7th Grade Teacher, MS, 06/04/2024; Lillith Marus, EL Resource Teacher, EN, 06/04/2024; Brynn Miller, 4th Grade Teacher, EN, 06/04/2024; Jennifer Morrow, 1st Grade Teacher, TL, 06/04/2024; Stella Murphy, STEM Teacher, MS, 06/04/2024; Cathay Neuman, 7th Grade Teacher, MN; Anna Paradiso, ELA Teacher, MS, 06/04/2024; Phoebe Slocum, 4th Grade Teacher, ES, 06/04/2024; Kimberly Smith, Dual Language Specialist, District, 06/30/2024; Katelyn Sommers, 2nd Grade Teacher, Aspen, 06/04/2024; Erin VanDemerkt, LBS1 Teacher, Aspen, 06/04/2024.

3 Leaves of Absence: Raymond Beltran, Custodian, District, 07/01/2024; Ashley Jensen, 6th Grade Teacher, MS; Tatyana Zhuravela, ELL Resource Teacher, ES.

2 Change of Status: Kavitha Puppala, Instructional Assistant, HSYL, 08/14/2024; Sowmya Satyanarayana, Instructional Assistant, HSYL, 08/14/2024.

George Fievet requested to remove section 6.1 **Board Meeting Minutes from June 20, 2024** and 6.2 **Closed Session Minutes from June 20, 2024** from the consent agenda.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Michael Engle moved that the Board of Education approve 6.1 Board Meeting Minutes from June 20, 2024 and 6.2 Closed Session Minutes from June 20, 2024 as presented; seconded by Julie Clifford.

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

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

Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nays

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Enrollment - Uploaded
2. FOIA Log, Dr. Hannigan reported that the District has received four FOIA requests since the last board meeting and has been responded to as identified in Section 7.2 of the Board agenda.
3. Media Clips

TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

Board member Mr. Karl Borchers requested a transportation update following the first few weeks of school. All board members agreed, and an update will be provided at the next board 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:*

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, George Fievet made a motion to adjourn to Closed Session, seconded by Julie Clifford. The meeting adjourned at 7:21 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: _____