

**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 14th day of November 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, George Fievet, Robin Cleek, Karl Borchers, Julie Clifford 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

Vice President Wes Polen and Board member Karl Borchers spoke on behalf of the recognition committee to formally acknowledge exceptional Hawthorn middle school student athletes. Ethan C., an 8th grader from Middle North, qualified for the IESA State Golf Finals in Metamora for the third time. This year, he finished an impressive 2nd place with a score of 73! Ethan was given a certificate of recognition.

Caden B. from Middle South competed at the IESA State Cross Country Finals in Bloomington, setting a personal record of 11:44 for his 2-mile run. Caden was given a certificate of recognition.

The Middle North Girls Cross Country State Team and individual qualifier Jonas J. competed at the IESA State Cross Country Meet, the girls' team placed 22nd overall—an incredible accomplishment! The team was given a certificate of recognition.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements at this time.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Board President Robin Cleek began her report by seeking a board representative to serve on the Hawthorn Key to 73 Foundation. Interested board members were encouraged to email her directly.

She continued her report by providing a brief summary of the most recent D128 Mental Health Committee meeting, highlighting resources beneficial to the community. The meeting featured a presentation from the Illinois Human Performance Project, a prevention strategy focused on healthy lifestyle choices, including nutrition, sleep, self-care, and avoiding substance abuse. More information and resources are available on their website. While the program is currently free through a five-year grant, this is year three, and the funding will eventually expire.

Lastly, President Cleek and the board discussed and voted on the Proposed Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) Resolutions for Consideration at the 2024 Delegate Assembly. Julie Clifford was appointed to serve as Hawthorn's delegate for the 2024 IASB Delegate Assembly.

The board also reviewed the delegate assembly consent agenda as presented but pulled out Item 2—EBF Authorized Charter School Funding—for further discussion due to concerns about its alignment with public school funding.

MOTION: Wes Polen moved that the Board of Education approve the appointment of Julie Clifford to be Hawthorn's Delegate to the 2024 IASB Delegate Assembly; Karl Borchers seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nays

MOTION: George Fievet moved that the Board of Education approve Julie Clifford be granted the authority to vote on the IASB resolutions and on the proposed IASB Constitutional Amendment at the 2024 Delegate Assembly, with her independent discretion based on the consensus of the Hawthorn District 73 School Board ; Michael Engle seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nays

ED-RED REPORT

Mr. Joel Finfer reported that ED-RED hosted its annual luncheon on Friday, October 18, 2024, which was a sold-out event. The luncheon saw an excellent turnout of legislators and organizational leaders, highlighting ED-RED's growing profile and increasing influence in policy-making.

SEDOL REPORT

Mr. Michael Engle reported that the last governing board meeting was on August 7, 2024, and the last executive board meeting met on Nov 14, 2024. The executive board recommends presenting the amended FY25 budget for approval at the December 4 governing board meeting. Proposed expenditures include \$53,494,781 for the Education Fund (offset by tuition, district contracts, and grants, leaving a \$4,925,909 fund balance). A Memorandum of Understanding has been reached with SEDOL support staff (IEA-NEA) regarding longevity pay and long-term substitution pay, as outlined in the 2023-2026 Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Administration also recommends applying for a \$50,000 matching School Maintenance Grant to support the Fair Haven School roofing project. At the upcoming meeting, Dr. Thomas and Dr. Hackett will present an overview of SEDOL's financial planning, SEDOL administration will provide an update on the Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP), and there will be discussions regarding the progress of the new superintendent search. The next governing board meeting is scheduled for December 4, 2024 and the executive board meeting is scheduled for December 19, 2024.

SITE & FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. George Fievet reported that the Site & Facilities Committee held its last meeting on November 6, 2024. Several topics were discussed, beginning with an update on summer projects, which are on track for bids to go out this winter. There was also a report on the transportation pilot program, with iPads installed and ready for use. Aspen will begin its pilot soon, and families will receive an informational letter. Lakeside is fully prepared, with iPads installed and drivers trained.

Lastly, an opportunity to join an energy demand savings program was presented. This no-risk program allows the district to reduce energy usage (e.g., turning off air conditioning in unoccupied buildings during summer) upon notification from the energy supplier, resulting in cost savings. Participation is entirely voluntary, and the district will not engage in any action that could cause discomfort to students or staff.

WELLNESS COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Julie Clifford reported that the Wellness Committee held its kickoff meeting on October 15, 2024. The meeting outlined the committee's purposes and objectives for the year, gathered feedback on current programs and policies, and fostered collaboration on new strategies to enhance safety and inclusion within the school environment. The next meeting is scheduled for January 28, from 3:00 to 4:30 PM, and is open to the public.

PRESENTATIONS

Superintendent Dr. Hannigan presented the 2024 State of the District Student Achievement Data, linking all data to the four board goals. He discussed student demographics, proficiency, and growth targets, highlighting the district's performance, with all schools ranked as either exemplary or commendable on the Illinois School Report Card. He also shared data on student growth, double growth, and the success of English language learners in meeting exit criteria.

Dr. Hannigan provided updates on the whole child framework, which emphasizes comprehensive programming to support all learners. The district utilizes SAEBERS and mySAEBERS to collect baseline data and measure progress toward District Goal #4, which aims to ensure the success of the whole child. Additionally, he reviewed culture and climate data, highlighting improvements in staff engagement and satisfaction.

Board members asked relevant questions regarding the student achievement data to gain a deeper understanding.

Ms. Alicia Corrigan, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, presented on the process and current status of the SEDOL LASSO 2 program. This discussion item was requested as a *future topic* at the September 19 Board of Education meeting. Ms. Corrigan shared the progress and success of the district's efforts to bring more students back into Hawthorn schools from the SEDOL LASSO program. She described the numerous ways Hawthorn District 73 partners with SEDOL and the district's strategic plan to decrease the use of SEDOL sector programming over the past three school years.

Ms. Corrigan highlighted the district's hiring of its own adaptive PE teacher and assistive technology facilitator to better meet student needs. She discussed the training and strategies in place to de-escalate and reduce the use of time-out and physical restraints, with a focus on CPI (Crisis Prevention Intervention) techniques. She also shared that the students brought back from SEDOL have not accounted for any time-outs, physical restraints, or classroom evacuations. She concluded by emphasizing the

district's ongoing commitment to supporting a wide range of student needs and improving structures, systems, and staff capacity to achieve this goal.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Superintendent Dr. Hannigan and team discussed the Policy PRESS Issue 116. The Policy Sub-Committee convened on November 7 to review policy updates incorporated in PRESS Issue 116. The committee reviewed a total of 6 policies. Additionally, one policy was reviewed from the Teaching & Learning Department, not included in Issue 116. The policy updates will be brought back to seek board approval in the December board meeting.

Jennifer Akin, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Business Operations, along with Annie Egler from Annie Egler Design Consultant, VP from ARCON and Tom McGrath from LAMP discussed the Summer 2025/2026 Design and Development Projects. The plan proposes tentative plans for a refresh at Middle North, focusing on the library and front office along with flooring updates. The design team will return in December with more detailed layouts and renderings for the board's approval to move forward with the bids.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hannigan reported that November 15th is recognized by the Illinois Association of School Boards as School Board Members Day. He took a moment to express the district's heartfelt appreciation to the board of education members for their dedication and commitment to the Hawthorn community. He thanked each of them for their leadership, guidance, and countless hours of service in shaping the future of the students, staff, and community. The board members were given a small token of appreciation.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 7.1 Board Meeting Minutes from October 24, 2024
- 7.2 Closed Session Minutes from October 24, 2024
- 7.3 Expenditure Report from November 14, 2024
- 7.4 Amazon Expense Report from November 14, 2024
- 7.5 Mastercard Report from September 23, 2024
- 7.6 Treasurer's Report from September 2024
- 7.7 Personnel Report

3 New Hires:

4 Resignations:

2 Leave of Absence:

3 New Hires: Ramona Asztalos, ELL Resource Teacher, Aspen; Sonia Manoharan, Instructional Assistant, EN; Vijayalakshmi Kannan, Instructional Assistant.

4 Resignations: Colin Alexander, Language Arts Teacher, MN, 10/22/2024; Jennette Treadwill, Interventionist, DL, 10/25/2024; Sue Brin, Lunch/Recess Supervisor, EN, 10/25/2024; Ritu Dhayal, Lunch/Recess Supervisor, TL.

2 Leaves of Absence: Lana Carnazzola, Social Worker, TL/DL, 11/6/2024; Valerie Smith, Instructional Assistant, MS, 10/04/2024

Julie Clifford requested to remove section 7.1 **Board Meeting Minutes from October 17, 2024** from the consent agenda.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: **Wes Polen** moved that the Board of Education approve 7.1 **Board Meeting Minutes from October 17, 2024** 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: 6 ayes; 1 abstain

RECOMMENDED MOTION: **Michael Engle** moved that the Board of Education approve the remaining **Consent Agenda** items 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: 7 ayes; 0 naves

Dr. Peter Hannigan reviewed the LCSMART Intergovernmental Agreement. At the last board meeting, The LCSMART Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) was presented for board consideration. Initiated by the Lake County ROE to enhance school safety, the IGA builds on efforts started in 2022, including the Lake County School Safety Conference and quarterly district meetings. This agreement allows public agencies to provide mutual aid for emergencies—covering areas such as family

reunification, mass casualties, grief support, and utility issues. Participating districts contribute \$250 annually for administrative costs, equipment, training, and supplies.

Ms. Jennifer Akin presented the 2024 Tax Levy and the Custodial Contract Renewal. A public hearing on the 2024 Tax Levy followed, during which no public comments were received. At the last board meeting, Ms. Akin shared the tentative 2024 tax levy of \$55,440,000 which represents a 4.35% increase over the prior year extension.

The custodial contract renewal was also presented for board approval. At the last board meeting, Ms. Akin presented the 18 month renewal with a 3.2% increase over the prior year. This will be the last renewal before the district is obligated to go out for the bid process.

ACTION ITEMS

LCSMART IGA

MOTION: George Fievet moved that the Board of Education approve the LCSMART Intergovernmental Agreement; Julie Clifford seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nays

2024 Tax Levy

MOTION: Michael Engle moved that the Board of Education approve the 2024 Tax Levy; Karl Borchers seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nays

Custodial Contract Renewal

MOTION: George Fievet moved that the Board of Education approve the Custodial Contract Renewal; Wes Polen seconded the motion.

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

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 and has been responded to as identified in Section 9.2 of the Board agenda.
3. Media Clips

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, Karl Borchers made a motion to adjourn to Closed Session, seconded by Julie Clifford. The meeting adjourned at 8:11 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: _____