

**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 16th day of January 2025**

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: 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. Mr. Joel Finfer and Mr. Michael Engle were absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment at this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements at this time.

RECOGNITION

No recognition at this time.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No report at this time.

ED-RED REPORT

No report at this time.

SEDOL REPORT

No report at this time.

SITE & FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. George Fievet reported that the Site & Facilities Committee held its most recent meeting on January 7, 2025. He shared that Elementary North successfully installed a new wall over Winter Break. The committee also met with GSF to discuss current successes and areas for improvement in maintaining clean and healthy buildings for staff and students. Additionally, the committee reviewed updates to the five-year facility plan. Mr. Fievet concluded his report by noting that bids for summer projects will be reviewed at the next board meeting.

WELLNESS COMMITTEE REPORT

No report at this time.

KEY TO 73 FOUNDATION REPORT

Ms. Julie Clifford reported on the Key to 73's Foundation Report and the committee's recent meeting. The foundation's financial outlook remains strong, with efforts underway to enhance financial processes, including exploring new banking options and seeking a fee waiver. To improve efficiency, the foundation is implementing new tools such as a debit card and a PayPal account. The state tax filing deadline is March 1, 2025, and a donor template letter is currently in development.

Dr. Hannigan and Samantha Cook are collaborating on the design of thank-you notes and the creation of a branding guide to ensure a consistent visual identity for the organization. The Annual Golf Outing is scheduled for Friday, June 6, 2025, at White Deer Run. Dr. Hannigan has finalized the contract, and the Golf Outing Advisory Committee will manage event logistics, including meals, prizes, and ticket sales. She ended her report by sharing that the next foundation board meeting is planned for February 2, 2025, at 6 p.m.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Business Operations, Mrs. Jennifer Akin discussed the Summer School Fees and the 2025-2026 Student Fees. Hawthorn is excited to offer a variety of summer programs designed to enrich students' educational experiences. Programs like the Extended School Year, Early Start, and Summer Scholars will remain invitation-only and free of charge. Fee-based programs, such as the Hawthorn Enrichment Institute and Music Camp, will have adjusted enrollment fees:

\$252 for one session and \$500 for two sessions. To ensure accessibility, financial assistance will be available during registration and awarded based on need. Hawthorn is committed to providing meaningful educational opportunities for all students throughout the summer.

Hawthorn's 2025–2026 student fees are categorized into three types: registration fees, optional fees, and meal fees. For the upcoming school year, the business office recommends increasing the 8th-grade student fee by \$10 to address rising ticket and transportation costs for the end-of-year trip. Additionally, the paid transportation fee will increase by 6% to offset the district's rising expenses. The early registration discount incentive will also continue, benefiting families while enhancing district planning. These changes aim to maintain an equitable and supportive financial structure while ensuring effective resource management.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hannigan shared that the tech device buyback program exceeded expectations, generating \$443,437 in sales compared to the initial estimate of \$325,000. He also welcomed everyone back from Winter Break and looks forward to a successful second half of the school year.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 6.1 Board Meeting Minutes from December 18, 2024
- 6.2 Closed Session Minutes from December 18, 2024
- 6.3 Expenditure Report from January 16, 2025
- 6.4 Amazon Expense Report from January 16, 2025
- 6.5 Mastercard Expense Report from November 21, 2024
- 6.6 Treasurer's Report from November 2024
- 6.7 Board Expenses for 2024 Illinois Association of School Board Conference
- 6.8 Personnel Report

3 New Hires:

5 Resignations:

3 New Hires: Emily Pappas, LBS1 Teacher, EN; Andrea Ruiz, Interventionist, DL; Emma Bonifazi, Instructional Assistant, Lincoln.

5 Resignations: Scott Bass, Instructional Assistant, EN, 12/25/2024; Deniqua Fisher, Lunch/Recess Supervisor, EN, 01/05/2025; Jennifer Nolan, Principal Secretary, Aspen, 01/08/2025; Sreedevi Rajanala, Lunch/Recess Supervisor, ES, 12/20/2024; Valerie Smith, Instructional Assistant, MS, 01/10/2025.

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, Wes Polen, Julie Clifford, and George Fievet.

Motion carried: 5 ayes; 0 nays

Dr. Peter Hannigan reviewed the 2025-2026 school year calendar. He reviewed the calendar parameters: 174 student attendance days, 2 parent-teacher conferences, and 4 teacher institute days. A staff survey showed 79.7% favor keeping Fall conferences in November. Key dates include a staff start on August 18, with students starting August 21, and a tentative last day on June 1, 2026. More details will be forthcoming regarding Lincoln's student specific attendance calendar due to screening dates.

He also reviewed The Intergovernmental Agreement for the Sharing of Student Data for Educational Study between Hawthorn District 73 and Aldai E. Stevenson High School which has been revised to align with the latest student data privacy regulations.

ACTION ITEMS

2025-2026 School Calendar

MOTION: Wes Polen moved that the Board of Education approve the 2025-2026 School Calendar; George Fievet seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried: 5 ayes; 0 nays

D73-D125 Data Sharing Intergovernmental Agreement

MOTION: George Fievet moved that the Board of Education approve the D73-D125 Data Sharing Intergovernmental Agreement; Wes Polen seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried: 5 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

TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

Mr. Karl Borchers requested an update on the substitute teacher campaign. All board members present agreed to add the topic to a future board agenda.

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).

and

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).

With no further business to discuss, George Fievet made a motion to adjourn to Closed Session, seconded by Karl Borchers. The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m. **All in favor? Yes.**

Motion carried: 5 ayes; 0 nays

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Flores

Robin Cleek, President

George Fievet, Secretary

Date Minutes Approved: _____