

**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 February 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, Michael Engle, Robin Cleek, Joel Finfer, 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. Karl Borchers was absent.

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 reminded the board to RSVP for the upcoming Lake Division Dinner scheduled for March 12, 2025.

ED-RED REPORT

No report at this time.

SEDOL REPORT

Mr. Michael Engle reported that the last Executive Board met on January 23 and the Governing Board met on December 4. As part of the SEDOL Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP), the administration will provide its next advisory update at the upcoming meeting. Additionally, the Executive Board has recommended one-year contracts for Interim Superintendents Dr. Judy Hackett and Dr. Tim Thomas, effective July 1, 2025. The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for February 27, and the next Governing Board meeting will be held on March 5.

SITE & FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. George Fievet reported that the last Site & Facilities Committee meeting was held on February 11, 2025, with a focus on Quest Food Service. Three representatives from Quest leadership attended the last committee meeting to provide updates. A new Site Lead was appointed at MSN due to concerns about service, and initial feedback on the transition has been positive. Corporate chefs are now visiting buildings twice weekly to ensure quality standards are met and to provide training as needed. In response to feedback, Quest has revamped its menu to include more vegetarian options, such as veggie pizza, and has improved communication regarding available meal offerings. While student feedback remains central to meal planning, additional parent input will now be incorporated.

Overall student meal participation has increased by 22%, with an average of 300 additional meals served daily compared to the 2022-23 school year. The largest growth has been in breakfast participation, which has more than doubled due to new menu options and improved accessibility. Looking ahead, Quest will collaborate with D73 to organize parent focus groups to discuss the dining program and collect feedback. Training on scratch cooking and expanded menu options will continue to be prioritized based on in-school feedback. Quest's dietitian team will also provide additional resources to help students make healthy food choices. Additionally, students can expect food tasting events, allowing them to try new, healthy options before they are officially added to the menu.

Mr. Fievet concluded his report by sharing that the bidding results are an action item on tonight's agenda to initiate projects for the 2025-2026 summer.

WELLNESS COMMITTEE REPORT

No report at this time.

KEY TO 73 FOUNDATION REPORT

No report at this time.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning, Dr. Allison Stein discussed the Title I School Wide Waiver for the Hawthorn School of Dual Language and Townline Elementary. The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has notified Hawthorn that the Title 1 Schoolwide Plan for the School of Dual Language is up for renewal. Additionally, Townline Elementary School qualifies for Title 1 Schoolwide status next year based on free and reduced lunch data. Both schools have developed plans, including a Needs Assessment and responses to key questions, with input from their Guiding Coalitions. Board approval is required before submission of the district's Consolidated District Plan (CDP) to the State of Illinois.

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Mr. Adam Palmer, presented the 2025-2026 Staffing Plan, developed through a strategic review of enrollment trends and staffing needs. The process began in fall with an analysis of data, followed by winter discussions with building administrators to assess staffing allocations. Spring will finalize internal adjustments and post any open positions. Enrollment has remained stable over the past three years, guiding staffing projections. For 2025-26, General Education and Student Services staffing will remain unchanged, while one additional multilingual Russian teacher will be added. This plan maintains small class sizes and allows flexibility for future enrollment shifts.

Mr. Palmer also reported that 30 new guest teachers have joined, restoring the substitute pool to pre-pandemic levels. The district held an August orientation and celebrated Substitute Appreciation Day in November. With dedicated building substitutes in place, the district continues working to ensure instructional coverage.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

No report at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 6.1 Board Meeting Minutes from January 16, 2025
- 6.2 Closed Session Minutes from January 16, 2025
- 6.3 Expenditure Report from February 20, 2025
- 6.4 Amazon Expense Report from February 20, 2025
- 6.5 Mastercard Report from December 23, 2024
- 6.6 Treasurer's Report from December 2024
- 6.7 Personnel Report

1 New Hires:

5 Leaves of Absence:

1 Change of Status:

1 Resignations:

1 Retirement

1 New Hires: Gladis Izaguirre Acosta, Lunch/Recess Supervisor, Townline.

5 Leaves of Absence: Mallory Ege, PreK/EC Self-Contained Teacher, Lincoln, 08/18/2025; Nicole Gallo, Interventionist, Townline, 08/18/2025; Kathleen Kelly, Speech/Language Pathologist, HSYL, 05/27/2025; Eric Ross, Math Teacher, Middle North, 02/04/2025, Holly Salazar, Instructional Assistant, ES, 01/22/2025.

1 Change of Status: Lisa Nockels, Student Secretary, Aspen, 02/24/2025.

1 Resignations: Judith Vacarro Sandoval, Student Secretary, EN, 02/12/2025.

1 Retirement: Constance Travis, Social Worker, EN, 06/30/2029.

Joel Finfer requested to remove section 6.1 **Board Meeting Minutes from February 6, 2025** and 6.2 **Closed Session Minutes from February 6, 2025** from the consent agenda.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Julie Clifford moved that the Board of Education approve 6.1 **Board Meeting Minutes from February 6, 2025** and 6.2 **Closed Session Minutes from February 6, 2025** as presented; seconded by George Fievet.

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

Motion carried: 5 ayes; 1 abstain

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

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

Motion carried: 6 ayes; 0 nays

Dr. Allison Stein, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning, reviewed the Middle School Foundational Resource Adoption. On Thursday, February 6th, the department presented the foundational resource pilot process and proposals for middle school Spanish, math, science, and social-emotional learning (SEL). The department is recommending the adoption of *¡Qué Chévere!* as the foundational resource for middle school Spanish World Language. For middle school science, *OpenSciEd* is recommended as the foundational resource. The recommendation for middle school math is the adoption of *Amplify Desmos Math*. Lastly, *Wayfinder* is recommended as the foundational resource for middle school social-emotional learning (SEL). These resources have been carefully selected to provide high-quality learning materials for both students and staff. The department appreciates the Board's consideration of these recommendations.

Superintendent Dr. Hannigan reviewed Policy PRESS Issue 117. The Policy Sub-Committee met on January 27 to review policy updates incorporated in PRESS Issue 117. The committee reviewed a total of 16 policies which were discussed during the February 6 Board meeting.

Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Business Operations, Mrs. Jennifer Akin, reviewed the bid results for the 2025-2026 summer projects. The business office is requesting Board approval for the 2025 summer construction bid package. At the February 6th Board meeting, Tom McGrath of Lamp Incorporated presented the preliminary results of the summer bids. Following a comprehensive review of all individual trade packages, the final project costs remain at \$2,551,638. Upon bid approval, Mr. McGrath will contact the selected trades to initiate the ordering of supplies and coordinate work schedules.

ACTION ITEMS

Middle School Foundational Resource Adoption

MOTION: Wes Polen moved that the Board of Education approve the Middle School Foundational Resource Adoption; Michael Engle seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried: 6 ayes; 0 nays

Policy PRESS Issue 117

MOTION: Wes Polen moved that the Board of Education approve the Policy PRESS Issue 117; George Fievet seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried: 6 ayes; 0 nays

Bid Results for 2025-2026 Summer Projects

MOTION: George Fievet moved that the Board of Education approve the Bid Results for 2025-2026 Summer Projects; Julie Clifford seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried: 6 ayes; 0 nays

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Enrollment - Uploaded
2. FOIA Log, Dr. Hannigan reported that the District has received two 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

Board Member Julie Clifford requested an update on the impact of federal funding on schools if and when relevant information becomes available.

Board President Robin Cleek requested an update on SEDOL and whether the program is currently meeting the needs of Hawthorn. Ms. Alicia Corrigan will incorporate a SEDOL update in her upcoming Spring presentation.

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).*
- *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).*
- *Security procedures, school building safety and security, and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(8).*

With no further business to discuss, Julie Clifford made a motion to adjourn to Closed Session, seconded by Wes Polen. The meeting adjourned at 7:28 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: _____