

**Minutes of the Special 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 24th day of April 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

President Robin Cleek called the Board of Education meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The Board Secretary called attendance and the following members attended: George Fievet, Michael Engle, Robin Cleek, Karl Borchers, Julie Clifford, Joel Finfer 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. for Human Resources Mr. Adam Palmer; and Superintendent Dr. Pete Hannigan.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA

3.1 Personnel Report

6 New Hires:

1 Leaves of Absence:

2 Change of Status:

1 Resignations:

6 New Hires: Valerie Burda, 2nd Grade Teacher, TL; Concetta Caringella Gaspar, Instructional Coach, District; Alexandria Cornall, LBS1 Teacher, MN; Jennifer Nolan, LBS1 Teacher, Aspen; Jenna Prescott, LBS1 Teacher, TL; Erin Wochinski, 5th Grade Teacher, ES.

1 Leaves of Absence: Samantha Cook, Communications Administrator, District, 04/28/2025.

2 Change of Status: Margaret Kirst, Building Assistant Supervisor, DL, 08/11/2025; Sarah Lill, Instructional Coach, District, 08/18/2025.

1 Resignation: Barbara Rose, Speech/Language Pathologist, MN, 05/28/2025.

Dr. Hannigan presented Ms. Maggie Kirst as the proposed candidate for the Dual Language Building Assistant Supervisor position. The vacancy was posted on March 20, 2025, across multiple platforms including K-12 Jobspot, IASPA, the IASA Illinois Job Bank, and various social media channels, following the appointment of Ms. Meghan Caby to her new role as Dual Language Principal. The district received 21 applications for the position. Interview teams, including district administrators, building leaders, and staff members, conducted a comprehensive selection process. After careful evaluation, Ms. Maggie Kirst was recommended to join the Dual Language administrative team, where she will help strengthen the program and support students on their path to bilingualism and biliteracy.

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, Wes Polen, Julie Clifford, Joel Finfer, Michael Engle, and George Fievet.

Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nays

Following board approval on the consent agenda, Ms. Maggie Kirst expressed her gratitude to the Board, Dr. Hannigan, for the opportunity to serve the Dual Language community. She shared her excitement and is ready to lead the student body.

ADJOURN SINE DIE

Prior to adjourning the current Board of Education for the reorganization process, Vice President Wes Polen offered closing remarks during her final Board meeting. She reflected on the many successes the district has achieved over the past several years and shared personal highlights and challenges from her tenure. As her term at Hawthorn comes to an end, she extended her best wishes to the new Board and expressed excitement for her next chapter representing Vernon Hills High School.

President Cleek asked for a motion to adjourn the current Board of Education meeting *sine die* in preparation for the reorganization process.

MOTION: George Fievet moved that the Board of Education adjourn *sine die*; seconded by Karl Borchers.

All in favor? Yes.

Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 abstain

SEATING/ROLL CALL/REORGANIZATION

5.1 Appointment Of President Pro-Tem for Reorganization of the Board: Mr. Joel Finfer nominated Ms. Robin Cleek to serve as President Pro-Tem.

MOTION: George Fievet moved that the Board of Education approve Robin Cleek to serve as President Pro-Tem; seconded by Julie Clifford.

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

Motion carried: 6 ayes; 0 nays

5.2 Appoint a Secretary Pro-Tem to Take the Roll Call: Karl Borchers nominated Mr. George Fievet as Secretary Pro-Tem.

MOTION: Joel Finfer moved that the Board of Education approve George Fievet to serve as Secretary Pro-Tem; seconded by Michael Engle.

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

Motion carried: 6 ayes; 0 nays

5.3 Roll Call of New Board of Education: The Board Secretary Pro-Tem, Mr. George Fievet, called attendance of the newly seated board members. 7 present. 0 absent.

5.4 Oath of Office: President Pro-Tem Robin Cleek recited the Oath of Office to the newly elected board member Stephanie Peters and the 3 re-elected Board Members, Michael Engle, Karl Borchers and Julie Clifford.

President Pro-Tem Robin Cleek welcomed back the three re-elected Board members and extended a warm welcome to newly elected Board member, Ms. Stephanie Peters. She provided a brief introduction to Ms. Peters, noting her valuable contributions over the past year as a member of the Site and Facilities Committee. Ms. Peters is also a district parent and resident of Vernon Hills, and her professional background brings meaningful insight and guidance to the committee's work. President Cleek expressed appreciation to the re-elected members, emphasizing the importance of continuity, and shared her enthusiasm for continuing their collaborative work as a Board.

5.5 Election of a President: Mr. Joel Finfer nominated Ms. Robin Cleek as Board President.

MOTION: Joel Finfer moved that the Board of Education approve Robin Cleek to serve as Board President for a two year term ending in 2027; seconded by Karl Borchers.

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

Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nays

5.6 Election of a Secretary: Mr. Joel Finfer nominated Julie Clifford as Board Secretary.

MOTION: Karl Borchers moved that the Board of Education approve Julie Clifford to serve as Board Secretary for a two year term ending in 2027; seconded by Joel Finfer.

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

Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nays

5.7 Compensation for the Board Secretary

MOTION: Joel Finfer moved that the Board of Education approve the \$120 Annual Compensation for the Board Secretary; seconded by Michael Engle.

Roll Call Vote: Robin Cleek, Karl Borchers, Julie Clifford, Joel Finfer, Stephanie Peters, Michael Engle, and George Fievet. Ms. Julie Clifford voted naye.

Motion carried: 6 ayes; 1 naye

5.8 Election of Vice President: Mr. Karl Borchers nominated Mr. George Fievet as Board Vice President.

MOTION: Joel Finfer moved that the Board of Education approve George Fivet to serve as Board Vice-President for a two year term ending in 2027; seconded by Stephanie Peters.

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

Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 naye

5.9 Discussion to Establish 2025-26 Board of Education Committee Assignments

President Cleek asked Board Members to email her with their preferred committee assignments, noting that final committee placements will be discussed at the June 5 Board Retreat. Committees include the Policy Committee, Recognition Committee, Site and Facilities, Superintendent Communication Council, Key to 73 Representative, Wellness Committee, and SEDOL Committee. She reminded the Board that no two members may serve on the same committee unless it qualifies as an Open Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Julie Clifford *made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by George Fievet*. The meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m. **All in favor? Yes.**

Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 naye

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Flores

Robin Cleek, President

Julie Clifford, Secretary

Date Minutes Approved: _____