

**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 May 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-President George Fievet called the Board of Education meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Jessica Flores called attendance and the following members attended: George Fievet, Michael Engle, Karl Borchers, Joel Finfer and Stephanie Peters. 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; Asst. Supt. for Innovative Learning Dr. Karen Maturo and Superintendent Dr. Pete Hannigan. President Robin Cleek and Board Secretary Julie Clifford were not in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment at this time.

RECOGNITION

Board Member Karl Borchers, speaking on behalf of the Recognition Committee, led the Board in honoring outstanding students, staff, and community members for their achievements and contributions to Hawthorn District 73.

The Board recognized the Middle North Boys Bowling Team for their 7th place finish at the IESA State Tournament, where they competed in 10 games over two days. Special congratulations were given to Daniel Wolfe, who placed 3rd out of 72 bowlers with a high game score of 290. The coaching staff was also recognized for their guidance, leadership, and encouragement throughout the season. The bowling team was awarded with a certificate and medal of achievement.

The 8th Grade Girls Volleyball Team from Hawthorn Middle South were also recognized for an exceptional season, winning both IESA Regional and Sectional titles and advancing to the State Tournament in Morton, Illinois. This marked their second consecutive appearance at state. The Board commended the student-athletes and their coaches for their dedication, teamwork, and achievement. The volleyball team was awarded with a certificate and medal of achievement.

Recognition was also given to the Middle North and Middle South Cheer Teams for their strong showings at the IESA State Cheerleading Competition. Middle North placed 10th and Middle South finished 13th in the state. Both teams were celebrated for their hard work, spirit, and commitment to representing their schools with pride. The cheer teams were awarded with a certificate and medal of achievement.

The Board also recognized the Middle North Science Olympiad Team for placing 3rd out of 46 teams at the Illinois State Tournament held at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. The team excelled in numerous STEM events, demonstrating outstanding teamwork, problem-solving, and preparation. The Middle South Science Olympiad Team was also recognized for a successful season, finishing 13th in the state. Coaches and parent volunteers were thanked for their support and leadership throughout the season. The Science Olympiad teams were awarded with a certificate and medal of achievement.

The Board recognized Mr. Mitchell Cohen, a Hawthorn Helper volunteer whose service has positively impacted multiple schools. From leading small group literacy instruction to delivering engaging classroom presentations, Mr. Cohen's contributions have enriched student learning and supported staff across the district. Mr. Mitchell Cohen was awarded with a certificate of appreciation.

Several staff members who were recognized at the county and state levels by the Lake County Regional Office of Education and the Illinois State Board of Education through the Educator of the Year and Those Who Excel Awards were recognized during the board meeting. These honors reflect their exceptional dedication to students, instructional innovation, and leadership in education. These staff members were awarded with a certificate of appreciation.

The Board also recognized this year's Building Mentors, who provided essential coaching, support, and encouragement to first-year teachers. Their leadership and mentorship play a vital role in teacher development and student success across the district. The building mentors were awarded with a certificate of appreciation.

The 2024 Leadership Academy cohort was honored for their commitment to professional growth and leadership development. These staff members invested time and effort into strengthening their leadership skills and helping shape the future of Hawthorn.

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Mr. Adam Palmer awarded the Leadership Academy participants with a certificate of achievement.

In celebration of Hawthorn Middle South's National Blue Ribbon designation, the Physical Education Team was awarded the district's highest honor—a brick engraved with *Big Things Are Built One Brick at a Time*. Their contributions to student wellness, engagement, and a supportive learning environment were instrumental in achieving this national recognition. Honorees included Matt Cameron, Jennifer Harris, Vera Pflugardt, Tom Shaver, and Jason White.

The Board concluded the evening's recognitions by honoring Dr. Karen Maturo, Assistant Superintendent of Innovative Learning, on the occasion of her retirement. Dr. Maturo's impact on the district has been profound, spanning innovation, mentorship, and student centered leadership. She was recently recognized by both Lake County and ISBE for her excellence in education, and she has played a key role in programs such as Building Mentors and instructional innovation across Hawthorn. In recognition of her distinguished service, In recognition of her legacy, Dr. Maturo was awarded the highest level of recognition: a brick engraved with *Big Things Are Built One Brick at a Time*.

The board issued a five minute recess at this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements at this time.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In the absence of President Robin Cleek, Vice President George Fievet delivered the President's Report. Mr. Fievet shared that the Key to 73 Golf Outing is scheduled for June 6, and encouraged all to visit the foundation's website for additional details and registration. He extended appreciation to board members for their enthusiasm and willingness to take on additional responsibilities through committee assignments. While several members expressed interest in specific committees, he reminded the Board that due to the Open Meetings Act, no more than two members may serve on any one committee. Current committee assignments will remain in place until the next election cycle in 2027, though members may request adjustments through President Cleek if needed. Committee assignments were shared as follows:

- **ED-RED:** Joel Finfer
- **Policy:** Robin Cleek
- **Site & Facilities:** Stephanie Peters and George Fievet
- **Recognition:** Karl Borchers and George Fievet
- **Wellness:** Julie Clifford and Joel Finfer
- **Superintendent Communication Council:** Robin Cleek and Karl Borchers

Mr. Fievet noted that additional changes may occur and will be communicated by President Cleek at a future meeting. He concluded by thanking Hawthorn's administrators, teachers, and support staff for their continued dedication to students. He expressed gratitude for the collective efforts made each day and extended warm wishes to all staff, students, and families for a restful and enjoyable summer.

ED-RED REPORT

Mr. Joel Finfer provided a brief update on legislative activity, noting that the number of education-related bills has decreased from 1,800 to approximately 50. While many remaining bills still pose challenges, ED-RED's advocacy efforts have helped mitigate their impact. He also shared that ED-RED will host its third MiniCon on June 12, aimed at providing school board members and administrators with updates on current practices and legislative trends.

SEDOL REPORT

Mr. Michael Engle reported that the last Executive Board meeting was held on April 24, and the last Governing Board meeting took place on March 5. The Board approved the continued appointment of the co-interim Assistant Superintendents of Business for the 2025–2026 school year. The tentative FY26 budget was approved and will be brought to the Governing Board on June 4 for recommendation, with final adoption expected in August. The Board also approved the FY26 school-to-school food service contract between SEDOL, the John Powers Center, the Regional Safe School Program, and District 73. Items on the upcoming June 4 Governing Board agenda include executive board appointments, delegation of board authority, appointment of a treasurer, meeting date approvals, updates to the Continuous Improvement Plan, and a vote on the extended bargaining agreement with the teachers union. The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for May 22, and the next Governing Board meeting will be held on June 4

SITE & FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. George Fievet reported that the most recent Site and Facilities Committee meeting was held on May 6 and discussed many topic items. All bus tags have been successfully distributed at the North and South campuses, with implementation for special education routes scheduled to begin in the fall following equipment installation and training. Families were encouraged to download the district's transportation app to receive real-time bus updates, particularly in light of ongoing local construction delays. The committee discussed rising energy costs due to regulatory changes, with an increase expected beginning June 1. Thanks to the district's cooperative purchasing membership, Hawthorn is well positioned to manage these changes, and efforts to identify additional energy savings will continue. Mr. Fievet reassured the community that all summer school buildings will remain cool and comfortable during programming. Updates were shared on the district's five-year facility plan. Summer 2025 projects are finalized, and planning is underway to prepare bid packages for Summer 2026 early this fall, ensuring competitive pricing and timely execution. The committee also reviewed current funding projections, confirming that expected grants remain available at this time. In food services, the district's new on-site culinary manager continues to make positive changes, including planning for new menu promotions and updates for the 2025–2026 school year. Mr. Fievet concluded with a safety reminder, urging families to follow posted traffic patterns and avoid unsafe maneuvers during student drop-off and pick-up at all campuses.

WELLNESS COMMITTEE REPORT

No report at this time.

KEY TO 73 FOUNDATION REPORT

No report at this time.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Business Operations, Ms. Jennifer Akin, presented a vehicle replacement proposal for board discussion. The district's current 2015 Ford F-350 dump truck has reached the end of its useful life and requires replacement. Following research conducted by Director of Facilities Mike Labbe in coordination with the district's purchasing cooperative, the administration proposes replacing the vehicle with a 2025 Ford F-250 pickup truck. The updated vehicle will provide greater flexibility for facility staff and better support operational needs. The proposal also includes the replacement of the snow plow attachment to ensure continued winter maintenance capabilities.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Pete Hannigan began his report by expressing heartfelt appreciation for Dr. Karen Maturo's 36 years of service to Hawthorn, noting the joy, leadership, and impact she brought to the district. While reserving formal remarks for her upcoming retirement celebration, Dr. Hannigan shared his personal gratitude for the opportunity to work alongside her over the past six years.

As the school year draws to a close, Dr. Hannigan extended his sincere thanks to students, staff, and families for their dedication and support in making the year successful and memorable. He congratulated all students on their hard work and growth, with special recognition for the eighth grade class, who will be honored during promotion ceremonies on May 27 at Vernon Hills High School. He concluded his report by wishing the Hawthorn community a restful and joyful summer, and shared his excitement to welcome students back on August 21.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 6.1 Board Meeting Minutes: April 10, 2025
- 6.2 Board Meeting Minutes: April 24, 2025
- 6.3 2024-2025 Final Calendar
- 6.4 Expenditure Report: May 15, 2025
- 6.5 Amazon Expense Report: May 15, 2025
- 6.6 Treasurer's Report: March 2025
- 6.7 Mastercard Report: March 21, 2025
- 6.8 Disposal of Technology Surplus
- 6.9 Personnel Report

11 New Hires:

4 Leaves of Absence:

2 Change of Status:

12 Resignations:

1 Retirement:

11 New Hires: Lisa Anderson, Principal, ES, 07/01/2025; Cynthia Hooten, Business Office Coordinator, District, 07/01/2025; Deissy Gamboa Ferrero, 3rd Grade Teacher, DL, 08/18/2025; Grace Haggerty, Social Worker, TL/DL, 08/18/2025; Marissa

Hanley, 4th Grade Teacher, DL, 08/18/2025; Nina Hoek, Music Teacher, HSYL, 08/18/2025; Sydney Pacernick, Social Worker, Aspen/EN, 08/18/2025; Lisa Pancini, LBS1 Teacher, DL, 08/18/2025; Inna Titova, ELL Resource Teacher, MN, 08/18/2025; Geraldine Maranta, Lunch/Recess Supervisor, DL, 08/18/2025; Kathleen Mickow, Nurse, DL, 08/18/2025.

4 Leaves of Absence: Katelynd King, 5th Grade Teacher, ES, 11/1/2025; Emily Pappas, LBS1 Teacher, EN, 05/02/2025; Nicholsar Broeker, Instructional Assistant, 04/10/2025; Donna Lawless, Instructional Assistant, 05/02/2025.

2 Change of Status: Christy Hunter, Interventionist, MN, 08/18/2025; John Reid, Social Studies/ELA Teacher, MS, 08/18/2025.

1 Retirement: Jeanne Dimick, Instructional Assistant, EN, 05/28/2025.

4 Resignations: Rodney Erb, SAfety & Security Administrator, District, 06/13/2025; Erin Brickman, Science Teacher, MN, 05/28/2025; Gloria Giron, 3rd Grade Teacher, DL, 05/28/2025; Chetna Patel, ML Specialist/Interventionist, DL, 05/28/2025; Jessica Reese, Science Teacher, MS, 05/28/2025; Cynthia Secaras, Speech Language Pathologist, 05/28/2025; Sam Smart, 3rd Grade Teacher, TL, 05/13/2025; Gabriela Cervantes, Family Liaison, District, 06/30/2025; Deanna Cusumano, Nurse, HSYL, 04/25/2025; Irma Martinez, Instructional Assistant, MN, 04/22/2025; Danielle McGovern, Instructional Assistant, Aspen, 05/09/2025; Sally Speer, Instructional Assistant, MN, 05/28/2025.

Dr. Hannigan presented Mrs. Lisa Anderson as the proposed Elementary South Principal candidate. The district conducted an extensive search for the position, receiving over 60 applications. Interview teams, including staff, and administrators, engaged in a thorough selection process to identify the best fit. After careful evaluation, Mrs. Lisa Anderson was selected to lead the Elementary South community.

Stephanie Peters requested to remove section 6.1 **Board Meeting Minutes: April 10, 2025** from the consent agenda.

MOTION: Joel Finfer moved that the Board of Education approve 6.1 **Board Meeting Minutes: April 10, 2025** as presented; seconded by Karl Borchers.

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

Motion carried: 4 ayes; 1 abstain

MOTION: Stephanie Peters moved that the Board of Education approve the remaining **Consent Agenda** items as presented; seconded by Michael Engle.

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

Motion carried: 5 ayes; 0 nays

Following board approval on the consent agenda, Mrs. Lisa Anderson expressed her gratitude to the Board, Dr. Hannigan, for the opportunity to serve the Hawthorn Elementary South community. She shared her excitement and is ready to lead the student body.

Ms. Jennifer Akin reviewed several action items related to the Business Department, including the Approval of Facilities Vehicle Purchase, Appointment of Treasurer for the 2025-2026 School Year, Approval of Facility Rental Agreement, Resolution Transferring Funds from the Operations and Maintenance Fund to the Capital Projects Fund of the District, and the Resolution Transferring Funds from the Educational Fund to the Debt Service Fund. Ms. Akin reviewed the proposed Facilities Vehicle Purchase, which would replace a non-operational 2015 dump truck with a 2025 Ford F-250 pickup truck and new snow plow. The total cost, after trade-in, is \$55,446 and is fully covered by funds already allocated in the 2024–2025 budget. Ms. Akin also requested board approval for the appointment of the district treasurer for the 2025–2026 school year. In this role, the treasurer manages district funds, ensures proper accounting, maintains fiscal integrity, and advises the Board on financial matters. The business office recommended Ms. Akin’s reappointment. She also reviewed and approved the updated Facility Rental Agreement, including revised rates and terms effective July 1. These updates follow a comparative analysis of peer districts and aim to align facility use practices with current operational needs. Lastly, Ms. Akin reviewed two fund transfer resolutions. The first moves \$2.5 million from the Operations and Maintenance Fund to the Capital Projects Fund to support summer construction projects, and the second transfers \$613,511 from the Education Fund to the Debt Service Fund to support the district’s three-year technology device lease plan. Both transfers are included in the 2024–2025 budget.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Facilities Vehicle Purchase

MOTION: Joel Finfer moved that the Board of Education approve the Approval of Facilities Vehicle Purchase; Michael Engle seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried: 5 ayes; 0 nays

Appointment of Treasurer for the 2025-2026 School Year

MOTION: Karl Borchers moved that the Board of Education approve the Appointment of Treasurer for the 2025-2026 School Year; Stephanie Peters seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried: 5 ayes; 0 nays

Approval of Facility Rental Agreement

MOTION: Joel Finfer moved that the Board of Education approve the Renewal of the Approval of Facility Rental Agreement; Michael Engle seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried: 5 ayes; 0 nays

Resolution Transferring Funds from the Operations and Maintenance Fund to the Capital Projects Fund of the District

MOTION: Stephanie Peters moved that the Board of Education approve the renewal of the Resolution Transferring Funds from the Operations and Maintenance Fund to the Capital Projects Fund of the District; Karl Borchers seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried: 5 ayes; 0 nays

Resolution Transferring Funds from the Educational Fund to the Debt Service Fund

MOTION: Michael Engle moved that the Board of Education approve the renewal of the Resolution Transferring Funds from the Educational Fund to the Debt Service Fund; Joel Finfer seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried: 5 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 8.2 of the Board agenda.
 3. Media Clips
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TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

No topics for future discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Karl Borchers made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Stephanie Peters. The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m. **All in favor? Yes.**

Motion carried: 5 ayes; 0 nays

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Flores

Robin Cleek, President

Julie Clifford, Secretary

Date Minutes Approved: _____