

**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
5:15 p.m. on the 12th day of June 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

President Robin Cleek called the Board of Education meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. Roll call was taken prior to the meeting during the closed session portion of the meeting. The following members attended: George Fievet, Karl Borchers, Robin Cleek, Joel Finfer, Julie Clifford and Stephanie Peters. Also in attendance were Asst. Supt. of Finance & Business Operations Ms. Jennifer Akin; Asst. Supt. of Student Services Ms. Alicia Corrigan; and Superintendent Dr. Pete Hannigan. Board member Mr. Michael Engle was not in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Jenna Garcia, President of the Hawthorn PTO, presented a \$30,000 disbursement check in support of PTO programs and initiatives for the 2024–2025 school year. She also noted that the PTO has contributed an additional \$12,850 in donations throughout the current school year. Ms. Garcia provided a preview of upcoming PTO-sponsored events, including a new school supply kit vendor, an updated spirit wear website, and a revised McTeacher Fundraiser, which will take place over seven separate nights. Other planned activities include two family programming events and a middle school dance. She also expressed enthusiasm for new initiatives, highlighting a Beerfest at Melody Farm in collaboration with Key to 73.

RECOGNITION

No recognition at this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements at this time.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Robin Cleek thanked the board and Dr. Hannigan for their dedication and contributions to a great and thoughtful retreat last Friday, June 6. She shared that an updated draft of the Board Agreements, reflecting retreat discussions, had been shared with board members. With no suggested changes, the board reached consensus, and she confirmed she would send the final version to IASB. President Cleek also noted that a July meeting would be scheduled to review a potential managed service provider for network and cybersecurity oversight, a decision needed before the start of the new school year.

ED-RED REPORT

Mr. Joel Finfer reported that ED-RED, in partnership with the Lake County Regional Office of Education, hosted its annual mini-summit on June 12, 2025. The event featured a presentation titled *Maximizing Community Resources Through Intergovernmental Collaboration*, led by Dr. Hannigan and Board President Cleek, along with community stakeholders. The session highlighted the strong partnerships between local agencies and showcased a model of effective collaboration to attendees from North Cook and Lake County. He concluded by announcing his re-election as chairperson of the ED-RED Board. President Cleek echoed his remarks and extended thanks to the local leaders who participated in the summit: Mayor Thom Koch, Village Manager Kevin Timony, Park District Board President Carol Sente, and Park District Manager Matt LaPorte. She thanked these community partners for their continued support and collaboration.

SEDOL REPORT

No report at this time.

SITE & FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Vice-President George Fievet reported that summer facilities projects are currently underway throughout the district and encouraged everyone to “mind the dust” as work progresses. He noted that the committee’s next formal meeting will take place in early August, ahead of the regular board meeting, to review transportation planning and other preparations for the start of the school year.

WELLNESS COMMITTEE REPORT

No report at this time.

KEY TO 73 FOUNDATION REPORT

Board Secretary Julie Clifford reported that the Foundation's June meeting was rescheduled to June 24 due to the annual golf outing, which was a great success! She reminded everyone that the silent auction remains open and encouraged bids before it closes the following day.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Business Operations, Ms. Jennifer Akin, discussed several items related to business operations. She first reviewed the FY26 Tentative Budget. She outlined the budget development timeline, noting that the updated tentative budget will be shared in August, with a public hearing and final adoption scheduled for September. She reviewed key revenue assumptions, which include property tax extensions, local revenues such as fees and interest income, and projections for state and federal grants. Property taxes remain the district's largest revenue source, with CPI serving as a critical factor in forecasting. She also highlighted how certain expenditures, such as insurance and utilities, are being affected by inflation, while others remain in line with CPI trends. She also shared the remaining steps in the budget process, including year-end financial closeout, a scheduled audit in July, completion of state reporting, and final budget presentation in August.

Ms. Akin also discussed the intercom control system replacement at Hawthorn School for Young Learners. During a five-year facilities review, it was identified that the intercom system at HSYL has been outdated from those installed in the other school buildings. This discrepancy is due to the system having been installed during the 2018–2019 construction phase, without alignment to the districtwide standard. Aligning the system with district standards is essential to ensure consistency, operational efficiency, and readiness for the upcoming school year.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Hannigan extended well wishes to the community for a safe and enjoyable summer.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 8.1 Board Meeting Minutes: May 15, 2025
- 8.2 Expenditure Report: June 12, 2025
- 8.3 Amazon Expense Report: June 12, 2025
- 8.4 Mastercard Report: April 12, 2025
- 8.5 Treasurer's Report: April 2025
- 8.6 Centegix Contract
- 8.7 Personnel Report

14 New Hires:

3 Leaves of Absence:

11 Resignations:

14 New Hires: Shira Bradhandler, Speech/Language Pathologist, ES, 08/18/2025; Carolyn Fraguera, Occupational Therapist, Aspen/EN, 08/18/2025; Alannah Howell, K Teacher, HSYL, 08/18/2025; Arlet Juarez, LBS1 Teacher, EN, 08/18/2025; Thomas Kleine, LBS1 Teacher, 08/18/2025; Olivia Lucas, 3rd Grade Teacher, TL, 08/18/2025; Martha Mena Uribe, 1st Grade Teacher, DL, 08/18/2025; James Mendelsohn, Occupational Therapist, TL, 08/18/2025; Elijah Parker, LBS1 Teacher, MN, 08/18/2025; Alyssa Stasiuk, Pre-K Teacher, Lincoln, 08/18/2025; Sari Stinson, 3rd Grade Teacher, DL, 08/18/2025; Brittany Truppa, Art Teacher, Aspen, 08/18/2025; Elizabeth Antony Joseph Peter, Lunch/Recess Supervisor, 05/16/2025; Oksana Tsyupa, Nurse, 08/18/2025.

3 Leaves of Absence: Lauren Brownstein, Social Worker, MS, 10/26/2025; Vera Pflugradt, P.E. Teacher, MS, 05/16/2025; Deborah Weiss, Math Teacher, MS, 05/12/2025.

11 Resignations: Christina Fanellis, Science Teacher, MN, 07/03/2025; Madeline Funderburg, K-Teacher, HSYL, 05/28/2025; Jennifer Gafron, Music Teacher & Building Substitute, MS, 05/28/2025; Kelly Kleppin, P.E. Teacher, Aspen, 05/28/2025; Natalia Kwak, 1st Grade Teacher, DL, 05/28/2025; Samantha Schoenfeld, LBS1 Teacher, ES, 05/28/2025; Danielle Webster, 4th Grade Teacher, ES, 05/28/2025; Lori Bachrach, Instructional Assistant, MN, 05/28/2025; Supatra Baker, Instructional Assistant, Lincoln, 05/28/2025; Shannon Dacey, Instructional Assistant, DL, 05/28/2025; Marlene Sotelo, Administrative Assistant to Department of Teaching & Learning, and the Department of Innovative Learning, 06/12/2025.

President Cleek requested to remove section 8.1 **Board Meeting Minutes from May 15, 2025** from the consent agenda.

MOTION: **Karl Borchers** moved that the Board of Education approve 8.1 **Board Meeting Minutes from May 15, 2025** as presented; seconded by **George Fievet**.

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

Motion carried: 4 ayes; 2 abstain

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

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

Motion carried: 6 ayes; 0 nays

As Jennifer Akin shared previously, the business department is seeking board approval for the replacement of the intercom system at Hawthorn School for Young Learners. The current Valcom system, installed during the 2018–2019 construction phase, has been identified as outdated and no longer meets the district’s operational needs. The proposed upgrade involves installing a TCU IP-based system, which is fully compatible with the intercom systems currently in place throughout the district. This upgrade will enhance districtwide communication capabilities and ensure consistent, reliable connectivity between all buildings moving forward.

ACTION ITEMS

Intercom Control System Replacement at Hawthorn School of Young Learners

MOTION: George Fievet moved that the Board of Education approve the Intercom Control System Replacement at Hawthorn School for Young Learners; Stephanie Peters seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried: 6 ayes; 0 nays

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Enrollment - Uploaded
2. FOIA Log, Dr. Hannigan reported that the District has received four FOIA requests since the last board meeting and has been responded to as identified in Section 10.2 of the Board agenda.
3. Media Clips

TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

No topics for future discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Joel Finfer *made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by* Karl Borchers. The meeting *adjourned at 6:30 p.m.* **All in favor? Yes.**

Motion carried: 6 ayes; 0 nays

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Flores

Robin Cleek, President

Julie Clifford, Secretary

Date Minutes Approved: _____