

**Minutes of the Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting of
Hawthorn Community Consolidated District #73, Lake County, Illinois
841 West End Ct, Vernon Hills, IL 60061
12:00pm on the 4th day of August 2026**

Board Members Present: George Fievet, Board Member

Board Members Absent: Stephanie Peters, Board Member

Guests: Vinnie Sapienza and Diana Lindsey, Impact Networking Representatives

Others Present: Jennifer Akin, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Business Operations; Jennifer Ezop, Executive Assistant; Kevin Kolcz, Executive Director of Technology; Mike Labbe, Director of Facilities

1.1 Call to Order: 12:01 p.m.

1.2 Roll Call: George Fievet in attendance.

1.3 Public Comment: None.

Discussion Items

2.1 Managed Service Provider

Impact Networking representatives Vinnie Sapienza and Diana Lindsey provided an update on the District's technology infrastructure, cybersecurity posture, and ongoing managed services support. They reviewed progress made during the first year of the partnership and outlined Year Two priorities, including continued cybersecurity improvements, strategic infrastructure planning, increased use of secure cloud-based solutions, and ongoing staff cybersecurity awareness training.

2.2 Summer Construction Update

Mr. Labbe provided an update on summer facility projects. Furniture installation for the Middle School South Library is scheduled for the second week of August, with other summer projects progressing as planned. Preliminary planning has begun for the Aspen Library renovation, including consideration of flooring replacement in 2027. District-wide lighting needs and a maintenance issue near Aspen were also discussed.

2.3 Ten-Year Health/Life Safety Discussion

Mr. Labbe reminded the Committee that the District's ten-year Health/Life Safety Plan is due in summer 2027. Two vendor comparisons were provided for review, with a proposal scheduled for Board consideration in November.

2.4 Transportation Update

Ms. Akin reported that preparations for the 2026-27 school year are progressing as planned. Two low-ridership Townline routes were consolidated into existing routes serving the same area, bus tags have been prepared, and the annual driver luncheon is scheduled prior to the start of school. The District will continue monitoring student behavior on buses using an updated protocol. The school year will begin with 10 bus aides, with staffing levels to be evaluated as the year progresses.

2.5 Food Service Update

Ms. Akin provided an update on preparations with Quest Food Management Services for the 2026-27 school year. Elementary students will have four daily entree options: meat, vegetarian, snack pack, and SunButter and jelly. Three Wellness Committee meetings have been scheduled, and parent and student advisory meetings are planned for both the north and south campuses. Additional initiatives with Quest will include national celebration and awareness events, breakfast promotion, informational materials, and Meet the Teacher events. The summer meal program concluded with 545 breakfasts served. Pending commodity deliveries may result in a slight delay to the food service audit.

2.6 Grant Funding Update

Ms. Akin reported that the District's Title I, Title II, and Title IV grant applications have been approved. The Title III application is expected to open soon, and the LILAP grant is expected to continue. Both grant applications are expected to close on August 31, 2026. FY27 Evidence-Based Funding information was not yet available at the time of the meeting; final allocation details and the disbursement check were anticipated during the week of August 10.

2.7 Operational Technology Update

Mr. Kolcz provided an update on the future structure and priorities of the Technology Department. The Data Team will continue efforts to consolidate data sources into a single platform, and the District Office onboarding process will be refined to support a more efficient transition for new staff. Additional initiatives include Proofpoint cybersecurity training,

deployment of new laminators, classroom iPad storage and charging stations, and completion of the device rollout at Townline and Middle School South. Mr. Kolcz also noted that the District's copier lease originally included 30 units and that seven desktop units were subsequently added to address additional building needs.

Action Items

3.1 Approval of Site and Facilities Minutes - May 12, 2026

The May 12, 2026 minutes were not approved and will be brought forward for approval at the next Finance and Facilities Committee meeting on Tuesday, September 8, 2026.

Future Meeting Topics

4.1 Vendor Updates and Partnership Opportunities

Mr. Fievet requested that representatives from the District's transportation, food service, and custodial vendors be invited to a future Finance and Facilities Committee meeting to provide operational updates and explore potential partnership opportunities.

With no further items to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Ezop

Jennifer Akin, Asst Superintendent
of Finance and Business Operations

George Fievet, Board Member

Date Minutes Approved:_____