

**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 13th day of August 2026**

**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, Stephanie Peters and Julie Clifford. 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. Board members Karl Borchers and Joel Finfer were not present.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Representatives from Meadows Family Dentistry made a public comment to present a \$5,000 donation and shared their continued commitment to supporting Hawthorn students and families. They highlighted recent outreach efforts, including dental education and a free day of care that provided approximately 40 individuals with school dental exams, X rays, and assistance with required school forms. They expressed appreciation for their partnership with Hawthorn District 73 and their commitment to continuing their support.

Key to 73 Hawthorn Education Foundation President Angela Maki presented a \$30,000 donation to support The Nest, Hawthorn's food pantry, and its continued work supporting students and families throughout the school year.

**RECOGNITION**

No recognition at this time.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No announcements at this time.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Board President Robin Cleek announced that the May 2027 Board meeting would be rescheduled from May 20 to May 13, 2027, at 7:00 p.m. to accommodate the timeline for seating Board members following the April election. She welcomed students, staff, families, and administrators back for the new school year and shared positive feedback from the New Teacher Luncheon. President Cleek also celebrated the strong turnout at the Back to School Bash and thanked everyone who helped make the event a success.

**ED-RED REPORT**

No report at this time

**SEDOL REPORT**

Mr. Engle reported that the Executive Board meeting was held on July 23 and the Governing Board meeting was held on August 5. The SEDOL Board welcomed Dr. Jennifer Thomas as SEDOL's new Superintendent and received an update regarding the 2026–2027 Continuous Improvement Plan. Mr. Engle reported that the Board approved a new three-year SEDOL Teachers Union contract and the final fiscal year 2027 budget and noted that a new tuition model was being implemented. He also shared information regarding upcoming fall program tours for Board members. The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for August 27, and the next Governing Board meeting is scheduled for December 2.

**SITE & FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

Vice President George Fievet reported that the newly renamed Finance & Facilities Committee met on August 4. He provided an update on the district's first year working with Impact, highlighting improvements in internet and power resiliency, security, and technology services, with future work focused on equipment and software lifecycle management. Summer construction projects remained on schedule, including the Middle School South library, and planning had begun for the district's required 10-year life safety review, which will be brought to the Board at a future meeting. Mr. Fievet reported that transportation was prepared for the start of the school year with balanced routes, bus tags, and an updated bus behavior process. He also shared updates from Quest, including expanded elementary menu options, increased opportunities for parent feedback, and nutrition becoming a permanent part of the Wellness Committee. Student iPads, classroom charging systems, and updated device management software were also ready for the start of the school year.

## **WELLNESS COMMITTEE REPORT**

No report at this time.

## **KEY TO 73 FOUNDATION REPORT**

Ms. Clifford reported on the success of the Key to 73 Foundation's recent golf outing. She also shared that the Foundation's next event, Bad Moms of Comedy Night, will be held on October 6 at Austin's Saloon, with ticket information to be shared soon.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Dr. Hannigan and the administrative team discussed policy updates included in PRESS Issues 121 and 122. The Policy Subcommittee met on July 28 to review the proposed updates, with a total of 56 policies and exhibits reviewed across district departments and committees. Many of the updates consisted of routine five-year reviews, while others reflected changes in state law and requirements related to the Open Meetings Act, Freedom of Information Act, employment practices, student services, food services, and student data privacy and security. The updated policies will be brought back to the Board for approval at the September 17 Board meeting.

Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Business Operations Jennifer Akin reviewed updates to the 2026–2027 fiscal year budget since the tentative budget was presented in June. She reported that fiscal year 2026 year-end actuals had been incorporated into the projections, resulting in an anticipated operating revenue increase of \$561,484. Non-salary expenditures increased by \$846,484, primarily due to updated technology, transportation, E-rate costs, and other year-end adjustments, while salary and benefit projections remained unchanged. As a result, the district's unallocated operating capacity decreased from \$419,000 to \$219,500.

The Board opened the public hearing and invited public comment. With no public comments received, the hearing was closed.

Assistant Superintendent of Student Services Alicia Corrigan reviewed the Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement with the Lake County Regional Office of Education for the Alternative Learning Opportunity Program (ALAP). She explained that ALAP supports students in grades 4 through 12 who may be experiencing attendance, behavioral, or academic challenges. The program includes a push-in model at the student's home school and, when appropriate, a pull-out model providing services in a smaller classroom setting at the Lake County ALAP location. Ms. Corrigan noted that there is no program cost to the district, with transportation being the only potential expense for students placed at the ROE facility. She clarified that the agreement does not require the district to utilize ALAP but provides an additional resource when needed to support students. The Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement will be brought back to the Board for approval at the September 17 Board meeting.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Dr. Hannigan welcomed students, staff, and families to the 2026–2027 school year and recognized the significant work completed over the summer to prepare for the start of school. He celebrated the success of the Back to School Bash, which provided families with school supplies, haircuts, food, entertainment, and access to approximately 35 community resources.

Dr. Hannigan also reviewed the District's Board projects for the 2026–2027 school year, noting that the work is aligned with the District's mission, vision, collective commitments, and goals. Priorities include implementation of Bridges in Mathematics, continued curriculum review and professional development, adjustments resulting from the District's assessment audit, refinement of K–8 enrichment and acceleration services, implementation of recently adopted middle school instructional resources, and continued planning around artificial intelligence. Additional projects include completion of the District's required 10-year life safety audit and an upgrade to the District's enterprise resource planning system to enhance data security and modernize financial and human resources processes.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- 6.1 Board Meeting Minutes: June 18, 2026
- 6.2 Board Meeting Minutes: July 8, 2026
- 6.3 Closed Session Minutes: May 21, 2026
- 6.4 Closed Session Minutes: July 8, 2026
- 6.5 Expenditure Report: August 13, 2026
- 6.6 Amazon Expense Report: August 13, 2026
- 6.7 Mastercard Report: May 21, 2026
- 6.8 Mastercard Report: June 22, 2026
- 6.9 Treasurer's Report: May 2026
- 6.10 Treasurer's Report: June 2026
- 6.11 Personnel Report

New Hires: 29  
Resignations: 15  
Leave of Absence: 3  
Change of Status: 3

29 New Hires: Emilia Aguilar, Psychologist, ES, 08/17/2026; Milton Arrieta-Lopez, 5th Grade Teacher, DL, 08/17/2026; Marjorie Maker, Science Teacher, MN, 08/17/2026; Aurora Bis-Markel, Art Teacher, HSYL, 08/17/2026; Tina Bourbon, Science Teacher, MN, 08/17/2026; Brandi Carter, Science Teacher, MN, 08/17/2026; Kylie Cole, 5th Grade Teacher, DL, 08/17/2026; Danielle Gallina, ML Specialist, DL, 08/17/2026; Brenda Hadden, EC Self-Contained Teacher, Lincoln, 08/17/2026; James Kasregis, Music Teacher, ES, 08/17/2026; Morgan Leone, Art Teacher, Townline, 08/17/2026; Trinity Lombardi, Math Teacher, MN, 08/17/2026; Ava Matheson, 3rd Grade Teacher, ES, 08/17/2026; Jaime Phelan, Speech/Language Pathologist, EN, 08/17/2026; Jacob Sroka, LBS1 Teacher, TL, 08/17/2026; Jamie Zeller Bitton, ML Specialist, MS, 08/17/2026; Ariana Aprim, Instructional Assistant, EN, 08/17/2026; Michelli Cosmo, Lunch/Recess Supervisor, EN, 08/17/2026; Giselle Cruz, Instructional Assistant, EN, 08/17/2026; Krista Frazier, Instructional Assistant, MS, 08/17/2026; Hanna Glaser, Instructional Assistant, Lincoln, 08/17/2026; Fatima Gozon, Instructional Assistant, MN, 08/17/2026; Evgeniia Kilmenchuk, Instructional Assistant, MN, 08/17/2026; Megan Kordas, Instructional Assistant, EN, 08/17/2026; Indumathi Raju, Lunch/Recess Supervisor, HSYL, 08/20/2026; Kyle Sayers, Instructional Assistant, HSYL, 08/17/2026; Hira Tanweer, Lunch/Recess Supervisor, EN, 08/17/2026; Prashanthi Thimmancherla, Instructional Assistant, EN, 08/17/2026; Swathi Vasantham, Instructional Assistant, AS, 08/17/2026.

15 Resignations: Christina Galliani, Speech Language Pathologist, EN, 07/16/2026; Abby Jordan, 5th Grade Teacher, DL, 06/17/2026; Emilio Lopez, LBS1 Teacher, TL, 07/10/2026; Angie Martin Villanueva, Art Teacher, HSYL, 06/26/2026; Philip Messina, Music Teacher, ES, 07/06/2026; Cristina Pike, Resource ELL, DL, 06/30/2026; Sandra Tinoco, 5th Grade, DL, 06/24/2026; Emily De Witt, Instructional Assistant, MS, 08/16/2026; Zhinolata Khwairakpam, Instructional Assistant, EN, 08/03/2026; Rachel Koza, Instructional Assistant, TL, 06/24/2026; Thiago Martins-Amaral, Technology Support Specialist, District, 07/15/2026; Margarita Marban, Office Clerk, MS, 06/24/2026; Ami Raval, Office Clerk, AS, 08/04/2026; Sayali Shete, Instructional Assistant, EN, 08/04/2026.

3 Leaves of Absence: Andrea Malec, Social Studies Teacher, MS, 08/17/2026; Sarah Olivia, Language Arts Teacher, MS, 08/28/2026; Brandon White, PE Teacher, TL, 11/9/2026.

3 Change of Status: Ritu Dhayal, Library Media Assistant, TL, 08/17/2026; Holly Hovagimian-Beck, Library Media Assistant, AS, 08/17/2026; Vandanaben Brahmabhatt, Instructional Assistant, EN, 08/17/2026.

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Julie Clifford requested to remove section 6.1 **Board Meeting Minutes from June 18, 2026** from the consent agenda.

MOTION: Stephanie Peters moved that the Board of Education approve 6.1 **Board Meeting Minutes from June 18, 2026**; seconded by George Fievet.

**Roll Call Vote:** Robin Cleek, Michael Engle, George Fievet, Julie Clifford, and Stephanie Peters.

**Motion carried: 3 ayes; 2 abstain**

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

**Roll Call Vote:** Robin Cleek, Michael Engle, George Fievet, Julie Clifford, and Stephanie Peters.

**Motion carried: 5 ayes; 0 nays**

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## **INFORMATION**

1. Enrollment - Uploaded
2. FOIA Log, Dr. Hannigan reported that the District has received 22 FOIA requests since the last board meeting and has been responded to as identified in Section 7.2 of the Board agenda.
3. Media Clips

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## **TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION**

Board Member Julie Clifford requested additional updates regarding the District’s AI guidelines. Dr. Hannigan noted that the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to improve teaching and learning practices is one of the District’s Board projects for the 2026–2027 school year and that a Board presentation and update is scheduled for the spring.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, Michael Engle *made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by* George Fievet. The meeting *adjourned at 7:36 p.m.*                   **All in favor? Yes.**

**Motion carried: 5 ayes; 0 nays**

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Respectfully submitted,  
Jessica Flores

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Robin Cleek, President

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Julie Clifford, Secretary

Date Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_