

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
of Hawthorn Community Consolidated District Number 73, Lake County, Illinois
held in the Board Room at 841 West End Court, Vernon Hills, IL 60061
at 7:30 a.m. on the 18th day of December 2009.**

CALL to ORDER

Tim Shanahan, President called the Regular meeting to order at 7:37 a.m. Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Lisa Jay called the roll, with the following members of the Board of Education answering present:

John Sonnenberg, Julie Weiler, Jeff Bard, Michelle Comitor, Tim Shanahan, and Lisa Jay.

Absent: Theresa Calabrese

Also in attendance were Dr. Zook, Alan Hahn

Theresa Calabrese arrived at 7:38 a.m.

Michelle Comitor moved and John Sonnenberg second the motion to move into a public hearing to Request a Waiver from the Requirements of Section 17-1.5 of the School Code.

Voice Vote: 7 ayes; 0 nays

Motion carried

Alan Hahn stated that there are two places in the law that are conflicting for the school district.

1. Administration Limitation Act, which states that certain administrative costs should not increase more than 5% over the year of all expenses.
2. ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) and federal grant money received is for the purpose of student performance and hiring of new staff. Hawthorn applied and received money for a Special Education Administrator. The hiring of this staff person would create a position of being out of compliance with the 5% limitation requirement.

To rectify this, we are applying for a waiver, for this year, for the Administration Limitation Act law that will allow the 9% increase.

There being no public comment, Tim Shanahan requested a motion to close the public hearing.

Michelle Comitor moved and John Sonnenberg second the motion to close the public hearing.

Voice Vote: 7 ayes; 0 nays.

Motion carried

RECOGNITIONS / PRESENTATIONS - none scheduled

CONSENT

12/09.46 Expenditure Report for December

12/09.47 Treasurer's Report, Cash & Investments Summary and Financial Statements

12/09.48 Personnel Report

Michelle Comitor moved and Lisa Jay seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Consent agenda items, as presented.

Tim Shanahan called for a vote.

Roll Call: Lisa Jay, John Sonnenberg, Julie Weiler, Jeff Bard, Michelle Comitor, Tim Shanahan and Theresa Calabrese voted aye.

7 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

ACTION

12/09.49 Approval of Waiver from the Requirements of Section 17-1.5 of the School Code

Michelle Comitor moved and John Sonnenberg second the motion to approve the waiver from the Requirements of Section 17-1.5 of the School Code.

Lisa Jay began the Boards discussion asking what are the consequences if the Board did not vote to request this waiver? Alan Hahn stated that the budget would need to be amended cover the additional amount. If it is not revised, the State could hold all grant money. If there were not a need for the waiver, we would fall below that percentage. The Limitation Act affects the offices of the Superintendent, Business, Special Education and Technology.

The waiver process begins by applying to the State Board. The State Board then writes a brief and sends it to the State Legislator. The State Legislators only meet twice a year with the last meeting in mid January. It is anticipated that it will be approved.

Dr. Zook stated the stimulus money received was to spend on the Special Education Department. The Special Education Coordinator salary is due to the transitional status of that department which caused it to be over budget. The waiver request is only for this year.

Jeff Bard shared his concern regarding the process and his general view of this action with the following points: Notice of this waiver was not shared with Members of the Board or discussed prior to this meeting. It was also his opinion that the public hearing should be held at an evening Board Meeting for the convenience of the public so that people that work can comment if they want. He also mentioned that the agenda was changed mid-week and the posting of the public notice was not displayed inside the doors of the District Office. He asked that legal counsel be consulted to ensure the hearing was held in accordance with the requirements of the Public Meetings Act.

The public notice was properly placed in the newspaper over 7 days prior to the meeting as required, Alan Hahn stated. Theresa Calabrese agreed that the newspaper posting was within the legal timeframe.

After Board discussion of this matter, all members of the Board agreed of the vigilance of timeframes of action items Michelle Comitor posed the question, "Can we, at this time, take this to a vote"?

Tim Shanahan stated the motion has been called to question and requested a vote.

Voice Vote: 6 ayes; 1 nay.

Motion carried

Tim Shanahan called for a vote to approve the waiver.

Roll Call: Tim Shanahan, Theresa Calabrese, Lisa Jay, John Sonnenberg, Julie Weiler and Michelle Comitor voted aye.

Jeff Bard voted nay

6 ayes, 1 nay. Motion carried.

PRESIDENTS REPORT - none scheduled

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT - none scheduled

COMMITTEE REPORTS - none scheduled

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Hawthorn in the News

ADJOURNMENT

Tim Shanahan requested a motion to adjourn. Michelle Comitor moved and John Sonnenberg seconded the motion to adjourn.

Voice Vote: 7 ayes; 0 nays. Motion carried.

The Meeting adjourned at 7:59 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gloria Bentzen

Timothy Shanahan, President

Lisa Jay, Secretary

Date Minutes Approved: _____