

# Hawthorn Meets Challenges without Raising Tax Rate

*Learning for all* is Hawthorn's goal. But did you know this will include 900 to 1,100 *additional* students in the next 10 years?

That is a 30% increase for the district which is already beginning to feel the pinch of crowding.

To meet this challenge, the Board of Education is asking voters to approve, on November 5, a \$39.5 million con-

struction bond issue *without raising the tax rate.*

"We have a unique opportunity to address our growth issues and meet the needs of our kids for the next decade and beyond, *without raising the bond and interest fund tax rate,*" said Board President Rich Paul. "This is a lot like *refinancing* your house to put on an addition. Because of low interest rates and other factors, we can

get sufficient funding to pay for the project and still keep the tax rate stable.

## Plans for the Future

The proposal, to be phased in over the next four to five years, includes construction of two new buildings, replacement of the district's oldest building (which is 80+ years old), re-

Want to know more about Hawthorn's growth management plan?

You can find the details at <[www.hawthorn73.org](http://www.hawthorn73.org)>.

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# Hawthorn Highlights

## "Learning for All: Whatever It Takes!"

## Bond Issue Authorization Proposal

Following is the wording of the District 73 bond issue authorization proposal as it will appear on the November 5, 2002 ballot.

Shall the Board of Education of Hawthorn Community Consolidated School District Number 73, Lake County, Illinois, be authorized to build a new building on the Oakson Campus, demolish and replace the oldest school building, build a new building at the Original Campus, equip all new school buildings, refurbish all other buildings and sites, acquire and upgrade technological tools and infrastructure and to issue bonds of the District therefor to the sum of \$39,500,000?

## Top 10 Questions About Hawthorn's Growth Management Plan

The following information provides answers to questions that have been asked often over the past several weeks.

### 1. Why do we need to build new schools?

During the next 10 years, we anticipate that the Hawthorn schools will enroll an additional 900 to 1,100 students. Enrollment projection studies conducted by the Board of Education have proven to be very accurate. For example, the projection made for the school year just completed (2001-2002) was within 1% of the actual number.

The Gregg's Landing development is currently less than one-half completed, with another 1,000 to 1,200 homes to be built. Plus, there are other new homes being constructed elsewhere in our community. Add to that "empty nesters" who are selling their homes to new families with young children and it is easy to see why we need new classrooms.

Our current schools are nearing their absolute "max" capacity and already are showing some signs of crowding. Building new learning space will enable your school district to continue to meet the needs of our kids for the next decade and beyond.

## Community Input Sought

As the Hawthorn Schools move forward with growth management plans, the Board of Education and District Administrators welcome questions and ideas from our residents. We especially want to hear from you as we begin the design phase for new buildings. To make your voice heard, call Dr. Joe Yomtoob at 847-990-4210.



The District 73 growth management plan is about the kids! We are making "Learning for All" a reality.

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## Hawthorn Meets the Challenges

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### The Proposal at a Glance

- ✓ Issue \$39.5 million in bonds, without an increase in the current 35.5¢ bond and interest fund tax rate.
- ✓ Construct a new school on South campus adjacent to current Kindergarten Center for 350 students.
- ✓ Replace the district's oldest building with a new structure to house 450 students.
- ✓ Construct a new school for 675 students on the site of the oldest building.
- ✓ Tackle refurbishing projects in the Middle School, Elementary North, and Elementary South.
- ✓ Improve and enlarge sports fields and playgrounds throughout the district.
- ✓ Address traffic flow problems and enhance safety on both Hawthorn campuses.
- ✓ Enhance learning, communication, and security through continued technology improvements.

refurbishing existing schools (North Elementary, South Elementary, and the Middle School), changes to address ongoing traffic problems on Hawthorn's two campuses, and continuing the commitment to the use of technology to enhance learning.

### Community Involvement Is Important

District Superintendent Dr. Joe Yomtoob noted that parents, teachers, and the community will be actively involved in the design of the new buildings, as well as in decisions as to how they will be used. He pointed out that more than 100 individuals took part in public meetings before the decision

was made to seek the bond referendum.

“Our parents and community members always ask good questions,” said Dr. Joe. “It really keeps us on our toes and results in a better plan overall.” Yomtoob stressed that the building plans will not result in a disruption of current attendance configurations, but could result in additional choices for parents depending on how the utilization planning comes out.

### Funding for Operations

Maintaining sufficient funding for operations also has been part of the analysis. District financial managers make multi-year projections of these costs which are updated annually.

Dr. Joe said the current projections indicate that new home and commercial construction, as well as increasing property values, will provide enough money to hire additional teachers and keep pace with current growth for at least the next five years.

The board and district administrators considered several different alternatives, ranging from doing nothing to leasing space to adding on to existing schools. After a careful analysis, the proposal for new buildings was found to be the best option. It will result in quality educational facilities which will be able to house more than 4,400 students for many years to come.

## Top 10 Questions

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### 2. How do we know there won't be a tax increase?

In the 1997 bond referendum, the Board of Education made a promise not to increase the bond and interest fund tax rate. Before the referendum, the rate was 45.6¢ per \$100 assessed valuation. The rate has decreased to 35.5¢. We kept our promise then . . . and we will keep it now!

The proposal on the table now is much like a family “refinancing” its house to make improvements. With interest rates at their lowest in many years, and other factors, Hawthorn's financial managers and bond experts have determined that the \$39.5 million in bonds, with payments spread over the next 20 years, will not result in a bond fund tax rate increase.

### 3. Would a tax increase be needed to finance operation of the new buildings?

We are carefully monitoring our operating fund resources. Five-year projections are updated annually and the analysis shows we will have sufficient funds without a tax increase. This is due to an increasing tax base from new construction and rising property values, an excellent example of how growth in a community is able to sustain itself.

### 4. What is the configuration of the new buildings? How will students be assigned?

The building program will be implemented in two phases over the next four to six years. No decisions have been made concerning student assignment. The Board of Education has made a commitment to involve parents and teachers in the planning process which will take into account the demographics of our students and their learning needs as new classroom space becomes available. One of the “key values” adopted by the Board of Education at the outset of this project is that the new school buildings be flexible so that they can meet the changing requirements.

## Top 10 Questions

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### Timeline

5. Why is it necessary to demolish the oldest building in the district?  
Will improvements be made to other existing buildings?

Back in 1996, the original Hawthorn School (located at the northwest corner of Aspen Drive and Route 60) was described as “tired.” Now, it would be fair to say that it’s “exhausted.” Parts of it were built more than 80 years ago and there are numerous repairs and upgrades needed. A recent engineering study concluded that over time, it will cost more to maintain the building than to construct a new one.

Our other buildings continue to serve the district well. After 25 years, there are some upgrades and refurbishing needed. A portion of the bond money will be allocated to address these issues, as well as to finish playgrounds and sports fields for all schools.

6. What is the district doing to keep our instructional technology program going?

Hawthorn has made a significant commitment to utilizing technology to foster learning both in the classroom and elsewhere. In addition, we are upgrading systems to support the overall functioning of our schools with features such as districtwide voice mail, and e-mail which enhances communication between teachers and parents, as well as students. The community endorsed allocating financial resources to technology development in the last bond referendum, and a portion of the current proposal also will go to support our ongoing efforts in this area.

7. Is \$39.5 million the right amount to address Hawthorn's challenges?

The Board of Education and Administration have carefully reviewed the challenges posed by increased student enrollment, as well as other district needs. Consultations with engineers and architects indicate the amount proposed in the bond issue will get the job done. Close attention will be paid to quality and meeting our students’ needs without being extravagant. The good news is, we will achieve this goal *without raising the tax rate*.

8. Are you doing anything to ease the traffic problems around our schools?

Yes. A great deal of effort already has gone into analyzing the traffic and pedestrian patterns and what can be done on our campuses to make the flow more efficient for parents, buses, and pedestrians. A key emphasis also is on maintaining safety of our buildings at all times. Obviously, traffic on Route 60 and other streets is congested at certain times of day. We will continue to work with the Village of Vernon Hills and State of Illinois on these matters.

9. How did this plan evolve? Did you get any community input?

More than 100 community members—including parents and teachers—advised the Board of Education as the growth management plan was developed. Indeed, their ideas provided the basis for many aspects of the proposal. We will continue to seek out participation of the Hawthorn “family” as the project moves forward.

10. What will happen if the voters approve the referendum?

First and foremost, our students from kindergarten through eighth grade will continue to receive the quality education our community expects. Our goal, “Learning for All,” is a serious commitment made by the Board of Education and the community. Appropriate facilities are part of achieving this goal. Our school buildings are owned by all of the taxpayers, and it is the Board of Education’s desire to make them even more available as a community resource for groups and adult learners. Residents who do not have children attending the Hawthorn schools will also benefit from increasing property values that result from a top-notch school system.

- ✓ November 5, 2002  
Bond referendum for \$39.5 million, without increasing tax rate.
- ✓ November 2002 – 2003  
Parent, teacher, community involvement in building design and utilization.
- ✓ 2003 – 2004  
Refurbishment projects will begin.
- ✓ August 2004  
New building on South campus and replacement for oldest building (North campus) ready for students.
- ✓ Fall 2004  
Oldest building is demolished.
- ✓ August 2006  
New school on North campus opens.



### Register to Vote

Residents are reminded that October 7 is the last day to register to vote in the November 5 elections.

You may register at any of the following locations:

Village of Vernon Hills  
290 Evergreen Drive  
Vernon Hills

Cook Memorial Library  
413 N. Milwaukee Avenue  
Libertyville

Fremont Public Library  
1170 N. Midlothian Road  
Mundelein

# Who's Who at Hawthorn

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847-990-4216

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Superintendent of Student  
Achievement and Staff  
Development  
847-990-4215

Alan Hahn, Director of Finance &  
Business Operations  
847-990-4220

Joy Kane, Coordinator of  
Special Education Services  
847-990-4243

Robert Hudson, Director of  
Instructional Technology  
847-990-4230

## Hawthorn Kindergarten South Campus

Kindergarten  
500 N. Aspen Drive  
Luz C. Alvino, Principal  
847-918-2170

## Hawthorn Option School North Campus

Grades Kindergarten through 6  
810 Aspen Drive  
John M. Ahlemeyer, Principal  
847-990-4300

## Hawthorn Elementary - South South Campus

Grades 1 through 4  
430 N. Aspen Drive  
Karen Cencula, Principal  
Robert Loranger,  
Assistant Principal  
847-367-8000

## Hawthorn Elementary - North, North Campus

Grades 1 through 4  
301 Hawthorn Parkway  
Barbara Phillips, Ph.D., Principal  
Laura L. Budd, Assistant Principal  
847-990-4500

## Hawthorn Middle School North Campus

Grades 5 and 6  
201 Hawthorn Parkway  
William A. Sigler, Principal  
Laurie Turner,  
Assistant Principal  
847-990-4400

## Hawthorn Junior High South Campus

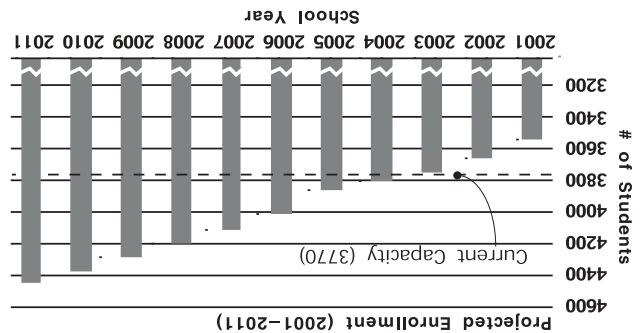
Grades 7 and 8  
600 N. Aspen Drive  
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Paul Dyer, Assistant Principal  
847-816-8317



[www.hawthorn73.org](http://www.hawthorn73.org)

*Hawthorn Highlights is published as a service to residents of District 73. Please direct questions about your schools to a member of the Board of Education or a school administrator. Residents are also welcome to attend meetings of the Board of Education.*

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Dr. Susan E. Zook is newsletter coordinator.*



Enrollment is Growing at the Hawthorn Schools