

Hawthorn Board of Education Hawthorn C. C. District 73

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MINUTES **REGULAR BOARD MEETING** **HAWTHORN BOARD OF EDUCATION** **AUGUST 25, 2003**

MINUTES of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Hawthorn Community Consolidated School District Number 73, Lake County, Illinois, held in the Board Room of said School District at 7:30 p.m. on the 25th day of August, 2003.

The meeting was called to order by President Paul at 7:30 p.m., and upon the roll being called, the following members of the Board of Education answered present: Jose Hernandez (through telephone conference call), Annie Christie, Mary-Jane Rattner, Bill Coli, Jim Batson and Rich Paul.

Appointment of New Board Member

President Paul reported due to the resignation of Kevin Price, seven candidates applied to fill the vacancy on the Board. Under Illinois School Code the Board had 45 days to consider candidates and to fill said vacancy, which candidate will serve until the election of 2005. All seven candidates were qualified to fill this position and demonstrated a sincere interest coupled with good ideas for the district. He thanked all for taking the effort to apply for this position, adding that the Board has found this to be a difficult decision to make.

08/03.17 President Paul opened nominations. Bill Coli nominated Tim Shanahan and Annie Christie second. Jim Batson nominated Jason Tron, with Mary-Jane Rattner seconding. Hearing no further nominations, President Paul called the nominations closed and requested a vote. Roll Call: Jose Hernandez (Tim Shanahan); Annie Christie (Tim Shanahan); Mary-Jane Rattner (Jason Tron); Bill Coli (Tim Shanahan); Jim Batson (Jason Tron) and Rich Paul (Tim Shanahan). By majority vote, Tim Shanahan was named to fill said vacancy on the Board. President Paul administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Shanahan, following which he took his seat on the Board.

Public Comment Period

Mr. Peter Borgman, representing a group of Elementary North parents, through a prepared statement and signed petitions noted their concern of the current Middle School possibly serving as a future second junior high. They desire expansion of the current junior high to serve the entire district or apportion a larger part of the new north campus building to serve as a second junior high. It was a universal opinion among those parents to whom they spoke that a renovated middle school will still be inadequate to serve as a junior high.

President Paul followed questioning Dr. Yomtoob if he considered the current Middle School to be substandard with Dr. Yomtoob responding the fifth and sixth graders are receiving a good education. In answer to another question, Dr. Yomtoob does not recollect anything to the effect that the Junior High of 1997 was deemed substandard. Mr. Coli added he had two children at the Middle School who received an excellent education. Further responding, Dr. Yomtoob stated the District will spend approximately \$5 million to \$6 million to renovate the current Middle School as compared to the \$11.5 million spent to construct the Aspen Junior High. This is one-half as much to renovate an existing building to make it an equal world class facility as any new building on the campus. Mr. Coli added he has heard from community members who have a concern about the district being divided into north and south. He is not an advocate of choice, but it is a viable option to allow a choice and a mixing of children from the north and south geographic areas of the district. He would hate to see what currently exists with the high school and library issues exist within our own district.

Student and Staff Accomplishments

Dr. Yomtoob recognized 17 members of the Hawthorn's teaching staff who recently received their Masters Degree over the summer.

Staff Presentations

Summer School Recap

Luz Alvino, Principal of the Kindergarten and Hawthorn Summer School, reported on Hawthorn's Summer School. Over 400 students participated with the direction of 15 teachers and 7 support staff. Those students participating in the K-2 grant program showed tremendous growth in reading skills. Others in the 5th and 6th grade math program were provided and assessment for baseline support. Participants in other activities enjoyed their various programs as demonstrated in the video presentation provided.

Recommendation of Reconfiguration Plan

Dr. Joe and Dr. Zook provided a recap of the steps leading to the November 2002 referendum. Also reviewed were the many community meetings/focus groups held to gain input concerning the future plans for the District following passage of the referendum. Of the four proposed reconfiguration plans presented in June, one seems most viable and was recommended to the Board. A brochure outlining this proposed plan will be distributed to parents through the District's schools and will also be available for viewing on the District's website. A Public Hearing for this proposed Plan will be held September 8, 2003, 7:00 p.m. at the Middle School with final action scheduled by the Board at its September 22, 2003 meeting.

An overview of the recommended Plan to be initiated 2005/06 is as follows:

North Campus

- Elementary North** A K-5 school based on the current attendance areas and boundaries. Current programs and other best practices and innovations, such as smaller learning communities, flexible grouping, multi-age classrooms, looping, and learning styles to meet the needs of all students, will be included at this building. It will include some classrooms and teachers who choose to complete Bernstein training.
- New North School(s)** A K-2 and 3-5 school of choice (with a total of 6 sections of students per grade level). Will include 2 (possibly 3) sections of dual language classes at each grade level (by 2005 the program will have expanded to a K-5 program). Three to four additional sections of students will be introduced to the study of foreign language, specifically the Spanish language and culture through instruction two to three times per week. Also in this school, all teachers will be trained in the Bernstein Artful Learning model.
- Current Middle School** A 6-8 Middle School of choice (with a total of 9 sections of students per grade level) including the 6 sections of students from the K-5 language school of choice and the 3 sections of students from Option School. The school will continue to reinforce the K-5 Glasser and language programming choices for all students. New students, wishing to begin these choice options, will be added on a space-available-basis. All students will have daily instruction in a foreign language (possibly another language for students who are proficient in Spanish from the dual language program). All teachers in this school will be trained in the Bernstein Artful Learning model.

South Campus

Elementary South A K-5 school based on the current attendance areas and boundaries. Current programs and other best practices and innovations such as smaller learning communities, flexible grouping, multi-age classrooms, looping, and learning styles to meet the needs of all students will be included at this building. Will include some classrooms and teachers who choose to complete Bernstein training.

Option School A K-5 school of choice (with a total of 3 sections of students per grade level). By 2005-06, this school of choice will begin its seventh year as a Glasser Quality School, based on the Choice Theory philosophy. The study of foreign language, specifically the Spanish language and culture through instruction, will occur for all students K-5, 2 to 3 times per week. Also, in this school, all teachers will be trained in the Bernstein Artful Learning model.

Current Junior High School A 6-8 Middle School including all students from Elementary North and Elementary South and/or those not wishing to continue the K-5 Glasser or language programming choices for students. Current and other programming options and best practices will be included to meet the needs of all students. The two-year foreign language program for advanced placement at the high school level will continue to be limited to students meeting the academic criteria. The current arts and tech rotations and exploratory/enrichment classes will be continued. May include some classrooms and teachers who choose to complete Bernstein training.

Discussion ensued concerning the recommended reconfiguration with President Paul stating it is essential to keep in mind the educational success of our students being the first priority. Dr. Zook confirmed the same curriculum will be taught in all buildings of the district, however, practices, strategies, resources or teaching styles may differ from building to building. Testing will remain consistent throughout the district. In this plan there is the opportunity for a student to attend the Aspen Junior High through choice. Mr. Batson stated it is important for the community to understand this plan as it offers an expansion of existing choices. Mr. Coli noted his concern regarding diversity of community being reflected in all buildings, to which Dr. Yomtoob assured this would continue. In an effort to gain information pertaining to community interest in those choices available through this plan, it was agreed a response sheet would be attached to the reconfiguration handout to families with the request it be completed and returned to the school or district office. A random sample phone survey might also be considered to gain feedback from the community.

Consent Agenda

President Paul entertained questions concerning items contained in the Consent Agenda. Hearing none, he requested a motion to approve same.

08/03.18 Regular Meeting Minutes, 8/11/03

08/03.19 Personnel Report: (A) Resignation of one certificated staff member Cindy Gaffney-Sok, 4th grade teacher, Elementary North; (B-C) approval of two certificated staff members: Tanya Schwartz, 4th grade teacher, Elementary North; Hillary Perez Marchel, .5 Kindergarten teacher, Kindergarten; (D) approval of change from part-time to full-time for one certificated staff member: Lora McKenzie, Student Support Teacher, Kindergarten.

Jim Batson moved and Tim Shanahan seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda items, as presented. Voice Vote: 5 ayes; 0 nays; 2 abstentions (Jose Hernandez and Tim Shanahan). Motion carried.

Action Items

President Paul entertained questions concerning the Expenditures Report (excluding ETA/Cuisenaire) for August 2003. Hearing none, he entertained a motion.

08/03.20 Annie Christie moved and Jim Batson seconded the motion that the Hawthorn Board of Education approve the expenditures, as presented. Roll Call: Annie Christie, Jim Batson, Mary-Jane Rattner, Bill Coli, and Rich Paul voted aye. Jose Hernandez and Tim Shanahan abstained. 5 ayes; 0 nays; 2 abstentions. Motion carried.

President Paul entertained questions concerning the ETA/Cuisenaire Expenditures for August 2003. Hearing none, he requested a motion.

08/03.21 Annie Christie moved and Mary-Jane Rattner seconded the motion that the Hawthorn Board of Education approve the expenditures, as presented. Roll Call: Annie Christie, Mary-Jane Rattner, Bill Coli, and Rich Paul voted aye. Tim Shanahan, Jose Hernandez and Jim Batson abstained. 4 ayes; 0 nays; 3 abstentions. Motion carried.

President's Report

President Paul noted that the Oxford Round Table Conference report would be deferred to the next meeting of the Board.

Superintendent's Report

Report on the Opening Day of School

Dr. Yomtoob reported the opening day of school was most successful with staff directing students to their appropriate classes. Concerning the North and South campus transportation/drop-off areas, with the assistance of administration and Board members, all things went smoothly. A number of parents stated things were much improved at the North Campus.

Discussion Items

There were no items of this nature on the agenda.

Committee Reports

Mrs. Christie reported to improve communication between school, family and community, the district will: (1) implement a weekly construction update on the District's website; (2) monthly updates will be sent home with students as part of the "Community Plan" as well as updates on local Channel 4; (3) drop-off and pickup information for the North and South Campuses are available on the website; and (4) solicitation of ideas to improve communication can be provided to the District through the community input link on the website. A working focus group is also planned for the future.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business to come before the meeting.

New Business

There was no new business to come before the meeting.

Announcements

There were no items of this nature on the agenda.

Informational Items

Items were made available to the Board for informational purposes.

Adjournment

Having no further business to come before the Board, President Paul requested a motion to adjourn.

Tim Shanahan moved and Mary-Jane Rattner seconded the motion to adjourn. Voice Vote: 7 ayes; 0 nays. Motion carried.

The Board adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Richard Paul, President

Mary-Jane Rattner, Secretary