

Hawthorn Board of Education Hawthorn C. C. District 73

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MINUTES **REGULAR BOARD MEETING** **HAWTHORN BOARD OF EDUCATION** **SEPTEMBER 8, 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 Middle School of said School District at 7:00 p.m. on the 8th day of September, 2003.

The meeting was called to order by President Paul at 7:10 p.m., and upon the roll being called, the following members of the Board of Education answered present: Tim Shanahan, Jose Hernandez, Annie Christie, Mary-Jane Rattner, Bill Coli and Rich Paul.

Oath of Office

President Paul administered the oath of office to Jayson Tran, who took his seat on the Board. President Paul thanked those six individuals who, again, took the time to be interviewed for this position, adding all were qualified making it a difficult decision for members of the Board. Jayson Tran fills the vacancy on the Board due to the resignation of Jim Batson following the Board's last meeting. Jim Batson was commended for his seven years service on the Board along with his many accomplishments in the interest of students and the District. All board members joined in saying they were sorry for his departure but are appreciative of his many contributions.

President Paul thanked members of the community for their interest and presence at this meeting. The Board has been presented a recommendation for the new grade reconfiguration to be implemented in 2005/06. A public hearing will be held during which the Board will receive comments from the community concerning the proposed configuration program. Thirty to forty configurations were considered with four presented to the Board in June. At this point, the proposed reconfiguration is only a recommendation, no final decision has been made. Input from this evening will assist the Board in making their decision. Programs for Choice Schools are yet to be determined. A timeline has been set for a Board work session on September 22 to discuss further the recommendation and community input, with a vote on October 22.

President Paul requested a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board.

Annie Christie moved and Mary-Jane Rattner seconded the motion that the Regular Meeting of the Board adjourn and a Public Hearing be declared open. Voice Vote: 7 ayes; 0 nays. Motion carried.

The Regular Meeting closed at 7:25 p.m. and the Public Hearing commenced.

Public Hearing

Dr. Yomtoob reviewed student growth within the District and steps taken to meet the needs of students. The overview included the \$39.5 million referendum, community meetings/focus groups held to gain input concerning the future for the district. Analysis of all input from these meetings was made resulting in four proposed plans presented to the Board in June, with one recommended to the Board in August. Dr. Zook reviewed the proposed reconfiguration plan, noting the guiding principles used in making this recommendation and also expansion of choices already in place.

President Paul requested those wishing to address the Board to come forward.

Mike Meline, 1706 Locke, stated his concern with the proposed increase in size of the Option School, adding a 50% increase is not falling within the guiding principles of keeping the Option School small.

Donna Gaidamak, 315 Alexandria, stated she hoped programs, such as Flip, will be replicated at both campuses. She also questioned if only the addition to the Kindergarten Building would be utilized by Option South.

Thea Trbojevic, 270 Montclair Rd., questioned if programs such as gifted, special education, learning disabilities would be available at both campuses.

Judy Fisher, 217 Tally Ho Dr., stated concerns that with the reconfiguration the Dual Language Program would be segregated into a separate building, pulling students away from their friends and no longer integrating dual language students with other students outside their program. With the proposed reconfiguration, there is the possibility of families with more than one child attending schools at separate campuses. Jim Tagye, 209 Abilene, questioned if the Dual Language Program could be held at both campuses. Danette Boehm, 1057 Concord Circle, stated she feels with the Dual Language Program being placed at one campus it will foster a segregation of community. Deanna Dinelli, 314 Richmond Ln., stated parents made a 3 to 4 year commitment in the Dual Language Program with the district's commitment to integrate these students with other traditional education students in the building. The proposal is in direct contrast to the original agreement between parents and district. Children would be segregated and not integrated with their neighborhood friends within the same school. Brenda Wood, 213 Melody Ln., stated her disappointment in communication concerning this proposal adding the information was unclear. She does not like the fact that the Dual Language Program will not be located on both campuses and is opposed to the segregation of children. Amy Lebovitz, 339 Haddon Cr., stated with two children in the Dual Language Program, she feels the district is dictating where their child will attend school, should they remain in this program. This no longer becomes a choice, and fears parents will drop their child from the program due to the location and numbers of students within a class. Jodi Hernandez, 1329 Derby Ln., Mundelein, is from a multi-cultural family. The Dual Language Program offers her child the opportunity to interact with children of their family's culture and others. She is concerned about the segregation of students and also extra-curricular activities (band, sports) that would be made available to students at the North Campus. Charles Beiro, 211 Melody Ln., stated his older daughter could not be in a foreign language program as it was not available to her until junior high. His other daughter will be segregated from her sister in Dual Language Program. Lynn Rawson, 328 E. Donnelley Pl., currently has a child attending first grade. There is an implied segregation because he will not be attending the same schools as his neighbor friends.

Trish Ackerman, 1123 Tamarack Ln., Libertyville, requested information as to what the projected operating expenses would be with three new buildings in the district.

Tom Conway, 202 Abilene, stated foreign language should be available to all children in the district. He questioned the cost of busing students to both campuses.

Jim Lesch added increasing the Option School by 50% changes the atmosphere designed for the school. He would have two Middle School students in the Option School. Are they automatically assigned to the North Campus or is there a choice? He does not have a child in the dual language program, but it seems there is an awful lot of focus on the Spanish language when there are many other languages within our community. We need to focus not only on a language issue, but educating students in all skills.

Brandy Counselbaum, 1109 Whitman Pl., feels the proposed renovation of the Middle School will not be sufficient as the design still lacks windows in the middle.

Mark Lickteaste, 111 Austin Ct., suggested eliminating the Option School and incorporating it into a new choice school. Communication from the Board is unclear. For example, terms such as, best practices, innovations, smaller learning communities, flexible grouping, multi-age classrooms, looping, learning styles to meet the needs of all students, traditional method of teaching are incorporated into the reconfiguration school descriptions. Also, the foreign language options at the Middle School and Junior High are not specifically stated. Information provided to parents is not sufficiently concise to make a logical decision. Further, what if the available "choices" overload a building due to the choice of school made? He also voiced his concern of having his child bused across Route 60.

Catherine Peterson, 425 W. Camargo Ct., is very excited with the choices available to students at Hawthorn. She currently has three children attending the District, each at a different campus. This is a very positive experience for her

children. Julie Zesman, 633 W. Sycamore, commended the Board for their work and also for the choices available to families in this district. Everyone can now decide what is important to them and their child in education.

Debra Nelson, 1681 N. Locke Ln., stated the random phone survey being conducted may show skewed results. Some questions, such as if the Middle School building is appropriate for a Junior High, were not even asked. In two years her oldest son will be in 6th grade, where would he and others attend for a traditional program if the Aspen Junior High is at capacity?

Ann Foley, 300 Richard Pl., stated research shows the earlier a child learns a foreign language, the better they succeed. By allowing all these choices, we have lost the neighborhood schools. The North Middle School students will not have the opportunity to experience Arts & Technology, as provided in the Aspen Junior High. She also stated her concern with bus transportation.

Janice Hickman, 300 Meredith Pl., stated over the years, many families of the district had children attend schools on different campuses. They come home to the same house and friends at night. What is important, parental convenience or educational programs? She commended the Board for their work and choices available to students of this district.

Anne Hoffman, 209 Albert Dr., stated she is proud to be part of this community and has great faith in this district. All changes in the past have had a positive impact on her children.

Dr. Yomtoob stated most comments during this hearing related to the Dual Language Program and Option School. A future meeting will be held with parents from these programs to further discuss what best can be accomplished for these students.

Close of Public Hearing -- Reconvene Regular Meeting

At the request of President Paul, Annie Christie moved and Jose Hernandez seconded the motion to close the Public Hearing and reconvene the Regular Meeting of the Board. Voice Vote: 7 ayes; 0 nays. Motion carried.

The Public Hearing closed at 8:35 p.m. with President Paul calling a 15 minute recess.

President Paul called the Regular Meeting to order at 8:56 p.m.

Student and Staff Accomplishments, Recognitions

There were no matters of this nature on the agenda.

Staff Presentations

There were no matters of this nature on the agenda.

Consent Agenda

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

09/03.22	Meeting Minutes, Closed Session, 8/19/2003
09/03.23	Meeting Minutes, Closed Session 8/23/2003
09/03.24	Meeting Minutes, Regular Session 8/25/2003 (as corrected)
09/03.25	Treasurer's Report - July 2003

Annie Christie moved and Mary-Jane Rattner seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda items, as presented. Voice Vote: 6 ayes; 0 nays; 1 abstention (Tim Shanahan). Motion carried.

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Action Items

Building Permit/Sprinkler System

President Paul called for a motion for approval of a Resolution required for application for a building permit.

09/03.26 Annie Christie moved and Jose Hernandez seconded the motion that the Hawthorn Board of Education approve the Resolution for the building permit and application for the sprinkler system for the new district office. Voice Vote: 7 ayes; 0 nays. Motion carried.

Award of Construction Bid Release #GH1

President Paul requested a motion for awarding of Bid #GH1, encompassing the Route 60 road cut, turn lane and deceleration lane for buses to access Hawthorn's property.

09/03.27 Annie Christie moved and Mary-Jane Rattner seconded the motion that the Hawthorn Board of Education award the bid on Bid Release #GH1 to Alliance Contractors for \$111,787.90. Voice Vote: 7 ayes; 0 nays. Motion carried.

Sale of Land

To finalize the permit process for the Rt. 60 road cut, it is necessary for the State of Illinois to own the land under the deceleration lane. All but 5 feet wide by 400 feet long is currently owned by the state. Therefore, the Board is requested to approve a resolution and related paperwork to sell the "sliver of land" to the State of Illinois for \$10.00.

09/03.28 Jayson Tran moved and Annie Christie seconded the motion that the Board of Education of Hawthorn CC School District #73 approve the attached resolution and paperwork to sell a sliver of land to the State of Illinois in order to obtain the permit for the road cut and deceleration lane off Rt. 60 into Hawthorn's property. Roll Call: Jayson Tran, Annie Christie, Tim Shanahan, Jose Hernandez, Mary-Jane Rattner, Bill Coli and Rich Paul voted aye. 7 ayes; 0 nays. Motion carried.

President's Report

There were no matters of this nature on the agenda.

Superintendent's Report

There were no matters of this nature on the agenda.

Discussion Items

There were no matters of discussion to come before the Board.

Committee Reports

There were no matters of this nature on the agenda.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business to come before the Board.

New Business

Appointment of SEDOL Representative

President Paul requested a motion to name a SEDOL Representative for the District.

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Jose Hernandez moved and Annie Christie seconded the motion that Tim Shanahan be named SEDOL Representative for the Board of Education of Hawthorn District 73. Voice Vote: 7 ayes; 0 nays. Motion carried.

Election of Vice President of the Board

Due to the resignation of Jim Batson, President Paul opened nominations to fill the vacancy of Vice President. Annie Christie nominated Bill Coli with Mary-Jane Rattner seconding same. Hearing no further nominations, President Paul declared nominations closed.

President Paul requested a voice vote to elect Bill Coli, Vice President of the Board of Education of Hawthorn District 73. 7 ayes; 0 nays.

Announcements

There were no matters 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.

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

The Board adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Richard Paul, President

Mary-Jane Rattner, Secretary