

Hawthorn Board of Education

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MINUTES REGULAR BOARD MEETING HAWTHORN BOARD OF EDUCATION SEPTEMBER 22, 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 22nd day of September, 2003.

The meeting was called to order by Rich Paul, President, at 7:30 p.m., and upon the roll being called, the following members of the Board of Education answered present: Jayson Tran, Tim Shanahan, Jose Hernandez, Annie Christie, Mary-Jane Rattner, Bill Coli and Rich Paul.

Adjournment of Regular Meeting for Public Hearing

Mr. Paul requested a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting for purposes of holding a Public Hearing.

09/03.30(A) Annie Christie moved and Bill Coli seconded the motion that the Regular Board Meeting be closed and that the Hearing of the Budget for 2003-04 be open to the public, and that the Publisher's Affidavit of Publication of the Notice of the Public Hearing be made part of the official Minutes of the Board of Education of Hawthorn School District 73. Voice Vote: 7 ayes; 0 nays. Motion carried.

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Public Hearing of 2003-04 Budget

Dr. Yomtoob shared the summary of the 2003-04 budget, comparing same with 2002-03, with all fund balances projected to be in balance as of the end of fiscal year 2003-04. Mr. Hahn further summarized materials provided to the Board. The Education Fund budget includes 4-1/2 new full-time teachers, employed to keep pace with rising enrollment. Salaries increased 4%, consistent with the teachers' contract, benefits increased 14%, and the state increase for Teachers' Retirement System is .5%. Sedol reflects an 11% increase, with a future credit coming directly to the District. Consumer Price Index Revenues increased 2.4%, generating tax revenue. Relating to state grants, the State is still working through these matters. The District received \$74,000 more from State Aid and \$93,000 from Title I grant funding. The following grants would be reduced as follows: \$200,000 Special Education, \$30,000 Gifted Education, \$40,000 ADA Safety, \$60,000 Bilingual. The Reading grant added \$20,000 and a second Bilingual Grant will be increased by \$148,000. There is an approximate overall \$15,000 net gain in grant revenues.

There will be a \$3 million surplus in the Education Fund, a good part of which is due to the cash flow from last year's taxes having been received during the current fiscal year. The \$1.7 million for the new District Office will be borrowed from the District. Concerning the Equalized Assessed Value (EAV) of taxed properties within the district, 66% of that amount is based on new construction and 33% on increased value of existing homes. Further discussion was held concerning the tax cap and the history of such law. As an example, if an existing home increased 10% in value, the District could only receive an increase of 2.4% in tax revenue on that property. New construction is taxed assessed at a higher rate the current market value. The current district tax rate is lower than what voters approved in 1995.

Last year, the Transportation Fund was in deficit and has a projected 2003-04 balance of \$22,000. The District will be reviewing this fund and bus routes during the course of the year. Relative to the 11% increase in Special Education District of Lake County (SEDOL) spending, the District cannot anticipate the number of children who will come to our District requiring special needs. A special needs student could add an additional \$10,000 to \$35,000 expense a year, not including transportation. When this occurs, and the District transports this child to a SEDOL facility, the additional costs of that one child, or possibly more, add up quickly.

Close of Public Hearing - Reconvene Regular Meeting

Mr. Paul requested a motion to close the Public Hearing of the 2003-04 Budget and reconvene the Board's Regular Meeting.

09/03.30(B) Mary-Jane Rattner moved and Annie Christie seconded the motion to close the Public Hearing of the 2003-04 budget and reconvene the Regular Meeting of the Board. Voice Vote: 7 ayes; 0 nays. Motion carried.

The Public Hearing closed at 8:05 p.m. with the board reconvening its Regular Meeting immediately.

Public Comment Period

There were no matters of this nature on the agenda.

Student and Staff Accomplishments/Recognitions

i-Safe Program

Bob Hudson reported Hawthorn has been selected by the State of Illinois as the roll-out site for the i-Safe Program, a non-profit organization funded through a Department of Juvenile Justice grant. The program's purpose is to create a curriculum to raise community awareness about internet safety for children. Our District provides a safe environment for its students while using the internet, and we wish to raise awareness in the homes of our community members about some of the very limited dangers that exist with unmonitored and unlimited internet activity. On October 2, a full-day professional activity will be held for approximately 70 individuals from around the state. An evening meeting, focusing on junior high parents, will be held to introduce them to this program. The roll-out for junior high students will begin October 3, with 1 teacher and 1 administrator serving as building coordinators of the program. This program is a means to ensure the safety of our children when using the internet, both in the school and outside its boundaries. We are very honored to have been selected as the only site in the State of Illinois to start this valuable program.

Crisis Plan Booklet

Joy Kane showcased the district's Crisis Plan booklet, which provides every staff member specific procedures in times of crisis. The booklet provides areas for page inserts, allowing each building the opportunity to include specific instructions developed by their building's Crisis Team.

Staff Presentations

Dr. Benjamin provided a review of the district's activities this past year in the implementation of the Bernstein Artful Learning Model and Hawthorn Learning System. He commended the Board for its goal of 100% success for all students, for supporting its staff in professional development, community involvement and responsible moves towards reconfiguration of the district. The staff has worked on what people are doing to improve achievement levels for students. The next step is how to improve learning achievement with task forces and action teams being formed to ensure we do not uproot successful programs already in place at Hawthorn. A Hawthorn case study was developed which reflected where the district currently is in achievement. Hawthorn's staff has emerged to a leadership position in the Bernstein Artful Learning Model.

Consent Agenda

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

09/03.31	Special Meeting Minutes, 9/4/2003
09/03.32	Closed Session Minutes, 9/4/2003
09/03.33	Regular Session Minutes, 9/8/2003
09/03.34	Treasurer's Report - August 2003
09/03.35	Expenditure Report - September 2003
09/03.36	Personnel Report: (A) Leave of absence of one certificated staff member, Michelle Pogachnik, 5th grade teacher, Middle School; (B & C) approval of change in position of two certificated staff members: Diane Motley, Kindergarten and Cheryl Sanks, Kindergarten.

Annie Christie moved and Jose Hernandez seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda items, as presented. Roll Call: Annie Christie, Jose Hernandez, Jayson Tran, Tim Shanahan, Mary-Jane Rattner, Bill Coli and Rich Paul voted aye. 7 ayes; 0 nays. Motion carried.

Action Items

Adoption of 2003-04 Budget

Mr. Paul requested a motion to adopt the 2003-04 budget for the District.

09/03.37 Bill Coli moved and Mary-Jane Rattner seconded the motion that the Board of Education adopt the budget for Hawthorn School District 73 for the fiscal year July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004, as read by the Director of Finance and Business Operations. Roll Call: Bill Coli, Mary-Jane Rattner, Jayson Tran, Tim Shanahan, Jose Hernandez, Annie Christie, and Rich Paul voted aye. 7 ayes; 0 nays. Motion carried.

President's Report

There were no items of this nature on the agenda.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Joe provided a recap of the recent parent survey conducted through the random sampling of 200 parents of the district. The survey shows valid results and will be shared at the next meeting when the Board discusses reconfiguration. The Board has not made a final decision concerning reconfiguration. Referencing the telephone survey, Mr. Paul added an error factor of plus or minus 6 points was incorporated into the results. He was pleased to see that 71% of those surveyed responded they had heard or read about the reconfiguration plan, an indication that the District is getting information out to the community and that it is read by same. It is critical the Board keep in mind what is important to our parents -- that being, education.

Discussion Items

There were no matters of this nature on the agenda.

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

There was no new business to come before the Board.

Announcements

There were no matters of this nature on the agenda.

Informational Items

Items were made available to the Board for informational purposes.

Adjournment

Mr. Paul requested a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting and reconvene as a Committee of the Whole.

Annie Christie moved and Mary-Jane Rattner seconded the motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board and reconvene as a Committee of the Whole. Voice Vote: 7 ayes; 0 nays. Motion carried.

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard Paul, President

Mary-Jane Rattner, Secretary