

Hawthorn Board of Education

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MINUTES REGULAR BOARD MEETING HAWTHORN BOARD OF EDUCATION JANUARY 26, 2004

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 26th day of January, 2004.

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.

Rich Paul recognized Jim Batson, who will head a committee to develop a framework of proposed names for schools within the District. Mr. Batson has researched various themes used throughout the nation in naming schools and in February will present a list of suggestions to the committee with further ideas being requested. Feedback from community, staff and students will be received during March with final proposals open for public comment in April. A recommendation will be brought to the Board April 26. Mr. Shanahan will serve as a member of this committee.

Public Comment Period

There were no matters of this nature on the agenda.

Student and Staff Accomplishments/Recognitions

There were no matters of this nature on the agenda.

Staff Presentations

Student Achievement

Continuing the presentation from the January 12 meeting, Mr. Sigler and Mr. Ahlemeyer presented information relative to the staff's use of the Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) data (Intermediate Indicators) in grades 5 - 8. In 2002-03 baseline information was provided to staff on what the MAP test is, how it is different from past local tests and how MAP tests would be administered to students. This was a first for teachers and students to experience computerized tests. Prior to this, teachers were not accustomed to testing students in the fall and spring, nor were test results available immediately. Grades 5-8 offer different dynamics for administering tests.

This year staff will be trained in the use of MAP data. In October, teacher facilitators were trained on how to interpret and use MAP data, with facilitators and administration continuing to work with small groups of staff within buildings during the year. MAP scores were distributed to teachers by team and/or class period; scores are provided initially in alphabetical order. Learning continuum packets, a most powerful resource, were explained to teachers and instruction provided as to how they relate to scores and can be used to differentiate instruction. Detailed examples were distributed for viewing by the Board with an explanation of process provided. An example of an individual student MAP score sheet was explained as well as RIT and Lexile scores. Graphic organizers were demonstrated for teachers to look at each class by subject and strands within each subject, aiding in grouping strategies, differentiated instruction and goal setting within the classroom. The meaning and use of Lexile scores were explained to staff as well as the use of the Lexile web site and how this relates to selection of materials. Parents can also use the Lexile number on the report and enter it into the web site to obtain appropriate reading material for their child at home. A format was developed for teachers to use MAP scores when conferencing with students for goal setting purposes.

During our third year of MAP use (2004-05), a system will be created within meeting structures for staff to utilize data on a regular basis. They noted this is only one test on one day. There are many ways to look at student performance..

January 26, 2004

Page Two

Mary-Jane Rattner stated we need to make sure that parents understand the reading of student reports so that they can be aware of their child's performance standings. Dr. Yomtoob complimented all teachers, administrators and the technology department. We were the second district in Lake County to adopt this testing program. There are now over 20 districts in Lake County utilizing MAP testing.

Consent Agenda

Rich Paul entertained questions concerning items contained in the Consent Agenda. Hearing none, he requested a motion.

01/04.68	Regular Meeting Minutes, 1/12/04
01/04.69	Treasurer's Report - December 2003
01/04.70	Expenditures Report - January 2004
01/04.71	Personnel Report: Retirement of three certificated staff members - (A) Allan Nielson, Jr., 8th grade Study Skills, Junior High; (B) June Wiech, Art Teacher, Elementary South and (C) Janet Bertucci, 7th grade Language Arts/Social Studies, Junior High.

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

Action Items

Asbestos Removal Bid

The Board was provided bid information for removal of asbestos used in the floor tile glue from specific areas in the Middle and Option Schools. This is not asbestos that floats in the air. Due to many regulations, a removal contract is required. As the project moves forward, we are required to perform an asbestos abatement. Mr. Hahn reviewed the nine bids, requesting acceptance of the lowest bid from Mamax Corporation, reflecting a \$28,000 savings from the estimated budget amount. TEM, Inc., the District's asbestos engineer, has a very favorable working relationship with this company. Removal will occur during spring break. Rich Paul entertained a motion.

01/04.72 Annie Christie moved and Jose Hernandez seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the lowest and best bid from Mamax Corporation of \$69,000.00 for the asbestos removal bid for Middle and Option Schools in TEM Project #38790. Voice Vote: 7 ayes; 0 nays. Motion carried.

Award of Construction Bid Trade Packages

The Board reviewed bids submitted January 8 for the summer renovation work to the Middle School and minor work in North Elementary, South Elementary and the Kindergarten buildings. Tim Bickert, Sr. Project Manager, referred to his accompanying letter incorporating a summary including the project budget and recommendations of bids and alternates to be accepted. He added over 100 bids were received with the bid timing for this summer work resulting in very aggressive bidding. Rich Paul requested a motion.

01/04.74 Jayson Tran moved and Bill Coli seconded the motion that the Board of Education of Hawthorn School District #73 award contracts to the successful bidders of the Upgrade Bid Release C for renovation work per the attached letter from IHC. Voice Vote: 7 ayes; 0 nays. Motion carried.

Following such action, Tim Bickert provided an update on projects noting site work is 90% completed as well as the right turn lane from Route 60, which buses are already utilizing. The Kindergarten building upgrades were just approved with contracts going out in a week. Some of this work will occur over spring break with the work on the gym going on in May. The new North Elementary bids will be accepted in February. The new District Office is enclosed, the roof is on, and concrete floors poured. Almost all stud work is up and mechanical work is under way. All projects are well on time. The Kindergarten addition is going well with a majority of structural work complete. Mechanical work is in progress with no delivery problems. Most windows are installed with roof work continuing, as weather permits.

At 8:50 p.m., Rich Paul called a five minute recess of the Board, with the meeting reconvening at 8:55 p.m.

Bond Issue

Dr. Yomtoob state in November 2002, the community approved a \$39.5 million bond referendum, from which the District has sold a face value of \$26.5 million, yielding, due to interest rates, \$39.5. The approved referendum authorized a face value of \$39.5 million. We promised the community the rate would never exceed 35.5 cents, and we will continue to keep that promise. The District is building two buildings at \$34.5 million. The variable would be for technology and cost of renovating buildings. A overwhelming list from architects and engineers was developed, causing the list to be cut. The District looked at other sources of revenue, such as building funds and impact fees. If we have two 6-8 buildings, we must spend more to renovate the Middle School. We will be able to finance all these items (technology, furniture, landscaping, etc). The District is fortunate that our EAV increased sufficiently so we will may work with our bond company to purchase additional bonds remaining from the 2002 referendum. The Board was provided financial information reflecting funding sources and uses as of January 16, 2003 plus added changes in income and uses resulting in a balance required as January 26, 2004 of \$13,500,000.

Bob Hudson provided an overview of technology needs to include enhancing learning for our students and optimizing operations within the district (\$2.2 million infrastructure and \$2.4 million computers).

Bill Coli asked what the incremental gain would be for this investment in technology with Mr. Hudson responding the District would have the one-to-one flexibility for teachers and students in technology usage. The learning need will determine the investment needs. Jose Hernandez stated the requested items on the operations list is the infrastructure to make it possible to improve and provide technology needs in the District. We are asking to borrow \$4.6 million for technology for use in the future and asked for more specifics concerning further expenditures in this area. Rich Paul stated the issue at hand is a \$13.5 million bond issue, the remainder of the \$39.5 million bond referendum approved by the voters in November 2002. The question is now how we are going to spend \$2.5 million on technology, but how are we going to finance our technology program over the next five years. Bob Hudson added there are certain things that are non negotiable; we must be with this age for operations, we must take advantage of our construction timeline to build in the capacity that will support us for many years to come. We want to make sure that it is the learning driving technology and not the other way around. Rich Paul added what they are asking us to do is through this bond sale, put money in the District's checkbook so the Board, in the future, can appropriate expenditures in future years' budgets.

Rich Paul further stated the \$39.5 million bond referendum approved by voters reflects face value amounts. We have issued \$26.5 million. The bond issue presented this evening has a face value of \$7.5 million, yielding, due to par value and interest rates of bonds, \$13.5 million. Mr. Raymond Coine, of Hutchinson, Shockey, Erley & Co., explained the timing of this bond sale, the interest of investors for said bonds, and lowering interest rates makes this a favorable time for sale of these bonds. A total of \$53 million would be yielded from the first and present bond issue, due to interest rates being lower.

The renovation budget for the Middle School was addressed as well as renovation to other buildings, which a portion of this requested bond sale will fund. Annie Christie requested that we postpone acting on this matter until the next meeting. Mr. Coine responded that a two week wait may have implications -- interest rates could move causing a lower rate of return on the sale. Also, interested investors would be reluctant to sign up to purchase bonds. Mr. Coli felt holding off for two weeks would not change anyone's vote.

Tim Shanahan questioned if the District's EAV does not continue to increase, what would we do? Dr. Yomtoob stated the average increase has been 8.03%. The cap does not play a role in the bond issue. Further, the bonds can be restructured during the repayment term by accelerating or slowing payments according to the needs of the district. The bond debt is extended through 2022.

President Paul entertained a motion:

01/04.73 Jose Hernandez moved and Jayson Tran seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve all the attached documents and resolutions to raise \$13,500,000 in proceeds by the sale of bonds authorized in the 2002 referendum.

Prior to the roll call, Mr. Coli stated it was his personal opinion that the process presented has been poorly planned. It was his perception and that of the voters that the District would be borrowing \$39.5 million; it is now

\$53 million. He cannot support such an action as he feels he would be going against his word to the community. Annie Christie concurred. Rich Paul stated they misunderstood the process of bond sales. Tim Shanahan stated he thought \$39.5 million would cover costs, however, we will keep with our 35.5 cents promise and fulfill the request of the community to renovate the Middle School and improve others.

Rich Paul called for a roll call to the motion.

Roll Call: Jose Hernandez, Jayson Tran, Tim Shanahan, Mary-Jane Rattner and Rich Paul voted aye. Bill Coli and Annie Christie voted no. 5 ayes; 2 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

Discussion items were held for a future meeting.

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

Rich Paul requested a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting.

Annie Christie moved and Tim Shanahan seconded the motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Voice Vote: 7 ayes; 0 nays. Motion carried.

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard Paul, President
Secretary

Mary-Jane Rattner,