

Hawthorn Board of Education

201 Hawthorn Parkway

Vernon Hills, Illinois 60061

Phone (847) 990-4200

MINUTES REGULAR BOARD MEETING HAWTHORN BOARD OF EDUCATION FEBRUARY 9, 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 9th day of February, 2004.

The meeting was called to order by Rich Paul, President, at 7:35 p.m., and upon the roll being called, the following members of the Board of Education answered present: Jayson Tran, Tim Shanahan, Jose Hernandez, Mary-Jane Rattner, Bill Coli and Rich Paul. Absent: Annie Christie.

Public Comment Period

There were no matters of this nature on the agenda.

Student and Staff Accomplishments/Recognitions

Dr. Yomtoob stated 36 schools in the United States are Bernstein Artful Learning Schools, all of which are supported through the Grammy Foundation. Last weekend in Los Angeles, the Grammy Foundation presented a special award to Hawthorn recognizing our leadership as a Level II Bernstein School.

Staff Presentations

Middle School Teaching and Learning Goals and Action Plan

Mr. Sigler distributed information relative to the Middle School's 2003-04 Action Plan to include demographic data, the Action Plan and copies of Whole Faculty Group Newsletters noting how staff development activities are progressing within the school. Eleven key action items are included which illustrate the school's focus on continuous student learning, productive learning environment, teacher leadership and a financially responsible school which values communication. The Action Plan was developed in the spring of 2003, allowing the opportunity for staff development over the course of the summer. Teacher leadership is a key to success within the school with the Middle School having facilitators for training in 6-Traits, UbD, MAP and Bernstein.

Phyllis Townsley provided an overview of the Writing Lab, the focus of which is to teach expository writing through the use of 6 Traits activities and technology. 6 Traits is all about revision in categories; stages of writing from pre-writing to final copy were explained as well as computer programs utilized and instructed to students. Throughout the process, students are instructed in topics, organization of work, subtopics, graphics to illustrate topic, sentence structure and editing to achieve a final product. Throughout the 6 Traits process, students utilize a common language, consistency in assessment and the "how to" process students require to revise their work. In technology, word processing, organizational, graphics, language checks, expository writing and presentation skills are acquired by the student.

Bill Spangle reported on the role of data at the Middle School. The Board has charged schools with a continuous growth and progress for all students. The Middle School teachers have taken advantage of MAP Testing data to assist students. Existing data is organized prior to fall MAP testing. Following testing, challenged students are identified, and their scores are compared to previous data which assist in placement in one or more of the Middle School's programs. Data must be compared by teachers to the student. Identified students may be put into the SOAR Reading or RAP (math) Program. Winter MAP testing is administered to only previously identified students to determine if adjustment may need to be made in their program. Personalized MAP data reports were reviewed which tracks the progress of students in various areas. RIT score usage was also reviewed. Through teachers' review of data, flexible grouping of students can be adjusted throughout the year to meet the needs of challenged students. In the spring, MAP and ISAT tests will be administered, with results interpreted in May for student recommendations for the 2004-05 school year.

February 9, 2004

Page Two

Following the spring testing cycle, the Middle School would like to track the data to determine if students will perform well in ISAT testing. Mr. Sigler added, what is more critical is how teachers use and implement this data and parents utilize information and programs.

Improved communication has been experienced through implementation of the Homework Hotline and Middle School Website. The website currently includes the Accelerated Reader Program by reading level. Parents can also link to the lexile site and match book selections to their child's lexile score.

International Baccalaureate

Dr. Yomtoob stated the District was in search of a philosophy for the new school of choice. After meeting with the Administrative Team and going through the search process, the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) was chosen. This philosophy originated at the high school level and now extends to the middle school and primary levels. All Hawthorn elementary K-5 buildings will have a philosophy of its own: North and South Elementary - Howard Gardner Philosophy; Option School - Glasser Theory of Choice and the new school of choice - International Baccalaureate.

Karen Cencula and Eileen Conway described Hawthorn's "New North" building as a K-5 School of Choice with two classes at each grade level housing the existing dual language program. Three to four additional sections will be added at each grade level (as needed by enrollment). All teachers in this building will be trained in the Bernstein Artful Learning Model. The school will be guided by the philosophy of the International Baccalaureate Organization which focuses on the development of the whole child, in the classroom, but also in the world outside. The program provides an opportunity for learners to construct meaning through concept-driven inquiry. It focuses on the heart as well as the mind (attitudes and actions) and addresses social, physical, emotional, and cultural needs as well as academic. IBO was chosen due to its strong connections to language and culture, the strengths of our dual language program. It is driven by inquiry, the core of the Bernstein Artful Learning Model. It is also focused on the depth of understanding utilizing important concepts and big ideas, the basis of UbD.

The curriculum delivery system will be similar to other buildings, using the inquiry approach to learning through Bernstein. Students will have the opportunity to receive services through a Learning Center approach, similar to Option School. Related Arts classes will include PE, music, art and Spanish (a pilot program). The media/resource center will be available for student and teacher use throughout the day. Classrooms may also choose to use flexible grouping, looping, multi-age, multiple intelligences, or other best practices. In conjunction with the Bernstein Model, the Primary Years Program's philosophy is a commitment to structured inquiry as the leading vehicle for learning. Six transdisciplinary themes provide the framework for the exploration of knowledge: (1) who we are; (2) where we are in place and time; (3) how we express ourselves; (4) how the world works; (5) how we organize ourselves and (6) sharing the planet. These six transdisciplinary themes have a direct connection to UbD; they are essential questions. Students explore subject areas through these themes in ways that often transcend conventional subject boundaries. Attributes of a student experiencing an education in an IBO include: inquirers, thinkers, communicators, risk-takers (approaching unfamiliar situations without anxiety), knowledgeable, principled, caring, open-minded, well-balanced and reflective. The school will create a climate that provides culture, diversity and active modeling.

In summary, IBO provides a unique philosophy that is closely aligned to the goals of Hawthorn School District. It incorporates the dual language program, the Bernstein Artful Learning Model and UbD, programs already in existence in the district.

Jayson Tran asked if it is a goal for the "New North" school to become an authorized IBO school, with Dr. Yomtoob responding yes, which is a four to five year process. He also stated the Option School will begin the application process to become a Quality School under the Glasser Program and the K-5 Elementary North and South Schools a certified Howard Gardner School of Intelligence. Pertaining to Mr. Coli's question concerning costs involved with the IBO, Dr. Yomtoob stated all children will be successful in Hawthorn Schools. Concerning funding for the IBO Program, all schools are allocated funds per the number of students in the building. The "New North" building will receive funding on the same basis, and its administrators to work with its staff to accomplish their goals. Dr. Zook added the IBO provides structure with a national network of support resources to move our students in the correct direction.

February 9, 2004
Page Three

Candidate schools require training which can be performed in-house. District building staff development funds can be allocated toward this training. Later, mentor consultants come in for ongoing help and support.

Jayson Tran questioned transition of elementary students to the middle schools with Dr. Zook stating all three philosophies could be provided at the middle schools by use of "schools within a school." There would be a challenge for dual language students to support their on-going language development at the middle school level. Numbers at middle school could increase if there was interest in participating in the IBO program. Dr. Yomtoob added we must also work with the high school regarding this program. Mary-Jane Rattner voiced her concern in dividing students at the middle school level into separate philosophical groups. The community may also share the same concern. Mr. Coli questioned if the application process to the IBO program would be the same as Option, a lottery process. Karen Cencula added they are searching for families who feel they are open to their children developing through this type of program. Communication to parents is essential in explaining the program so that a knowledgeable choice can be made. Jayson Tran questioned the possible piloting of Spanish to students not enrolled in the Dual Language Program. Mrs. Cencula stated if this works, the school would find new ways of getting there.

Consent Agenda:

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

- 02/04.75 Release of Closed Meeting Minutes of August 18, 2003, August 23, 2003 and September 4, 2003
- 02/04.76 Meeting Minutes, Closed Session, January 18, 2004
- 02/04.77 Meeting Minutes, Special Session, January 18, 2004
- 02/04.78 Meeting Minutes, Closed Session, January 26, 2004
- 02/04.79 Meeting Minutes, Regular Session, January 26, 2004
- 02/04.80 Meeting Minutes, Public Hearing, January 28, 2004

Jose Hernandez moved and Jayson Tran seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda items, as presented. Voice Vote: 6 ayes; 0 nays. Motion carried.

Action Items

Building Permit

Alan Hahn presented a resolution and application for building permits for the major renovation work in the Middle School and minor work at the Kindergarten, North and South Elementary buildings this summer. The State of Illinois has delegated authority for approval of construction and renovation building permits to the Regional Superintendent's Office. Said renovation encompasses less than 50% of total square footage of all district buildings, or 91,000 sq. ft. He recommended approval of the resolution and application.

- 02/04.81 Tim Shanahan moved and Mary-Jane Rattner seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the attached resolution and application for building permits for the Bid Release C renovation work for the summer 2004 renovation work at the Middle, Kindergarten, South Elementary and North Elementary school buildings. Voice Vote: 6 ayes; 0 nays. Motion carried.

President's Report

There were no matters of this nature on the agenda.

Superintendent's Report

The Board of Education held a public hearing January 28, 2004 for purposes of discussion concerning the proposed 2004-05 legal holiday waivers. Two community members were in attendance and presented good questions. In response, Dr. Yomtoob stated the proposed holidays will not be waived permanently. Also, due to this change in the school calendar, the request has been made for the district to make arrangements with the After School Club to
February 9, 2004
Page Four

accommodate families and their children on these holidays. Students celebrating the holiday with their family and not attending school will receive an excused absence for these waived holidays.

PTO Playground Donation

Dr. Yomtoob reported to date, the PTO has donated for purposes of district playgrounds a total of \$33,887.00. Their dedication and donations are appreciated.

Discussion Items

The discussion item was 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 and convene as a Committee of the Whole - Finance Committee.

Jose Hernandez moved and Mary-Jane Rattner seconded the motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Voice Vote: 6 ayes; 0 nays. Motion carried.

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard Paul, President
Secretary

Mary-Jane Rattner,