

Hawthorn Board of Education

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MINUTES REGULAR BOARD MEETING HAWTHORN BOARD OF EDUCATION FEBRUARY 23, 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 23rd day of February, 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.

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

Junior High School Report

John Ahlemeyer, administration and representatives of Junior High faculty showcased student learning, opportunities, and teacher learning. Joy Mullaney, Assistant Principal, introduced Dave Brown, 7/8th grade science teacher and facilitator of Hawthorn Habitat, a student program generated through student leadership to help students, teachers and community bond together for a common goal. The program's goal is to develop Sara Elms, Junior High student, stated the program is building momentum throughout the District with assistance from Student Council and National Junior Honor Society, with the desire to further the project through community involvement. Students are seeking funding through grants as well as fundraisers and have already obtained the assistance of professional landscapers for guidance in design and plantings. Phase I of the project will require approximately \$1,500 - \$2,000 to cover the cost of the student garden and memorial Hawthorn Tree. Future phases will include pathways, shrubs, additional gardens and benches. Students are involved in the planning and implementation of all phases. Contributions to this program can be directed to Hawthorn Habitat at the Junior High. Landscaping plans for this garden will be on the Junior High website. Dr. Yomtoob stated future presentations will be made to the Board by the Habitat students as project plans progress. He added he is very proud of the dedication and efforts of these students.

Measures of Academic Progress

Joy Mullaney reported 8th grade Math RIT scores increased 7 points from Fall 2002 to 2003. The expected math RIT score for 7th grade in Fall 2002 was 221 with 7th graders scoring 230. Expected 8th grade Fall 2003 math RIT was 227 with students scoring 237 this Fall. In Reading, current 8th graders increased 3 RIT points over Fall 2002. Expected 2002 7th graders Reading RIT was 214 with 2002 7th graders scoring 219. Expected 2003 8th graders Reading RIT was 218 with 2003 8th graders scoring 222. Teachers and administration will be reviewing the subgroup data as it pertains to No Child Left Behind.

Teacher Learning - Whole Faculty Study Groups

Dan Schneider, Teaching and Learning Coach, stated two things are needed to increase student learning: (1) multi-age grade levels, and (2) district-wide, state-wide and nation-wide whole faculty study groups. Reflecting on information from the 12 Under 12 Conference, data has proven the core of school improvement is whole faculty study groups. Collaborative professional learning communities are necessary to achieve effective school

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improvement. Schools are social institutions based on relationships, however, teaching is an isolated profession. Whole faculty study groups allow teachers to get out of their classrooms to share strategies of teaching students. The Junior High's faculty study groups ask two questions: (1) What do students need from us? (2) What are students learning and achieving based on our study groups? With these questions in mind and as we look at student work, teachers can almost get inside the heads of students. The Board was provided information pertaining to the Junior High's seven faculty study groups.

District Initiatives - UbD, Data, Writing

John Ahlemeyer stated it is a goal of faculty to combine the premise behind whole faculty study groups and embed what is currently going on with district initiatives over the last two years into the study group concept. UbD is a new way for teachers to look at what and how they are teaching their curriculum, and they have embraced this program.

Life & Needs of Adolescents

Joy Mullaney stated students ages 10 - 15 years of age have unique characteristics, and the Junior High provides a developmentally responsive school with a true Middle School Philosophy. Opportunities available to all students through academic and extracurricular activities were reviewed with approximately 95% of the student body participating in at least one extra-curricular activity. Student recognition awards were reviewed as well as parent communication, much of which is available through the Junior High website. The Junior High currently houses 835 students with faculty and staff managing these high numbers in a very productive manner.

A Look Ahead

Bernstein training of teachers will continue at the Junior High with 8 to 9 teachers already trained and the desire for additional volunteers to be trained in the future. Next year the configuration at the Junior High will remain the same with 2005/06 a transition year and 2006/07 full implementation of the two Middle Schools. This fall, preliminary planning will take place for the two Middle Schools as we will need to be sensitive to the blending of philosophies from the K-5 to 6-8 grades. We must review research of the 6-8 buildings and offer exploratory classes; it is important that students be in teams and have connections to their environment where students feel comfortable going to adults. Dr. Yorntoob added the new configuration has two benefits: (1) students only move once from K-5 to 6-8 and (2) more opportunities for students to become involved in their schools and its activities.

Hawthorn Preservation Committee

Karen Cencula and Erwin Einhorn reported the Committee's purpose is to identify and preserve historical artifacts deemed valuable, before the original building is demolished to make way for the new North building. The committee is comprised of district employees (both present and retired) and current and past students. Committee members have identified items which include, but are not limited to, the historically valuable Worker's Progress Administration (WPA) mural rediscovered in one of the original classrooms, the deer mural in the hallway, slate classroom boards, the Board of Education sign, the 1988 Hawthorn aerial map, bricks from the entrance to the restored classroom in the north area, and items in the display case and on the walls in the Board of Education room. Items from the original west classroom to be preserved and replicated as much as possible in the middle room, on the first floor of the new North Choice School include: corner chalkboard, ledge with curved metal support, radiators, cabinets, trim, one set of doors, cork strips above chalkboards, wood flooring, all hardware and the safe. To preserve these items, classrooms will need to be empty in April and May.

The Committee is planning a "walk through" day, April 18, for those who wish to visit the original building one last time. Special invitations will be sent to former teachers, Board members and residents whose children have passed through the District, but who have maintained contact over the years. Mrs. Ruth Brockman is coordinating this effort.

The preservation of the WPA mural will cost \$16,800, \$4,800 for removal and \$12,000 for conservation and reinstallation. This is the only known WPA art project in this area, with most of them located in Chicago. There will also be a \$50 per month storage fee to store the preserved items until the time arrives to install it in its new location. The Committee is requesting the Board to loan the initial cost of \$4,800 with efforts by the Committee to raise from corporate/individual donations proceeds to cover the entire cost of removal and restoration.

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Dr. Yomtoob stated steps will be taken to seek the requested loan by the Board of Education and suggested the creation of a Hawthorn Historical Foundation to receive donations for such projects both now and in the future.

ISAT & MAP

Dr. Yomtoob stated administration has shared with the Board the Hawthorn Educational System and Learning System which has three components: (1) leading indicators, (2) intermediate indicators and (3) trailing indicators. The District has entered its second year of utilizing the Measures of Academic Progress tests (MAP), an intermediate indicator. Tests are administered in the fall and spring, spring testing being the post test. A chart detailing growth by RIT Mean scores in reading and mathematics was reviewed. Norm RIT scores (expected scores) are not reflective of a national mean score. These scores are provided through NWEA and are based on schools participating in this testing program, demographics of which are not consistent with Hawthorn. Hawthorn currently has a 30% minority enrollment, with other schools throughout the nation incorporated into this mean reflecting typical demographics of 75% - 80% Caucasian. RIT scores from Fall '02, Spring '03 and Fall '03 testing for grades 2-8 were reviewed and compared to the norm RIT scores. Consistent growth was reflected in reading in all grade levels, exceeding expected norms. The same was reflected in math scores. Teachers are being trained in analyzing MAP data to identify and assist challenged students with tailored instruction.

Dr. Yomtoob entered into discussion of ISAT results with the statement if Hawthorn were to focus its next three months of classroom instruction to teaching to the ISAT, Hawthorn's scores would improve. However, this is not a Hawthorn education. ISAT tests have changed over the last three to four years. Questions presented in the ISAT test do not align to state required standards of teaching. A chart reflecting ISAT scores were reviewed with growth of 2-3 points over the previous year reflected in Reading/Writing. The problem with comparing current ISAT test scores to previous (to measure growth) is the comparison is made to a completely different set of students taking the test (i.e., 2nd grade student scores tested in Spring 03 compared to scores of students who were 2nd graders in Spring 02). Mr. Coli asked if it was possible to compare current 8th grade scores to the same student body scores when they were 5th graders and determine the growth. Dr. Yomtoob stated this was possible, however, ISAT tests have changed over years -- the level of difficulty at specific grade levels is not consistent from year to year. Also, the student body of that grade level has changed over the years with families moving in and out of the district. Mr. Coli added he hopes all efforts made by teachers and administration for students through use of leading and intermediate indicators will manifest themselves through improvement in ISAT scores.

Consent Agenda:

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

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| 02/04.81 | Meeting Minutes, Closed Session, February 9, 2004 |
| 02/04.82 | Meeting Minutes, Regular Session, February 9, 2004 |
| 02/04.83 | Expenditures Report - February 2004 |
| 02/04.84 | Personnel Report: Approval of one (1) certificated staff member: (A) Alexis Tomala; Dual-Language Teacher, Grade 4, Elementary North for the school term of 2004/05. |

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

Action Items

Application for Building Permit and Sprinkler System

Dr. Yomtoob stated the resolution and application presented for Board approval incorporates a building permit and sprinkler system for the New North Building, which upon execution will be submitted to the Regional Superintendent's Office. He recommended approval of same.

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| 02/04.85 | Annie Christie moved and Jose Hernandez seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the attached resolution and application for a building permit and sprinkler |
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system for the new North building. Voice Vote: 7 ayes; 0 nays. Motion carried.

President's Report

Rich Paul provided a visual overview of the Bernstein Leadership Conference, sponsored by the Grammy Foundation, which he, Dr. Yomtoob and Sue Zook recently attended.

Superintendent's Report

There were no matters of this nature on the agenda.

Discussion Items

There were no matters of this nature on the agenda.

Committee Reports

Mr. Coli provided a report of the Audit Committee who recently interviewed four potential auditing firms, three of whom were new to the District. The estimated fees ranged from \$6,300 to \$13,000. Committee members were comfortable with the expertise of the firm quoting \$6,300, which amount is 10% less than our current auditing firm. Fees increase by the consumer price index. With the District Office moving to its new facilities, it seems an appropriate time to make a change in auditing firms. Materials from each of the auditing candidates are available for members of the Board to review. In answer to a question relating to higher auditing quotes, there is no difference in services provided during the audit; it is a straight forward process. The firm quoting \$6,300 currently services Kildeer District 95, whose operating budget is comparable to Hawthorn. They are very satisfied with their services and would renew their contract. A recommendation will be brought to the Board in the near future.

Unfinished Business

Incident Reporting

Relating to an item deferred from previous meetings, Annie Christie addressed the matter of notifying members of the Board of incidents which occur in the district. She requested anytime the police or fire department have been dispatched to a school the related matter is settled, members of the Board should be emailed and informed of the nature of the incident and the outcome. To safeguard privileged information, students' names do not need to be shared in the communication. Being informed allows the Board to better respond to community questions with correct/current information. Dr. Yomtoob stated building principals and the Superintendent are spokespersons for the District, however, he stated he will comply with this request.

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 Jose Hernandez seconded the motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Voice Vote: 7 ayes; 0 nays. Motion carried.

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard Paul, President
Secretary

Mary-Jane Rattner,

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