

Hawthorn Board of Education

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MINUTES **REGULAR BOARD MEETING** **HAWTHORN BOARD OF EDUCATION** **JULY 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 July, 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, Jose Hernandez, Tim Shanahan, 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

There were no matters of this nature on the agenda.

Staff Presentations

Academic Summer Activities

Dr. Yomtoob stated even though the District is heavily involved in construction projects, 150% of the time we are thinking about student achievement. He noted three items to enhance student achievement, derived from a conference he recently attended: (1) What are we going to do differently? 2) If we are going to accomplish 100% student achievement, we cannot continue doing everything we currently do and add something different. We must weed something out. 3) Document the process.

Dr. Susan Zook presented an overview of how the District is building and strengthening our foundation for "Learning for All" through continued work of standards and staff development. Student achievement and staff development became the number one priority for the District. The District's Curriculum Guides were aligned with the State's Standards with the 2002-03 edition including language arts, social studies, math and science and the 2003-04 guide including all content areas. Revisions to the 2004-05 guide will reflect "Power/Safety Net" Standards in language arts and science. It is important to align assessment with curriculum and instruction. In September 2002, all students (grades 2-8) and May 2003 (grades 1-8) were administered NWEA's Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) tests in language arts, reading and math. Following this pilot testing, students in grades 2-8 took MAP tests in reading and math during 2003-04 and grades K-8 completed fall and spring writing prompts. MAP testing will continue in the fall and spring of 2004-05 with all students having an electronic portfolio for writing samples.

Research on instruction and best practices was studied to better align instruction with curriculum and assessment. Teachers were surveyed as to needs and interests regarding instructional practices, with instructional practices and strategies in reading, writing and math investigated during 2001-2003. Also studied and implemented during 2002-2004 were flexible grouping, elimination of basic math groups, delivery of services, and extended learning. Pilots for the HOSTS Program took place during the 2002 summer school, Option School 2002-2004 and Elementary South 2003-04.

Student achievement and staff development go hand-in-hand; for student learning and achievement to improve, teachers must also learn and experience professional growth. From 2001-04 staff development has been provided in the areas of Understanding by Design (UbD), Bernstein Artful Learning and Six Traits Writing and utilizing data (MAP Test data) which will assist teachers with effectively collecting data and using it to improve instruction.

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Relating to staff development in standards, Dr. Zook referred to Power Standards as prioritized standards, or those standards essential for students to know. Power Standards represent the safety net of standards each teacher needs to make sure every student learns prior to leaving the current grade. With so many standards and so little time to teach and assess them all, curriculum design has become more and more an issue of deciding what you won't teach as well as what you will teach. As a designer, you must choose the essential. All standards and indicators are not equal in importance, we must make room for the essentials by distinguishing the "essential" from the "nice to know." The safety net curriculum is a very limited set of learning objectives for each grade level and subject. It is not the total curriculum--just the safety net that every teacher should ensure every student knows. She explained the process of determining power standards through use of the Litmus Test and guiding questions for each grade level. This does not mean we will ignore all other standards. We will focus on the Power Standards as the essential core curriculum students must learn at their specific grade level in order to be successful at the next. Training opportunities in Power Standards will be available to teachers in 2004-05, and action teams have identified Power Standards for language arts and science. Action teams will continue to work on other content areas for 2005-06.

The District will begin linkage between testing, data and standards-driven instruction to improve student achievement and a standards-based reporting system developed and piloted. Parent pamphlets will be provided by the District on grade-level standards in 2005-06. Dr. Zook explained vertical alignment to compare one grade's selection for power standards with the grade above and below to identify any gaps and make the necessary adjustments.

By June 2010, all Hawthorn District 73 students will demonstrate proficiency in reading, language arts/writing and mathematics. A student's proficiency will be demonstrated by: (1) achieving/attaining a designation of meets or exceeds on the ISAT or IMAGE tests; and/or (2) achieving/attaining typical growth on the NWEA MAP Tests in reading and math and a score of at least "4" in writing on the District's 6-Traits Writing rubric; and/or (3) achieving/attaining expected individual improvement on performance tasks and authentic assessments in the student's individual portfolio or individual education plan.

Dr. Zook stated standardized achievement tests are not appropriate measures to judge the quality of a school or to measure student achievement; there can be harmful consequences occurring with these tests. It is better to measure a modest number of significant curriculum aids (Power Standards), provide clear descriptions of what is to be assessed and supply instructionally informative results to teachers, students and parents. We must be proactive and continue the conversations about the importance of a safety net curriculum, instructionally supportive assessments, and best instructional practices. We must also caution others in the consequences of too many standards, standardized tests and instructing students in a way to only improve standardized test scores.

The District will continue its review and revision of curriculum to reflect what is most important for students to know and perform, development and use of instructionally supportive tests and assessments and provide staff development that is job-embedded providing training in best instructional practices that support high levels of student achievement. Dr. Zook requested that questions or need for further information be directed to her through email or phone.

Rich Paul stated it is a nice reminder that academics are top priority at Hawthorn. What sort of tracking is occurring at the classroom level? Is staff training hitting the classroom? If a teacher requires clarification on a process, how are we identifying same and providing assistance? Dr. Zook stated monthly release time for teachers was used in the past for this purpose, however, teachers felt being away from the classroom for staff development on a monthly basis was an interruption to classroom instruction. The school improvement plan is now data driven. We are also providing differentiated staff development for those who wish to go further. There will also be an opportunity for teachers to attend after-contract-hours training, with the Principal monitoring how training is impacting the classroom. Teachers also have common planning periods during which training and review can occur. Discussion ensued concerning power standards, MAP Testing Data and alignment with math standards as well as all other areas of core curriculum. Dr. Yomtoob suggested the Board meet with Dr. Zook to further discuss items contained in her presentation. Rich Paul stated he is agreeable to having goals, but is uncomfortable with a date attached to same. We must be careful of goal creep; our student population is not static--two-thirds of our students will not be here in 2010. Multiple ways to measure goals of a student is a very good idea. Bill Coli stated

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by 2014 all students of the District must meet or exceed standards or there will be serious consequences to the District.

Consent Agenda

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

- 07/04.5 Meeting Minutes, Regular Session, 6/28/04
- 07/04.6 Meeting Minutes, Regular Session, 7/12/04
- 07/04.7 Financial Report - June 2004
- 07/04.8 Expenditures Report - July 2004
- 07/04.9 Personnel Report:
 - (A) Employment of one (1) certificated staff member: Carl Fritz, Music Teacher, Elementary North
 - (B) Resignation of one (1) certificated staff member - Jennifer Frigillana, 1st Grade Teacher, Elementary South

Tim Shanahan moved and Mary Jane Rattner seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda items, as presented. Roll Call: Tim Shanahan, Mary Jane Rattner, Jayson Tran, Jose Hernandez, Bill Coli and Rich Paul voted aye. 6 ayes; 0 nays. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS

Courtyard Development Project

Alan Hahn displayed design plans for the Option School's courtyard and discussed materials to be used for same. He stated progress of work will be monitored to assure completion by end of August. He will also investigate if power can be provided to the center section of the courtyard. The anticipated cost of this project was \$150,000. 3D Design Studio, the District's landscape architect, reviewed bids received and recommends awarding the contract to Castle Garden, Inc., whose bid was \$80,403.90. Hearing no further discussion, Rich Paul entertained a motion.

- 07/04.10 Jose Hernandez moved and Jayson Tran seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Courtyard Development Project of \$80,403.90 to Castle Gardens, Inc., Volo, Illinois, and up to \$20,000.00 for additional items listed. Voice Vote: 6 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

Naming of Schools

In an attempt to bring this matter to a conclusion and to ensure the naming of the Option School within a timely manner, a subcommittee was named for this purpose to be chaired by Mary Jane Rattner and also comprised of Annie Christie and Tim Shanahan. A meeting of this subcommittee will be held Wednesday, July 28, 7:30 a.m.

Charter School Report

Rich Paul participated in a Charter School meeting in Lake Forest, also attended by Representative Kathy Ryg, other legislators and a number of superintendents from affected districts and during which in depth discussion was held. We do not know if Mr. Farley has filed an appeal with the State Board of Education. There is a legal question of timing for appeals by Mr. Farley in response to each district's decision concerning the proposed charter school. Bill Coli inquired if there is a time limitation before another charter application can be filed, with Rich Paul stating, no. As a result, there may be an opportunity to work with the legislature to improve charter school laws and flaws which currently exist therein to resolve some of the conflicts.

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School Visitation

The local cable access channel recently filmed a three to four segment construction update covering the Option, Middle School and new North Buildings. Tim Shanahan and Jayson Tran, who accompanied the reporter, were amazed at the transformation taking place at the Middle School and progress made; the improvements in light and layout are overwhelming. It feels like a completely different building. The Option School is almost complete with torazzo installed, sod placed and final work on the gym floor coming to a

completion. They reiterated school will open on time, and that construction is within budget. The program will be aired eight times during August with a schedule available on the Community Bulletin Board. The Board extended their gratitude to the Village of Vernon Hills for producing the program.

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

Having no further business to come before the Board, a motion to adjourn was entertained. Mary Jane Rattner moved and Jose Hernandez seconded the motion to adjourn. 6 ayes; 0 nays. Motion carried.

The Board adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard Paul, President
Secretary

Mary-Jane Rattner,

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