

# Hawthorn Board of Education

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## **MINUTES** **REGULAR BOARD MEETING** **HAWTHORN BOARD OF EDUCATION** **JANUARY 10, 2005**

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 10th day of January, 2005.

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, and Rich Absent: Bill Coli.

Bill Coli joined the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

### **Public Comment Period**

There were no matters of this nature on the agenda.

### **Student and Staff Accomplishments/Commendations**

Alan Hahn announced Hawthorn is the recipient of a \$40,000.00 grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation. Having made application for this grant last April, it was awarded for reducing energy usage at the Middle School by 136.4 kw, or a 58% reduction as a result of replacement of inefficient lighting in the Middle School this past summer. Grant funds will be used to fund District mini grants for which district teachers will apply to educate children in energy efficiency. Dr. Yomtoob added during construction, the District looked at many available grants.

### **Staff Presentations**

There were no matters of this nature on the agenda.

### **Consent Agenda**

Rich Paul entertained a motion for approval of the Consent Agenda.

- 1/05.54 Meeting Minutes, Regular Session, 12/13/04
- 1/05.55 Financial Report - November 2004
- 1/05.56 Personnel Report:
  - (A) Retirement of one certificated staff member -Bard Crawford, 1st grade Teacher, Elementary South
  - (B) Approval of one (1) certificated staff member - Becky Gorniak, 7th Grade Math Teacher, Junior High.

Responding to a question concerning the addition of a certificated staff member, Dr. Yomtoob stated the District has a teacher extending a leave of absence, with a substitute covering the position during such leave. If someone teaches more than 120 days, state law requires the District to employ said person as a teacher. In turn, state law also requires that person receive notice of lay-off, which will occur sometime during March or April.

Hearing no further questions, Rich Paul called for a motion. Annie Christie moved and Jose Hernandez seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda items, as presented. 7 ayes; 0 nays. Motion carried.

### **Action Items**

There were no matters of this nature on the agenda.

### **President's Report**

Rich Paul noted a meeting held last week with parents of Triple A students. Even though this was held the night of a tremendous snowfall, almost 100 parents attended, indicating a strong interest in the program. During the program presentation, Dr. Yomtoob summarized Triple A plans at the Aspen and Townline Elementary schools, noting the Triple A programs would be retained also at the North and South Elementary buildings as well as both Middle Schools. A very positive and constructive question and answer session took place during the meeting. In answer to questions of concerns, Dr. Yomtoob mentioned that he and his staff will be investigating means of improving the Triple A and all programs within the District. No changes will be made without discussions with parents. Annie Christie confirmed the Triple A Program will be continued across the Board in Third through Eighth Grades. Dr. Yomtoob added he enjoyed talking to the parents and stressed we must always see if there are ways to provide better services to our students.

### **Superintendent's Report**

**Hawthorn Tsunami Relief Fund** - Dr. Yomtoob discussed the District's Tsunami Relief Fund, stating our school's community could do something to assist in this endeavor. The District has opened a bank account, with Dr. Yomtoob donating \$200 as a starting point. He has set a goal to raise \$10,000, with the hope of businesses becoming involved with matching funds. If possible or needed, we would like to direct the funds to assist in the construction of a school, a classroom, or supplying funds to assist in furnishing same. Red wrist bands have been ordered and could possibly be sold for \$3 to support the Tsunami Relief Fund. Any kind of donation is greatly appreciated. Students would love to purchase the bracelets to show their support, and they are already showing great interest. Parents were informed of this fund through a letter from Dr. Yomtoob.

**Staffing** - Dr. Yomtoob stated by Friday we hope to notify teachers and educational support personnel of tentative assignments for the 2005-06 school year. Three criteria were used in the reconfiguration of staff: (1) best for students, (2) building balance and (3) honoring one of three requests of staff. At this point, the process is \$95% complete with eight hours spent in the process last Friday by administration and four hours on Monday. This is not an easy process; 80% - 90% of first or second staff choices were fulfilled. This reconfiguration will provide positive changes for the District. He will share in the future research based, positive changes taking place through the reconfiguration.

### **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**

Robert Hudson stated Hawthorn 73 has been awarded an honor in the area of technology and leadership. The American Association of School Administrators will recognize Dr. Yomtoob as the 2005 President's Technology Award recipient at its February National Conference in San Antonio. Eighteen awards were allocated this year, with Dr. Yomtoob's recognition the only award in the State of Illinois. In addition, he will receive a new Apple PowerBook and have the opportunity to attend the Apple Technology Leadership Institute. Dr. Yomtoob also congratulated Mr. Hudson and his technology staff for their dedication and hard work. Mr. Hudson will accompany him to the San Antonio recognition ceremony.

Annie Christie stated she had been contacted by a number of parents regarding a 7th grade classroom expansion at Aspen Elementary, with Dr. Yomtoob confirming 21-22 parents have committed to same. A 7th grade class will be housed at said school in the 2005-06 school year. A meeting will be held with these parents in the near future.

**Study Island** - Robert Hudson stated the purpose of this program is to provide parents and students continued learning opportunities beyond the school day. This is an online resource, aligned with state standards, and allows an opportunity for students to test what they know and also provides instruction through lessons having a variety of techniques. The District receives the data which can be utilized as an intermediate indicator. Initially we are looking to use this in specific grade levels and build it into the curriculum over the school year. One must have internet access at home to utilize the program. For those families lacking such access, we must provide same through our buildings. This program allows us to realize a 1996 vision of the District. Dr. Yomtoob stated we could extend the day for students to provide access to the internet and offer assistance. There is the possibility of providing transportation to our District on Saturday mornings for parents/students to utilize this program and our technology. This program is good for all learners. Grant funds are utilized for the program, and what was purchased will be used for 1-1/2 years. Other grant funds will be used for after-school and Saturday morning access. Bill Sigler was recognized for his assistance in obtaining information from other schools who utilize this program. A letter will go home to parents regarding their child's login and other information relating to the program. The District's website will also have information and a link to Study Island. Rich Paul added this program ties parents into student learning. The program will be offered to 3rd - 8th grade students.

**Informational Items**

The Board was provided various items for informational purposes. Rich Paul noted Jayson Tran has requested an agenda item for the next meeting relating to foreign language instruction.

**Adjournment**

Having no further business to come before the Board, a motion to adjourn was entertained. Annie Christie moved and Tim Shanahan seconded the motion to adjourn. Voice Vote: 7 ayes; 0 nays. Motion carried.

The Board adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Richard Paul, President

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Mary-Jane Rattner, Secretary

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