

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Hawthorn Community Consolidated School District Number 73, Lake County, Illinois, held in the Conference Room at 841 West End Court at 7:30PM on the 10th day of July 2006.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Mary Jane Rattner, President, at 7:30PM. Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Debbie Limer called the roll, with the following members of the Board of Education answering present: Tom Boehm, Donna Gaidamak, Anne Hoffman, Tim Shanahan, Bill Coli, and Mary Jane Rattner.

Public Comment period:

Lisa Jay of 221 Margo Court told the Board that her son is entering Kindergarten this fall. She had some concerns about busing. She wondered why seat belts are not used on the bus. She questioned if the Kindergarteners sit in the front of the bus as they do in some other districts. A friend's son had a 45-minute bus ride; she thought there was a maximum of 30 minutes allowed on the bus. She also wanted to know about getting the bus route ahead of the beginning of school and the trial run. Dr. Joe responded that seat belts on buses are a very controversial issue. Some say that seat belts make the bus ride more dangerous. Mary Jane Rattner clarified that some of the studies say there are more injuries because of the seat belts. Dr. Joe stated that parents would receive entire routes before the start of school. Mary Jane Rattner told Ms. Jay that there would be a bus trial run for Kindergarteners and one parent before the school year starts. She added that there are mixed feelings about Kindergarteners riding in the front of the bus. Some Kindergarteners have siblings who ride the bus. They want to sit with their sibling, but their sibling does not want to be required to sit in the front. Dr. Joe added that a 30- minute maximum bus ride is the goal. There are many variables. Alan Hahn pointed out that the state law allows for a student to be on a bus to and from school for an hour each way but no more. It is hard to have a fixed number.

Student and Staff Accomplishments, Recognitions: None

Staff Presentations:

Dr. Joe told the Board that we have asked James McDonough from Legat Architects to give us a proposal for a cafeteria or gymnasium at Elementary South. Mr. McDonough explained that he has four rough proposals with costs, locations, and opinions on each. The desire is to have a cafeteria which seats 250 kids per lunch period plus a warming kitchen and storage. That would entail about 6,600 square feet at about \$200 a square foot. The cost on that is about \$1.4M. The gym alone would need to be about 6,000 square feet. The added amenities would be bleachers for 150 to 175 people, a locker room, and storage. The total square footage on the entire addition would need to be 11,700 square feet. At \$200 a square foot the cost would come out at about \$2.4M. Mr. McDonough stated that the construction costs could change by January or February, but he did not think that they would go above his estimates. Donna Gaidamak asked about the factors in the costs. Mr. McDonough stated labor and commodities.

Mr. McDonough went over the four schemes. There were one with the cafeteria in the front, one with the gym in the front, one with the cafeteria in the back, and one with the gym in the back. The cafeteria in the front would change the entry, and it would provide new access throughout the school. The gym in the front would go out past the current entry and courtyard, 12 parking spaces would be lost, the driveway would change, and there could be additional site costs. He added that sanitary sewer and water are easily available. Donna Gaidamak asked about the multi-purpose use. Mary Jane Rattner explained that a cafeteria would be better able to be used as a multi-purpose room than a gymnasium. Mr. McDonough went over the plans for a cafeteria in the back. It would connect to both classroom wings, it would use the geometry of the building, it would move the kids away from the gym area to ease congestion, but the negative would be the students would have to move through the classroom wings to get to the cafeteria. Putting a gym in the back of the school would close the loop, but it would go into the bus driveway and eliminate 5 bus parking spots. The sanitary sewer is a distance from the school, but water is available. Bill Coli asked about the cost savings that might be realized because of the location of sewer and water. Mr. McDonough stated that the decision should not be based on sewer and water because the cost of extending sewer would only be about \$15K, a small part of the overall project.

Mr. McDonough told the Board that his opinion would be to put the cafeteria in the front of the building. It uses the property that is the least utilized. The current gymnasium can be upgraded. The lighting and the flooring can be redone. The cafeteria up front requires the least amount of site work and in the end costs the least. Anne Hoffman pointed out that the entrance to the school would need to be changed. Mr. McDonough explained that it would be challenging, but he feels it can enhance the security. Changing the circulation through the entrance would need to be done. Bill Coli asked about the costs of upgrading the gym. Mr. McDonough stated that he does not have those numbers yet. Anne Hoffman asked if there is money in the budget for this addition. Mary Jane Rattner told the Board that is something we need to decide. Anne Hoffman asked about phases. Mr. McDonough explained that the cafeteria could not be done as a phase, but the changes to the gym could wait. At the time the cafeteria is done the changes to the entry have to be made.

Mary Jane Rattner suggested starting in late spring of 2007. Dr. Joe commented that the best time to get the bids out is in January. Donna Gaidamak stated that we should look at the budget numbers. We may be able to do this if we put the maintenance shed on hold. Bill Coli asked the Superintendent to have our most recent 5-year projections for the Building Fund updated with the costs of the multi-purpose room and gym updates included. Dr. Joe said that he would have Alan Hahn do so. Mary Jane Rattner asked Mr. McDonough if he could look at the gym and reception area before the next board meeting. Donna Gaidamak questioned if the building administrators have been asked about the proposals. Jill Martin told the Board that this would be a huge benefit for the school. They have already talked about the positives and negatives for each scenario. She feels that putting the addition in the back would be a distraction to the students. She feels that the veranda is the best option. It would be adequate for the age of the students at the school to update the gym rather than putting in a new one. The multi-purpose room would be used for indoor recess, crafts and other activities. She added that she would not want to cut into the traffic patterns that were just established. She agreed that the entry would need to be redesigned. It has been suggested that if the gym is not being used for lunch it can be opened two-thirds and one-third to accommodate the older students.

Dr. Zook told the Board that the spring MAP scores bring up some questions. She wanted to take the opportunity to go over different aspects of the MAP tests. She went over the reasons for assessment. The conventional tests, ISAT and ITBS, only look at averages. They rank schools, districts, and students, but the information is not very useful. MAP testing allows us challenging and appropriate level testing for every student. The purpose is internal accountability, and allows us to measure student achievement. MAP testing gives each student a chance for success. The students find the test engaging, and the tests provide useful information. Dr. Zook added that timed tests may be biased. MAP tests are a big help to teachers. The teachers are able to identify skills and concepts that individual students have learned or have not learned. MAP testing can diagnose instructional needs, monitor academic growth over time, and help place students into appropriate instructional programs. Dr. Zook explained that teachers are able to get a class breakdown of where each student falls, so that academic instruction can be altered to the needs of the classroom.

Dr. Zook went over Hawthorn's original student achievement goal from 2000-2002. It was that 90% of all students would meet or exceed the State standards. She admitted that it really was not a good goal. The ISAT testing, that the goal was being based on, is based on the bell curve. It would be impossible to attain the goal because the test is not designed for that. The current goal is "By June 2010, all Hawthorn District 73 students will demonstrate proficiency in reading, language arts/writing and mathematics." She outlined the ways in which proficiency will be demonstrated. There may need to be adjustments along the way for changes in demographics within the schools. She explained the four quadrants and how they are used in student achievement. The presentation ended with a chart of MAP results from the spring testing outlining the proficiency rates at all of the schools by grade level and subject.

Dr. Zook told the Board that NWEA has come up with a new MAP test that is aligned with Illinois standards. Mary Jane Rattner stated that parents are not being told if their children are proficient or not. She questioned if there was any way to get that information out to parents. Bob Hudson pointed out that the goal is the individual growth of the student. Giving parents information based on norm groups may not be the best idea. Mary Jane Rattner stated that she wants to clarify information for parents without confusing them too much. Dr. Joe added that Just 5 Clicks may help. Mary Jane Rattner indicated that there can be areas where a student is high or low. Parents want to know what they should work on. It is something to think about. Bill Coli commented that the reports sent home with the MAP scores align well with standards based report card. He added that it was mentioned that the achievement gap for Elementary North is greater than at our other buildings. He questioned if they are getting the resources that they need. Dr. Zook mentioned that there are imbalances in the demographics. We hope to keep things balanced with flexible grouping and differentiation. The resources will be are put where they are needed. The needs of high-level students need to be addressed as well. High-level students can be very challenging.

Donna Gaidamak stated that the numbers reported on for 8th grade MAP scores did not add up. Dr. Zook reported that not all of the 8th graders were tested during this round of MAP testing. Tim Shanahan pointed out that the 4th grade students at Townline had a 96% proficiency rate in Math. He questioned if their goal is improvement of 1% a year for the next four years. Dr. Zook stated that it is. The demographics will change over the next few years, so the goal may change as well. The Board thanked Dr. Zook for her time.

Consent Agenda:

Tim Shanahan moved to approve the consent agenda. Anne Hoffman seconded the motion.

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07/06.2 Personnel Report

Voice vote: 5 ayes: 0 nays: 1 abstention. Motion carried

Action Items:

Tim Shanahan moved to appoint Alan Hahn to be School Treasurer for a one-year term beginning July 1, 2006 and approve the treasurer's bond. Donna Gaidamak seconded the motion.

Voice vote: 6 ayes: 0 nays. Motion carried

Tim Shanahan moved to approve the salary of \$7,100.00 for the position of School Treasurer for a period of three years – 2006/07, 2007/08, 2008/09. Donna Gaidamak seconded the motion. Tim Shanahan questioned if the amount was an annual salary. Dr. Joe stated that it is.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Boehm, Gaidamak, Hoffman, Shanahan, Coli, Rattner
 Nays: None
 Motion carried – 6– 0

President's Report:

Mary Jane Rattner read a letter from Rich Paul. In the letter he states that he wants to start an award for eighth grade students who show achievement in visual arts. He donated money in honor of his mother, Dorothy Paul, for a \$100 savings bond for each student.

Mary Jane Rattner told the Board that they will be meeting with Dr. Benjamin next Monday at 7PM. We are working on other dates to meet with him.

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Joe stated at the July 24th meeting we will go over the tentative budget. We will go over the areas of expenditures and decide about the addition at Elementary South. He added that we are going to be getting rid of the trailers on the north campus. He questioned what we want to do with the space. There are three options: grass, 16 parking spaces, or 24 parking spaces. He commented that Townline is short on parking during the day. The cost of putting in 24 parking spaces would be \$70K to \$80K. The cost of putting in 16 parking spaces would be \$40K to \$50K. The cost to put in grass would be \$5K to \$6K. Donna Gaidamak asked if the principals at Townline had any feelings on this decision. Dr. Joe stated that he would talk to them, but he would need a consensus from the Board before moving forward.

Discussion Items: None

Committee Reports: None

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

Announcements: None

Informational Items: None

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Mary Jane Rattner requested a motion to adjourn.

Bill Coli moved to adjourn the meeting. Anne Hoffman seconded the motion. Voice Vote: 6 ayes: 0 nays. Motion carried

Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 9:25PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Limer

Mary Jane Rattner, President

Tim Shanahan, Secretary