

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 13th day of November 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: Donna Gaidamak, Anne Hoffman, Tim Shanahan, Jose Hernandez (participating via speakerphone), Bill Coli, and Mary Jane Rattner.

Public Comment period:

Mary Jane Rattner told the Board that she wanted to respond to two comments that were previously made by parents. Both parents received letters in the mail. One came from Dr. Zook, the other one came from her. She commented that Patricia Small had asked about the District's policy of transporting students to private schools outside of our District using public funds. Mary Jane Rattner clarified that District #73 is not paying to educate students outside of the District other than students with special needs. The transportation issue has been a practice that pre-dates any of the current school board members and Dr. Joe. All of the students who are being transported attend St. Joe's in Libertyville. This issue has been given to the Policy Committee. They will discuss it, and bring it back to the Board. Bill Coli added that the question came up of whether or not the District gave the families permission to go elsewhere. The District does not give students permission to go elsewhere. He said a student going to a private school means the District does not have to pay for a teacher for that student. He reiterated that this has gone on for at least eleven years.

Mary Jane Rattner stated that the other letter that went out was to Mr. Kmichik. The issue was that he felt sixth graders had been unnecessarily excluded from a half-day field trip. She reported that Dr. Zook met with Joy Mullaney and the social workers from the school. The feedback from the community is that there is a discrepancy among parents if 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students should be together. There are also supervision issues. We do not have a lot of staff for supervision because on early dismissal days a number of staff members remain at the schools for different programs. Mary Jane Rattner pointed out that there was a field trip planned for the sixth graders that had to be cancelled due to low attendance. She commented that they will try again.

Student and Staff Accomplishments, Recognitions: None

Staff Presentations:

Dr. Zook told the Board that the TLCs and a couple of administrators had the opportunity to attend the ASCD conference in October. The title of the conference was "What Works in Schools: The Art and Science of Teaching." Bob Marzano was the keynote speaker on "The Art and Science of Teaching." He presented five District Leadership Responsibilities that included: collaborative goal setting, non-negotiable goals for achievement and instruction, board alignment and support for district goals, monitoring goals for achievement and instruction, and the use of resources to support achievement and instruction goals. Dr. Zook explained that the "science" part of teaching comes from 30 years of research. The "art" part involves teacher adaptations. She highlighted the five stages of institutionalizing the art and science of teaching, and how it relates to our District. She commented that we have a lot to be proud of; a lot of our efforts are working.

Dr. Zook stated that she attended a break out session on school surveys. Practical steps were given on what to do with survey results. We will now be able to come up with a specific action plan for the survey that we are conducting in the District. Dr. Zook explained that the survey we are using is Bob Marzano's survey. We are encouraging the community to take it. The survey uses Marzano's 11 indicators influencing student achievement. Another break out session was on standards based assessments and grading. She commented that it went very nicely with our work on the standards based report cards. Marzano's work complements Dr. Guskey's very nicely. She added that we still have a lot of work to do, but it was reassuring to see that we are on the right track.

Dr. Zook reported that a couple of our administrators attended a session led by Thomas Hoerr, the principal of a Multiple Intelligences School. That is the focus at their particular schools. They found it very interesting as it dealt with issues of leadership in a Multiple Intelligences School. The session also provided them with a good network for the future. Dr. Zook explained that Bob Marzano talked about his new book on assessments and grading. He talked about overcoming the barriers in a standards based system.

Lisa Cerauli highlighted some information from the conference. They completed a framework for the work done by the TLCs. One thing they want to work on is teaching students strategies for comparing and contrasting. That is something they can take with them from year to year. They also learned that student motivation has more to do with the teacher in his or her classroom than the type of school that child attends. The TLCs have designed a rubric for teachers that focuses on the same issues as were highlighted at the conference. Ms. Cerauli went over the eleven factors that influence student achievement. Those factors include school, teacher, and student factors. She stated that they learned some good strategies to positively influence the eleven factors. She added that the conference was a good experience for all who attended. Mary Jane thanked her for her presentation. She was glad to hear that the things we are doing are being validated.

Consent Agenda:

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

11/06.35 Budget Calendar

11/06.37 Personnel Report

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Gaidamak, Hoffman, Shanahan, Hernandez, Coli, Rattner

Nays: None

Motion carried – 6– 0

Alan Hahn brought up the subject of the Tax Levy. He went over some of the questions that Bill Coli had submitted prior to the meeting. The Tax Levy shows \$25M for new construction. The past number was \$29.5M. Alan Hahn commented that we are trying to be conservative. There was a question if this downturn is a trend. He stated that there is still a lot of building going on. The Aspen Pointe Condos are still being built. There will be commercial development in Gregg's Landing. He added that he is still comfortable with the five-year projection. It is the School Board's responsibility to levy the amount of taxes for the schools. We can add to last year's levy by the value of new construction and the increase in CPI. Once we establish the Levy it goes to the County. The County takes the Tax Levy and the equalized assessed value and comes up with a number. Bill Coli commented that we are still only going to get the Levy and the increase in CPI. Alan Hahn added that we will also get the new growth that is an expansion of our tax base. Inflation and new properties are the increase in the Tax Levy for the District.

Bill Coli commented that our revenues have increased every year with the new construction. Once the Village is built out, that increased revenue will disappear. He wanted to know how much fiscal growth is in this year's budget. Alan Hahn reported about \$600K. Bill Coli stated that some day we are going to be short. We need to keep our eyes to the future. Our revenues are limited. Alan Hahn pointed out that we do not know that our expanded tax base will go away. It can be expanded with new students. He explained that tonight the Board is just authorizing the publication of the Truth in Taxation Hearing that goes along with the Tax Levy. There will be a Public Hearing on November 27th at 7:30PM in the District Office conference room. On December 11th the Board needs to approve the Tax Levy.

Bill Coli pointed out that there are three different scenarios for new construction. He questioned if we have to make a decision tonight on which scenario to use. Alan Hahn clarified the vote tonight is just to publish for the Hearing. Bill Coli moved that the Board of Education approve the resolution to publish the tentative 2006 Tax Levy notice per Truth in Taxation and establish and publish the attached notice for the Tax Levy Public Hearing. Donna Gaidamak seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: 6 ayes: 0 nays. Motion carried

Mary Jane Rattner brought up the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund Election. Alan Hahn stated that the IMRF is the retirement fund for non-teachers. The School Board gets to vote for the candidates. One candidate is running unopposed. For the other race there are two candidates. He commented that he has no strong opinion for either, Martha Rodemacher or James Rasins. Martha Rodemacher is the incumbent. She is running for reelection. She has a lot of experience. Bill Coli pointed out that the Audit Report showed some issues with the performance of the trustees for the IMRF. They seem to be spending more than they are taking in. He questioned why we want to support the current trustee. Alan Hahn stated that the rate has gone up recently because of interest rates. The fund is doing better now. Donna Gaidamak asked Alan Hahn if he knew the candidate. Alan Hahn reported that he did not. Mary Jane Rattner stated the other person running is James Rasins. Bill Coli stated that he is not comfortable with the present trustee. Donna Gaidamak indicated that the Board does not have a lot of information on any of the candidates. She questioned if there was any way to get more information in the future. Alan Hahn stated that he was sure we could get more information, if we contacted them. Tim Shanahan moved to approve Gary Hanson and James Rasins for the position of trustees for the IMRF. Bill Coli seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Shanahan, Hernandez, Coli, Rattner

Nays: None

Abstain: Gaidamak, Hoffman

Motion carried – 4– 0

Action Items: None

President's Report:

Mary Jane Rattner stated that we are encouraging everyone to take the school survey that is on the District web site. There is also a survey pertaining to language and related arts. If parents did not receive the survey, they should contact their child's school or the District Office. The deadline for this survey is November 17th.

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Zook reported that Dr. Yomtoob and his wife are in Florida. Their son, David, is having a problem with liver function. It does not seem to be a blockage or rejection issue, but the problem has not yet been resolved. He hopes to be back on Wednesday. Mary Jane Rattner stated that we will keep them in our thoughts.

Discussion Items: None

Committee Reports:

Bill Coli reported that the HR Committee has met three times since July. Members of the committee include Tim Shanahan, Anne Hoffman, Mary Jane Rattner, and himself. They have had several productive meetings on the process of Dr. Joe's replacement. There is a timeline in place with several steps prior to February 2007. There are three internal candidates being considered. Invitations to the Steering Committee will go out shortly. The final step before talking to the candidates is to create a form to facilitate the process. There are critical points from the Superintendent Characteristics Survey that was done earlier that need to be added to the form. Donna Gaidamak asked for details as to where the people are coming from the Steering Committee. Bill Coli stated parents, residents without students in the District, teachers, and certified and non-certified staff members. We are looking for an ex-School Board Member as well. There will be 10 people total. Tim Shanahan added that the timeline goes out to 2009. We can have more than three candidates if desired. Bill Coli indicated that we can go outside the District and do a full search.

Anne Hoffman stated that the Policy Committee met on October 19th. Members of the committee are Donna Gaidamak, Mary Jane Rattner, Jose Hernandez, and herself. She added that Jose Hernandez was not present at the October meeting. The transportation issue mentioned earlier in the meeting was discussed. The Committee has directed Dr. Yomtoob to investigate how other schools are handling the issue. Mary Jane Rattner explained that Dr. Yomtoob will look at how other schools districts are transporting students to St. Joe's. Anne Hoffman reported that the issue will be reevaluated after we see the findings. After Dr. Yomtoob reports back to the Committee, the Committee will review the transportation policy.

Anne Hoffman stated that the Committee reviewed the Illinois Association of School Boards recommended policy updates. Two changes were made. Mary Jane Rattner stated we were updating existing policies. Anne Hoffman pointed out that the Legislature dictates a lot of our policy. Mary Jane Rattner added that we need to have the policy updates on the next agenda for the first read so that the changes can be made a part of the School's policy before the end of the calendar year.

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.

Anne Hoffman moved to adjourn the meeting. Bill Coli seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: 6 ayes: 0 nays. Motion carried

Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 8:25PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Debbie Limer

Mary Jane Rattner, President

Timothy Shanahan, Secretary