

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 11<sup>th</sup> day of December 2006.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Mary Jane Rattner, President, at 7:32PM. 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.

Mary Jane Rattner told the Board and visitors that she had talked to Dr. Yomtoob earlier today. He shared with her that he started the day yesterday hopeful when they found out a liver had been identified for his son, David. She shared with those present that it was with great sadness she inform the community that David did not survive the liver transplant. Mary Jane Rattner shared with everyone that both Dr. Yomtoob and Mrs. Yomtoob asked her to express their deep gratitude for the the support they had received over the last month from the entire Hawthorn community. She reported that David's funeral will be Wednesday in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The Yomtoob family will be sitting Shiva Thursday through Sunday at their home in Riverwoods. Mary Jane Rattner added that there will be a Memorial Service at 3PM on Sunday at North Shore Congregation Israel in Glencoe. David Yomtoob had Wilson's disease. Contributions can be made in memory of David Yomtoob to the Wilson's Disease Association International. A moment of silence was observed in memory of David Yomtoob.

**Public Comment period:** None

**Student and Staff Accomplishments, Recognitions:** None

**Staff Presentations:**

Mary Jane Rattner told the Board that Ted Houge from Legat Architects has an update on the proposed addition at Elementary South. Mr. Houge stated that he hopes to have the drawings done and out for bid by Christmas. There are four alternates being bid with the additions. They are two toilet rooms, the canopy outside the building, and reconfiguring the office area at Elementary South and North to add additional security. He pointed out that since the last meeting the courtyard has been made functional for student activities. Tom reported that they ran the cost estimates again. The latest cost estimate is \$1.55M for the base building. Adding the alternates brings the cost to \$1.612M. It is higher than expected; they are looking for ways to reduce the cost. They are hoping to send it out for bid in early January. That is the best time to get the most competitive pricing. Donna Gaidamak asked if the bathrooms are unisex. Mr. Houge stated that they are. There is only one stall per bathroom. Donna Gaidamak asked about making one bathroom for boys and one for girls. Mr. Houge responded that the line for the girls' bathroom is usually longer than the boys'. Unisex bathrooms help with that problem, but the issue can be discussed.

Tim Shanahan asked if there were any drawings for Elementary North. Mr. Houge indicated that they have been concentrating on Elementary South, but they did have a sketch. Tom from Legat Architects stated that they are proposing a second set of double doors and additional security. Mr. Houge pointed out using the drawing that there would be a security keypad to access the teachers' lounge. Tim Shanahan reported that it is basically \$20K for an extra set of doors. Tim Shanahan questioned the flow of work in the areas and asked if access from the teacher lounge to the copy area would require going out of the secured area and back in to cross a hallway or if the traffic would just go through the office. It was stated that this was a very preliminary sketch and was not fully indicative of the plan. They also stated that there would be a reception window in the hallway before the last set of security doors. Tom from Legat Architects commented that adding the electrical was the largest cost factor for the North upgrade. They will have better drawing in the future.

Bill Coli asked about the windows on the courtyard at the South cafeteria. Tom from Legat Architects stated that the cost of the windows is about \$5,600. Bill Coli commented that Legat Architects may want to give us a preview of the final drawings of Elementary North and South before they go out to bid. Mary Jane Rattner stated that the December 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting would be a good time. Donna Gaidamak asked if the proposed canopy at Elementary South is for aesthetics. Mr. Houge responded that it is functional for kids waiting outside in inclement weather. Tom from Legat Architects pointed out that the canopy will be bid as an alternate, so it can be removed if the Board decides. Bill Coli stated that there will be four different bids. Tom commented that there will be five bids, one for the main building and the four alternatives.

Lisa Cerauli came before the Board to give a DAVAC update. She explained that DAVAC is the Drug, Alcohol, and Violence Awareness Committee. It involves many people including staff and members of the police department. They normally meet three times a year, but this year they added a meeting. They want to incorporate Safe and Orderly into the Committee and move the group toward a healthy lifestyles focus. She commented that they are thinking about renaming the Committee to the Hawthorn Student Assistance Program. They are working to come up with new programs and to make sure that they are addressing all of the issues. They are trying to come up with a common language and increase communication to teachers, parents and the School Board. Their meetings were at 10AM, but have moved them to 9AM to try to accommodate others. This may enable other members of the community to attend the meetings. The next meeting will involve their smaller committee. Mary Jane Rattner commented that it is encouraging to see staff members taking the initiative to make changes.

She added that it is hard for Board members to get there, but advance notification is helpful. Bill Coli asked when the December meeting will be. Ms. Cerauli stated December 14<sup>th</sup>. Mary Jane Rattner asked her to circulate minutes after the meeting.

Joy Kane reported on the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Illinois Branch of the Illinois Dyslexia Association. She commented that she has probably been to all of the 20 conferences. It was October 12<sup>th</sup> and the 13<sup>th</sup> at the Drury Lane Conference Center. The keynote speaker was Dr. Louisa Cook Moats. The topic was "Research-Based Instruction: Are We There Yet?" Topics addressed were who we are concerned about, 11-17% of children are dyslexic, 38% of students are below basic reading levels, and that more than 70% of high poverty, minority children are at risk. It was reported that working with the lower 2% of the students a half hour a day at the elementary level has a greater success rate than starting at the middle school level. If started at the middle school level that ½ hour a day becomes 2 hours a day. That is problematic for that age level. Joy Kane went over Reid Lyon's detailed definition of dyslexia. Using that definition she went over the five components of reading that should be focused on for a child with dyslexia. They included phoneme awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. She pointed out that the same fix does not apply to all children. Sheila Clark Edmands gave a program on Specialized Program Individualizing Reading Excellence. Joy Kane commented that it is very similar to the other programs. In another program Greg Conderman reviewed the purpose of mnemonics and how they are helpful tools, especially for a child with dyslexia. Joy Kane told the Board that she was able to talk with people from other districts. During the conference three young people with dyslexia gave presentations. She commented that it was very powerful to hear them talk about their frustrations and challenges. It was great to see their successes. Mary Jane Rattner reported that the reading specialists and speech and language pathologists could benefit from going to this conference. An added benefit is that the conference is inexpensive and local. Joy Kane added that we had a grant to help pay the costs as well. Mary Jane Rattner thanked Joy Kane for her presentation.

**Consent Agenda:**

Tim Shanahan moved to approve the consent agenda. Donna Gaidamak seconded the motion.

12/06.41 Tax Levy approval

12/06.42 Board policy updates

12/06.43 Personnel Report

Voice vote: 6 ayes: 0 nays. Motion carried

**Action Items:** None

**President's Report:** None

**Superintendent's Report:** None

**Discussion Items:** None

**Committee Reports:** None

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Announcements:** None

**Informational Items:**

1. 2005 Tax Distribution #11
2. Ed-Red Legislative Dinner Information.

Mary Jane Rattner highlighted the Informational Items. She commented that the Board should start to think about the Legislative Dinner, and who would like to go. Donna Gaidamak asked if there was any way to find out if our legislators are going to be there. Dr. Zook commented that she can look into it. This dinner is scheduled for January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

**Adjournment:**

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

Tom Boehm moved to adjourn the meeting. Donna Gaidamak seconded the motion. Voice Vote: 6 ayes: 0 nays. Motion carried

Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 8:12PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Limer

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Mary Jane Rattner, President

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Timothy Shanahan, Secretary