

Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
Hawthorn Board of Education
January 8, 2007

01/07.52

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 8th day of January 2007.

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, Jose Hernandez, Bill Coli, and Mary Jane Rattner.

Public Comment period: None

Student and Staff Accomplishments, Recognitions: None

Staff Presentations:

Dr. Yomtoob told the Board that there are four pending issues. The first issue is consistency between the middle schools related arts programs. We are analyzing the situation. Secondly, we are investigating the foreign language program and the possible changes that we want to make. The third issue is a consistent sports program and sports philosophy at the middle schools. There will be meetings in January with the principals to discuss the fourth issue of balancing the population at Elementary North and Elementary South. Dr. Yomtoob commented that he is hoping to have a report on this in February. Balancing the population to reflect the district's diversity is challenging, Elementary South has a larger population than Elementary North. He added that the changes to the foreign language program may take longer to accomplish than four to five months. Mary Jane Rattner asked about a timetable for the related arts programs at the middle schools. Dr. Yomtoob stated that he hopes to have a timetable by the end of January or the beginning of February. He wants to make sure to involve staff members. We are going to use the related arts and foreign language surveys from parents and students, research and best practices. The changes made will have long-term implications, so we want to take the necessary time. Analyzing the surveys will be the first step; setting up the timeline will be done after the analysis is completed. Donna Gaidamak asked when Dr. Yomtoob was expecting the changes to be made. Dr. Yomtoob reported that for the sports programs at the middle school he expected that to be completed for the 2007-2008 school year. He was not sure when the related arts programs or the foreign language changes would be put in place. They are sensitive issues. We do not want to jump in too fast. He thought the changes would be in place for the 2008-2009 school year.

Tim Shanahan brought up the issue of balancing the populations. He questioned if we are looking to balance just Elementary North and South or all of the schools. Dr. Yomtoob explained that when Elementary North and South are balanced Middle School North and South will follow. That is a boundary issue. Balancing Townline and Aspen would be selection issues. Bill Coli commented that the change in the related arts and foreign language would require a personnel shift and involve some retraining. Because of that we may want to get that going sooner rather than later. Staff members are going to want to know if their jobs are changing. Dr. Yomtoob commented that there are a lot of things to consider. Tim Shanahan wanted to know if the administration is working with the high schools on the foreign language issue as the high school builds on the language selections of Hawthorn. Dr. Yomtoob responded "yes." Donna Gaidamak asked for some extra details on the balancing of the population at the schools. Dr. Yomtoob stated that he has asked for some information on the neighborhoods from the Technology Department. The changes made would not happen over one year. Students currently at one school would be

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grandfathered to stay at that elementary school until they move to a middle school. It is a process we are going to have to undertake. He added that we knew we were going to have to look at the boundaries again after the build out of Gregg's Landing and other shifts in the district were completed. Donna Gaidamak asked about the choice schools. Dr. Yomtoob told the Board that in terms of student populations Townline is balanced; Aspen is not. Townline is balanced primarily because of the dual language program. We are trying to balance Aspen. Tim Shanahan asked if there was a way to get a history of the trends. Dr. Yomtoob stated that he would get that for the Board members. Donna Gaidamak commented that if there is a shift in students there will need to be a shift in staff to accommodate those students. Dr. Yomtoob agreed. Mary Jane Rattner reported that all of these pending issues will require implementation plans. Dr. Yomtoob added that we need to make sure that the Board, staff, and the public understand the changes.

Consent Agenda:

Anne Hoffman moved to approve the consent agenda. Jose Hernandez seconded the motion.

01/07.50 Board Minutes, regular session, 12/22/06

01/07.51 Financial Statements, November 2006

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

Nays: None

Motion carried – 7– 0

Bill Coli made a comment on the Financial Statements. It would be more meaningful to make the third column of the statement “2005-2006 Year to Date.”

Action Items: None

President's Report: None

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Yomtoob stated that he wanted Alan Hahn to give an update on transportation. Alan Hahn stated that we are reviewing the process this year and preparing for next year. Kindergarten registration is in February. Daycare and sitter information needs to be in by June. We will be giving all of our information to Lakeside by July. Routes will be frozen as they were last year from the beginning of July to the third week in September. We will be offering a Kindergarten dress rehearsal the week of August 20th. Lakeside will be doing dry runs of the routes the same week. Alan Hahn commented that the GPS system will be a valuable tool for analyzing data in the next school year. Bill Coli reported that there were a couple of situations last year where safety was an issue. When freezing the routes we need to take safety issues into account. Mary Jane Rattner added that we need to relay that if our staff is bringing up safety issues, those issues must be addressed. Dr. Yomtoob stated that if parents call with safety concerns, we look at them. He added that the issues from last year were related to communication. Bill Coli told the Board that things went well, but there were a couple of small incidents. Mary Jane Rattner reported that the hotline worked well, but not all parents went to the hotline first. We need to make it clear to parents that the hotline is the first place to go with transportation issues.

Dr. Yomtoob stated that we are trying to improve service to parents. We are looking into a system that will automatically make calls to parents on snow days. At this point we are not sure if we will rent or purchase the system. The phone tree works well, but invariably someone is not notified of the snow day. This system would eliminate that problem. Tim Shanahan commented that the high school has this system in place and had performed a test call recently to demonstrate to the community what they would expect.

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Discussion Items:

Committee Reports:

Mary Jane Rattner told the Board that she has sent an email out to everyone regarding Committee Reports at the next meeting. She needs to know who has reports to give at the next meeting.

Unfinished Business:

New Business:

Announcements:

Informational Items:

Adjournment:

Mary Jane Rattner told the Board that we need to schedule a closed meeting. She asked everyone to let her know their availability for January 22nd or February 5th.

Dr. Yomtoob wanted to say thank you for the support from the community on David's passing. The support has been overwhelming.

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

Tim Shanahan moved to adjourn the meeting. Bill Coli seconded the motion. Voice Vote: 7 ayes: 0 nays.

Motion carried

Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 7:58PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Limer

Mary Jane Rattner, President

Timothy Shanahan, Secretary