

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 22nd day of January 2007.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Mary Jane Rattner, President, at 7:35PM. 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, Anne Hoffman, Tim Shanahan, Jose Hernandez, Bill Coli, and Mary Jane Rattner.

Public Comment period: None

Student and Staff Accomplishments, Recognitions:

Mary Jane Rattner told the Board that the Middle School North pom squad came in third at their meet. The Middle School South pom squad came in fourth. She stated that the cheerleaders placed, but she was not sure of their position.

Staff Presentations:

Dr. Yomtoob reported that six years ago Ms. Cencula came to us and talked about dual language. She is going to report on the program and a workshop the teachers recently attended. Ms. Cencula told the Board that Mrs. Conway wanted to be a part of the presentation, but is home with the flu. There are twelve Dual Language teachers. The program began in the 2001-2002 school year with Kindergarten and first grade. The Dual Language teachers are an excellent team who work well together. She read the names of the Dual Language teachers who were present at the meeting: Mrs. Delannoy, Ms. Segarra, Ms. Shaw, Ms. Kim, and Ms. Meland. Ms. Cencula thanked the Board for the opportunity to attend the La Cosecha Conference in New Mexico.

Ms Shaw explained that in the program both English and Spanish are used for instruction. The students are native English and native Spanish speakers. Some of the students have other home languages. As a part of the program, they develop high levels of English and Spanish proficiency, cross cultural awareness, and attitudes. Instruction is mostly done in Spanish in the early years with a gradual increase of English. Ms. Shaw added that a commitment to the program is required to support literacy and to support the goal of becoming bilingual, biliterate, and bicultural. Ms. Segarra reported on the La Cosecha Conference in New Mexico. The benefits of the conference were visiting schools with established programs, gaining a better understanding of how a child's brain functions in learning, and attending sessions with new teaching strategies. At the school visits they were able to hear feedback about Hawthorn's program, hear about other successes and challenges, and view different models with varying instructional times in Spanish.

Ms. Kim discussed Dr. Pat Wolfe's keynote address on "Brain Research and Education: The Vital Connection." Ms. Meland reported on one of the strategies that they learned about called Total Physical Response. They are using this strategy in the classroom. Ms Segarra and Ms. Cencula performed a skit for the Board using Total Physical Response to teach vocabulary. Mrs. Delannoy presented a video that described the Hawthorn Dual Language program in English and Spanish highlighting teachers and students. Ms. Kim highlighted the accomplishments of some of the Dual Language students. They included 2005 Published Author for Child's Play, 2005 Spelling Bee Champion, 2006 Spelling Bee Champion, and 2006 Word Power Challenge Finalist. Ms. Meland presented to the Board the Top Ten Reasons to be a Dual Language student in English and Spanish done by her fifth grade class.

Mary Jane Rattner thanked the teachers for their presentation. Years ago the teachers brought forth the idea of a dual language pilot program. She added that she still has her list of 32 questions from when the idea was first proposed. The teachers researched the idea and spent a lot of time answering all of the questions. The Board supported the idea even though we were not sure about enrollment. In some instances the teachers have gone out to seek students for the program. Mary Jane Rattner commented that the program is now well known. She commended them for a good job. Tom Boehm stated that he has a child in the program. He thanked the teachers, the benefits have been tremendous. Bill Coli commented that he saw the passion of the teachers five years ago; he still sees it and is glad. Ms. Cencula thanked the Board for their support.

Mary Jane Rattner stated that Donna Gaidamak would report on the IASB conference at the next meeting.

Consent Agenda:

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

01/07.52 Board Minutes, regular session, 1/08/07

01/07.53 Expenditure Report, January 2007

01/07.54 Financial Statements, December 2006

01/07.55 Personnel Report

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

Dr. Yomtoob stated that he believes there will be 16 teachers retiring this year. The deadline for the teachers to state their intention is February 1st. We will be losing many talented teachers.

Action Items: None

President's Report:

Mary Jane Rattner stated that there was a Community Committee set up to help identify our next superintendent. They met last week with three candidates. She wanted to thank the committee for their help. They were asked by the Board and were a cross section of parents from the community. They took time out from their schedules, and we appreciate it.

Superintendent's Report: None

Discussion Items: None

Committee Reports:

Mary Jane Rattner stated that Donna Gaidamak will report on SEDOL at the next meeting.

Jose Hernandez told the Board that there are a whole series of things that we need to do before the end of February as a part of the Audit Committee. He will get things scheduled.

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.

Tim Shanahan moved to adjourn the meeting. Jose Hernandez seconded the motion. Voice Vote: 6 ayes: 0 nays. Motion carried.

Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 8:05PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Limer

Mary Jane Rattner, President

Timothy Shanahan, Secretary