

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 12th day of March 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, Tim Shanahan, Jose Hernandez, Bill Coli, and Mary Jane Rattner.

Public Comment period:

Patricia Small of 129 Crabtree, Libertyville stated that she was surprised that the Board would characterize the proposed Middle School schedule change as a criterion for "effective schools." She reported that she was glad that Dr. Zook was able to change the schedule back to balance everything. She was glad that the community was considered. Ms. Small added that she is glad that there are different opportunities and options.

Stella Senning of 380 E. Royal Saint George thanked Dr. Zook for her flexibility. It was said by the Board that they walk a fine line. It was also said that a staff member crossed a line. That should be said in private. The administration handles staff issues, not the School Board. The controversy did not have to happen. The community should be heard. The community should not be considered to be misinformed when the Board did not know how the community got the information. The Board needs to reaffirm their willingness to listen to the community. We are all equal partners. Bill Coli stated that he wanted to clear the air. The only thing that the Board did was support the administration. Now we are supporting the latest change. A lot of people are making presumptions. A lot of people thought this was a financial problem, and we were going to pull 7th and 8th grade Band. Those are just rumors. The Board spent a lot of time correcting misinformation. Bill Coli reported that all around it could have been handled more respectfully. He stated that he supports the president of the Board.

Student and Staff Accomplishments, Recognitions:

Mary Jane Rattner told the Board that both Middle School Bands placed in their last competition with a rating of a "1." For the first time ever the Middle School South Band received a "1+" rating.

Staff Presentations:

Dr. Zook went over her presentation on the ASCD Online Survey for foreign language and related arts survey. There were three surveys that went around. The first was to learn community members' perceptions of schools using the 11 Factors for Effective Schools as set up by Robert Marzano. The survey was on line and went from October 2006 through the end of January 2007. The response rate was evenly distributed between the schools and the community. The response rate was 10.5%; which is a typical response rate. The reports we have received are a composite report, report by school, and demographic report. Dr. Zook indicated that the responses are pretty well distributed and the consistency of answers seems to show they are representative of the entire population. The bulk of the responses fell in the "3" range on a four-point scale. The highest marks came in "Professionalism of staff," "Classroom management," and "Classroom curriculum design." The lowest marks came in "Home Environment," "Challenging goals and effective feedback," "Student motivation." She told the Board that there was a consistency of answers between grade level buildings. The parents of older children have different perceptions and needs than those with younger children. She stated that families that have a more positive perception of the District include: lower income families, Latino families, and families living in the District for a shorter length of time. Dr. Zook went over the Top Ten Items for Development. She told everyone that the results are on the Hawthorn website and listed how to get to it.

Dr. Zook went on to the World/Foreign Language Survey. The purpose for this survey was to learn how students grades 3-8 and their parents feel about the current program and their perception of the importance of teaching foreign language in our schools.

The survey took place last November. 78% of the students filled out a survey mostly because it was done during the school day. There was a 9.9% response rate by parents. 73% of the students responded that learning a World Language was "very important" or "somewhat important." Parent responded to the same question at 93%. Overall parents want to start teaching World Languages between K-2; which supports current language studies as to the best time to start teaching a foreign language. The students wanted to start the teaching in 6-8; which is how it is done currently. The preference by students and parents was to teach two World Languages rather than just one. The overall preference was for Spanish if only one language was to be taught. Dr. Zook went over the other languages that parents and students were interested in having taught. To find time for that language to be taught, parents were more interested in one less gym, art, or music class a week. This is how it is currently being done at Townline. The kids were more interested reducing regular classes by 5 to 10 minutes each.

Dr. Zook told the Board that the Related Arts Survey was to learn student' and parent' satisfaction with the current middle school related arts curriculum and the perception that there should be identical program rotations at each of the middle schools. 82% of the students answered that identical rotations were "extremely important" or "somewhat important." 89% of the parents answered the same way. 41% of the students and 39% of the parents ranked Consumer Science/Life Skills as their number one choice. Only Parents were surveyed to see if they would be in support of moving music classes outside of the school day. 52% responded that they would be in support of that. Dr. Zook added that this survey was for the entire community, not just parents with children in the music program. She went over the comment made by students on the Related Arts survey as to class suggestions and preferences.

Dr. Zook stated that the next step related to Foreign Language will be to create a committee of teachers and administrators from the middle schools and high schools to determine the appropriate changes. A recommendation for a plan will be presented to the Board no later than January 2008. The implementation will probably be no earlier than the 2009-2010 school year. The next step for the Related Arts will follow the same schedule, but will not include the high schools. Dr. Zook reported that the District website has more information about the ASCD survey and there will be periodic updates as to the committees' work.

Donna Gaidamak asked about the timetable of the first survey. Dr. Zook stated that some of the objectives are building based, and we will make sure that they happen. Others are District based. She was not sure how many will happen this year, but there will be a plan by the end of the year. Donna Gaidamak stated that some parents were okay with moving programs to outside the school day. She wanted to know if it was asked about extending the school day. Dr. Zook responded that the question was not asked.

Mary Jane Rattner told the Board that the State Report Card is out. It will be on the website, and it will be at the District Office. Dr. Zook started with the announcement that there will be a Report Card Meeting at the District Office on April 16th at 6:30PM. She stated that Illinois was the last state to distribute and publish their School Report Card. This week we start ISAT testing. She reported that she has gotten some emails from parents asking why ISAT testing is being done right after Daylight Saving. She responded that we have no choice. There are two weeks that we are allowed to test. The other week is spring break. She stated that we have favorable results from last year's ISATs, but we also use other assessments for our students. The goal is to have all children proficient in math and reading by June 2010. ISATs are our first measure. Last years tests showed 87.3% proficient. The year before was 80.2%, so we are making progress. This is something that we are constantly working on. Dr. Zook went over grade level ISAT results. She indicated that there will be a report in the upcoming Hawthorn Highlights.

Tim Shanahan stated that he was glad to see the results. The criticism is that we are always testing a new group, but the numbers are trending up. Dr. Zook reported that we can look at individual data as well. Teachers are using Just 5 Clicks in the classroom. Tom Boehm stated that based on the report card our scores are up, but our minutes on reading have gone down. He questioned why.

Dr. Zook told the Board that we prioritize as many minutes as possible. This year we are using 120 minute literacy blocks. We emphasize reading in social studies and science as well. Donna Gaidamak wanted to know about the "alternative assessments." Dr. Zook explained those are for students who have IEPs and are unable to take the tests. They have a one-on-one alternative test. Donna Gaidamak added that according to the report card our 8th grade class sizes are must larger than the State average. Dr. Zook commented that the numbers are better now that the reconfiguration is complete. Bill Coli added that this data is very old already. It reflects things that we did a long time ago. This is a leading indicator of the Seven Correlates. He is encouraged by the results. He expects to see further improvements. He asked about the latest MAP scores. Dr. Zook stated that the cut scores are there. Students who need help are getting interventions. She is encouraged by the results.

Mary Jane Rattner told the Board that there was an article in the Daily Herald minimizing the work of our teachers. They see our improvements as a result of the test changing. It is very upsetting; we have a staff we should be proud of. There are trends that we can see. The students are recipients of our staff development, block scheduling, and teacher communication. Dr. Yomtoob added that most of our students have made their expected yearly improvements by the time the midterm MAP testing is done. We are getting closer to our goal.

Consent Agenda:

Tom Boehm moved to approve the consent agenda. Tim Shanahan seconded the motion.

03/07.69 Financial Report, January 2007

03/07.70 Illinois District Report Card

03/07.71 10 year Life Safety Survey

03/07.72 Personnel Report

Vote: Ayes: Boehm, Shanahan Gaidamak, Hernandez Coli, Rattner

Nays: None

Absent: Hoffman

Motion carried – 6– 0

Action Items: None

President's Report:

Bill Coli, as part of the Human Resources Committee Report, stated that in 2004 we extended Dr. Yomtoob's contract to 2009. We have been working on a transition to a new superintendent since that time. It is a process that we have shared with the community. In 2006 we surveyed the community and came up with a list of characteristics we wanted in a superintendent. Before we started a nationwide search we decided to look internally. In September of 2006 we inquired within the District. Three highly qualified candidates came forward: Dr. Ahlemeyer, Dr. Zook, and Dr. Hudson. Bill Coli congratulated Bob Hudson on receiving his doctorate just two weeks prior. A community steering committee, which was a cross-section of the community, met with the candidates. In January and February the Board met with each candidate twice. We believe that we made a good choice. Mary Jane Rattner acknowledged all of the candidates. They each represent 11 to 15 years with the District. Anyone of the three would be a good choice. Mary Jane Rattner stated that Dr. Zook will be the Superintendent Elect from 2007-2009. She has enthusiastically accepted the position. Our long range District plans include Dr. Hudson and Dr. Ahlemeyer. She stated that the Board deliberated long and hard. It has been planned in advance to allow for a careful transition. We, as a District, have taken huge strides; we have more to go. Mary Jane Rattner stated that Dr. Zook will take over some key responsibilities immediately. We are putting our children first and keeping our focus.

Dr. Zook thanked the Board for the opportunity. She stated that she is excited, and the Board will never regret going internal. She has enjoyed her 15 years at the District and the opportunity she has been given. We have high caliber teachers and administrators. This is where she wants to be. She thanked Dr. Yomtoob for the opportunities and for his belief in her.

She is looking forward to a smooth transition and moving to the next level. Dr. Yomtoob congratulated Dr. Zook. The transition will be seamless. He added that he wants to expedite our goal and have 100% of our students proficient one year ahead when he retires.

Superintendent's Report: None

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.

Jose Hernandez moved to adjourn the meeting. Tom Boehm seconded the motion. Voice Vote: 6 ayes: 0 nays.

Motion carried

Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 8:36PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Limer

Timothy Shanahan, President

Anne Hoffman, Secretary