

Minutes  
Regular Board Meeting  
Hawthorn Board of Education  
April 23, 2007

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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 23<sup>rd</sup> day of April 2007.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Tim Shanahan, President, at 7:38PM. 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.

Tim Shanahan thanked Mike Meline from the Vernon Hills Park District for coming to the meeting. Mr. Meline thanked the Board for all of their work on the Intergovernmental Agreement. He stated that Mary Jane Rattner and Bill Coli worked very hard putting it together. He added that he is here tonight with Larry DeGraaf, if the Board has any questions. Tim Shanahan commented that he appreciated everyone's effort. Bill Coli thanked Larry DeGraaf and Cynthia Peterson. It was a difficult process. Mary Jane Rattner added that the Agreement serves both organizations. It meets the goal. We are proud to have come together. We have been respectful of each other's needs.

**Public Comment period:** None

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

Tim Shanahan congratulated Michelle Comitor, Lisa Jay, and Jeff Bard who were the present newly elected School Board Members. He added that we will be canvassing the vote May 4<sup>th</sup>. They will be seated May 14<sup>th</sup>. He looks forward to working with all of the new Board members.

**Staff Presentations:**

Tim Shanahan brought up the subject of the Elementary North addition. Jason Lepke from Legat Architects showed the Board the updated, refined design. He stated that C1 had been the preferred design, but the cost was high. He went over the modifications that were made to the design. There is an office left in the administrative area for a possible assistant principal if needed in the future. He stated that 95% of the space planning has been completed. Principal Greene has looked at the design and is pleased. Mr. Lepke commented that they are looking at the 3D concepts of the building. Natural light will be working with geometric shapes. Anne Hoffman asked about the width of the main corridor. Mr. Lepke stated it is 10 to 11 feet. Tim Shanahan asked what current width is. Mr. Lepke responded 10 feet. Anne Hoffman asked if there is a traffic flow issue now. Brian Greene stated that there is. The addition would change the traffic pattern and the noise level in the school. Now all of the students have to go around the library, and it gets noisy for those students in the library.

Tim Shanahan asked about the cost. Tim Carrino of IHC Construction reported that the cost of the addition is estimated at \$1,308,111. The cost of the remodeling in this design went down, but the cost of the support products went up. Mr. Lepke commented that this estimate is what we can have. We can make modifications from here. He added that he needs budget ideas and feedback from the Board. Mary Jane Rattner asked what could be changed to make the addition less costly. Mr. Carrino stated less of everything and possibly some square footage. Tim Shanahan asked about the curved section. Mr. Carrino commented that the curve of the glass is the concept for the entrance. It gives the school some character. Mary Jane reported that Townline has a similar look with the sloped glass. Mr. Carrino stated that the curve adds cost. The curve can be more subtle to save on some of the cost. Donna Gaidamak asked to be shown how the floor plan would change if there was less of a curve to the front. Mr. Lepke pointed out that the principal's office space changes. There would be more square footage and that square footage would be more functional. Tim Shanahan asked what the savings would be. Mr. Carrino stated somewhere in the range of \$50K to \$60K.

Tim Shanahan commented that he liked the corridor connection around the library and the defined entrance. Anne Hoffman reported that the goal is to maximize the use of the space. Altering the design may make it less expensive and more practical. She suggested that the entrance resemble the new entrance at Elementary South. She stated that she likes the idea of the schools having some consistency. Donna Gaidamak told the Board that if the curve is straightened out it will cost less money and make better use of the space. It makes sense. Mr. Lepke commented that there are many ways of approaching this design. They can look at straightening the curve. Donna Gaidamak added that our main goals are space and security.

Bill Coli stated that the architects need an idea as to what we are comfortable spending for the addition. Tim Shanahan commented that we need to look at the budget and prioritize. Jose Hernandez asked Mr. Carrino when he needs to know the numbers. Mr. Carrino explained that they would want to go out to bid in January; which means he needs to have complete documents by December. Mary Jane Rattner asked how much time is needed for the design. Mr. Lepke stated he needs 3 ½ months for the design and documentation. Tom Carrino commented that he needs three weeks after the design is completed. Mary Jane Rattner suggested following that information that the Board would need to have a decision by August 1<sup>st</sup> at the latest. The decision needs to be made at the first meeting in June to ensure design and documentation time is adequate to get the project ready to go to bid in January 2008. Mr. Lepke commented that they would be back at the first meeting in June. Mary Jane Rattner stated that the Elementary South addition looks good. The traffic patterns are working well. She commended them.

Tim Shanahan told the Board that we have a presentation on Internet Safety to be given by Dr. Hudson and Tom Donovan. Dr. Hudson stated that ten years ago we built Middle School South at the time we had a dial up connection for the computers in the PTO sponsored computer lab. A lot has happened in ten years. At the time everyone wanted to connect to the internet at all of our schools. We knew that this was something that we needed to do. There was a huge potential for growth. Our students are the first generation to be immersed in the internet. The internet is now a part of our culture. We are all connected to the internet in so many ways. Dr. Hudson stated that the challenge is to prepare our students for the world that is ever changing. He discussed how the communication methods that the School Board has used over the years have changed. We now have the ability to stream the meetings over the internet. Bill Coli wanted to know if we are currently doing this. Tom Donovan stated that we are not, but it would not take much to do. Anne Hoffman wanted to know if that would allow for a public archive. Mr. Donovan commented that we would use it for recording and then make it available to the public. If there is a big interest, we could do it live. Donna Gaidamak suggested a live web cast that is then stored for those people who do not have access to Channel 4. Dr. Hudson stated that some of the areas in our School District do not get Vernon Hills cable. That is a way to work around that issue. Dr. Hudson commented that we need to look at the skills our kids will need in the workforce. They need to know how to collaborate and communicate. The childhood that he remembers is gone. Kids still need the ability for socialization. Kids are doing that on the internet. There are over 100M My Space users. We need to educate and inform our students. Those tools are going to be available to all students of every socioeconomic group.

Tom Donovan brought up the safety aspect of the internet. We use a two-pronged approach. The first is a filter mechanism. It does not allow the students to look at a certain list of web sites. The second filters the content as it comes in. It is still not a perfect solution. He went over the issues. We do not want to block entire websites because some of those sites have valuable information our students and teachers can use. Tom Donovan discussed the question of "appropriate." It is not an easy decision because what is appropriate to one may not be appropriate to another. Currently everyone at the schools has a log in and password. It is a place to start because it ties the student into a computer and a time. We have stressed to the students not to share their passwords. All students sign an Acceptable Use Agreement.

Dr. Hudson commented that the internet is incorporated into our culture. Students are using instant messaging to collaborate on their homework. Kids are starting younger and younger. He used Webkins as an example. He questioned how the culture comes into the school. Kids are more connected than we think. He brought up the subject of predatory behavior. It is unacceptable in any form. The police department has told us that they feel it is easier to track predatory behavior on the internet than it was before the internet. Dr. Hudson stressed that parents still need to watch what their kids are doing. He suggested the book [The Parents Guide to Protecting Your Children in Cyberspace](#). All of the schools are looking at internet safety. I-Safe is currently being used. The internet is a great tool, but it needs to be used effectively and efficiently by our teachers. He commented that he is proud of the leadership. We are all working together to prepare our students for the future.

Mary Jane Rattner questioned if the Acceptable Use Policy is being signed yearly. Dr. Hudson stated that it should be revised and signed yearly. Everything keeps changing. Mary Jane Rattner asked if the policy comes home with the kids with an explanation for the parents. Dr. Hudson stated that there is a user friendly version for parents and students. They take it home and sign off on it. It is specific to each grade level. Mary Jane Rattner suggested that it might be worthwhile to have a workshop for parents on internet safety that teaches parents how to block websites, track and monitor their children's activity etc. Dr. Hudson stated that OMNI did a program last year. Donna Gaidamak commented that program was for middle school students. We may want to do something for all student levels.

**Consent Agenda:**

Jose Hernandez moved to approve the consent agenda. Mary Jane Rattner seconded the motion.

04/07.84 Board Minutes, regular session, 2/23/07

04/07.85 Expenditure Report, April 2007

04/07.86 Financial Statements, February 2007

04/07.87 Financial Statements, March 2007

04/07.88 Auditor Appointment

04/07.89 2008/9 Transportation Fee

04/07.90 Teacher Resolution

04/07.91 Personnel Report

Tim Shanahan asked Alan Hahn about the transportation fee. Alan Hahn explained that the calculation is done each year. The cost of transportation and taxes has gone up. Based on the increased costs, the fee should be \$350 per child. To make it a little bit more manageable he is proposing that the fee for the 2008/9 go to \$330. The cost for the 2007/8 school year has already been increased to \$315 per child. He reiterated that this fee is for students who do not qualify for busing because they live within a mile and a half of the school.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried – 7– 0

**Action Items:**

Mary Jane Rattner moved that the Board of Education authorize the Board President and Board Secretary to execute the final version of the Associate Superintendent's, also known as the Superintendent Elect/Superintendent or Designee, employment contract in accordance with the terms presented and discussed in closed session. Bill Coli seconded the motion.

04/07.92 Authorize Execution of Administrator Contract

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

Nays: None

Motion carried – 7– 0

Tim Shanahan brought up the subject of the Intergovernmental Agreement. Alan Hahn stated that this has been going on for the last year and a half. In February both boards met for final details. Late Friday was our last update. Our attorney suggests approval of the agreement subject to attorney review. There are a couple of language changes. Bill Coli questioned when the attorney would look at the agreement. Alan Hahn stated "tomorrow." Bill Coli moved to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Hawthorn School District #73 and the Vernon Hills Park Districts, subject to attorney review. Mary Jane Rattner seconded the motion.

04/07.93 Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement

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

Nays: None

Motion carried – 7– 0

Bill Coli stated that he would like the attorney review completed by tomorrow in time for the Park District's Thursday meeting.

**President's Report:** None

**Superintendent's Report:** None

**Discussion Items:**

Tim Shanahan moved to refer the discussion of a School Safety Officer to the Executive Committee. Jose Hernandez seconded the motion. Voice Vote: 7 ayes: 0 nays. Motion carried

Bill Coli stated that research has been done as to School Safety Officers. The only district reimbursing the cost is District #75. They are reimbursing \$12,000/year. That is less than half of what we are paying in Vernon Hills. Some schools do not have a Safety Officers; others are combining efforts.

**Committee Reports:** None

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**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Announcements:** None

**Informational Items:** None

Dr. Zook signed her contract. The Board Members congratulated her.

Tim Shanahan reminded the Board that there will be a meeting May 4<sup>th</sup> at 8AM to canvass the election results.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business, Tim Shanahan requested a motion to adjourn.

Tom Boehm moved to adjourn the meeting. Donna Gaidamak seconded the motion. Voice Vote: 7 ayes: 0 nays.  
Motion carried

Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 9:05PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Limer

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Timothy Shanahan, President

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Anne Hoffman, Secretary