

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 25th day of June 2007.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Tim Shanahan, President, at 7:40PM. 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: Jeff Bard, Michelle Comitor, Lisa Jay, John Sonnenberg, Anne Hoffman, and Tim Shanahan.

Public Comment period: None

Student and Staff Accomplishments, Recognitions: None

Staff Presentations:

Dr. Zook told the Board that Robin O'Connor and Jan Greene were here to give a presentation on HEI, the summer program. They have been working on the program since last summer. They have some exciting things to share. Ms. O'Connor reported that in 2006 they had a new design and a new name. She went to gifted programs to investigate how the programs were run. She wanted "out of the box" thinking for the program. They introduced creative, artful learning. The summer program was connected to the school philosophy using UBD and the reading across the curriculum. The Zachary Tran Memorial Scholarship provided funds for scholarships. The teacher autonomy system was started, so that the teachers would explore and have fun with the program. Ms. O'Connor reported that in 2007 the program has more artful learning, global options, and course choices. Some of the classes have a different look, and more staff has been added. They have added instrumental music, a ceramics center, and multiple art opportunities with singing and music. Jan Greene told the Board that Mr. Carlson, a gym teacher, is teaching an art and PE class. That class is doing tumbling and juggling and will have a performance for parents at the end of the session. Ms. O'Connor commented that there are more movement and art classes with guitar and vocals. Art, music, and dance have been added to a lot of the classes. Geri Silver has been added to the staff. She is well known in the community for her expertise in art and dance.

Ms. O'Connor stated that the program has added HOSTS for reading and math support. Advanced reading and math classes have been added for high level opportunities. There are lots of hands on activities and real life experience classes such as cooking and babysitting. Ms. Greene reported that the students in the babysitting class have eggs to carry around as "babies." Ms. O'Connor commented that they are bringing in more things for the kids to experience. One teacher has arranged for a horse to come to school. There is a new calendar this year with two sessions. Fridays are a free day. There are new selections for parents. They can choose to send their children for any of the three classes during the day. There are new opportunities for kids. The Zachary Tran Memorial Fund has given HEI \$3,200 to provide scholarships for 16 kids. The students and teachers are making new connections and new relationships. It is a collaborative, family, open program that has been very well received.

Ms. O'Connor told the Board that there are 36 – 37 ACE volunteers. Lilly Olsen is in charge of the volunteers. The volunteer program is a service opportunity for LHS and VHHS students. There are two interns this year working at HEI. The program has been split to offer more staff opportunities. Ms. O'Connor reported that HEI is going to have a presence at the Fourth of July parade. Some of the students and teachers are going to march. They are going to pass out pencils. Dr. Zook suggested that some of the Board members join in the marching. Ms. O'Connor commented that she only sees good things for the future. Enrollment is currently 350. She hopes to get it to 400 to 500 students. She stated that she is honored to be a part of the program. It is very progressive. Lisa Jay asked if eighth graders can take classes. Ms. O'Connor indicated that after the kids leave eighth grade they can come back as ACE volunteers.

There is talk of setting up a leadership class for those kids next year. John Sonnenberg commented that the program is wonderful and impressive. It deserves praise and recognition. He questioned what happens with non residents. He wanted to know if preference is given to residents. Jan Greene stated the only non-Hawthorn students are students who live in the District but do not attend Hawthorn schools. There are not many, but our kids get preference. Tim Shanahan commented that the program is self-supported financially. Ms. O'Connor stated that the students not in the District do pay a little more to attend.

Jeff Bard asked if there is equal distribution through the grades. Ms. O'Connor reported that in the past they have had more younger kids, but this year there was an increase in older students. They need to encourage older students to

attend. Jan Greene explained that parents have requested reading and writing review, so that is something they are looking into. Ms. O'Connor commented that having HEI at the middle school helps to bring in the older kids because they can offer cooking classes. Word of mouth really helps. Michelle Comitor asked if any surveys will be done for parents and kids. Ms. O'Connor commented that they are working on a ratings tool. Michelle Comitor stated that her 7th grader loves the program. Anne Hoffman asked about what happens when an animal is brought into the school. She wanted to know if there is a handler. Jan Greene explained that a dog groomer came in with a dog. All parents were called ahead of time to ask about allergies. The animal was checked out ahead of time. Each animal does have a handler. Lisa Jay wanted to know if when the handler comes in, if that person signs anything. Dr. Zook commented that the animals that come in come from licensed organizations and are bonded.

Consent Agenda:

Anne Hoffman moved to approve the consent agenda. Michelle Comitor seconded the motion.

- 06/07.105 Board Minutes, special session, 5/4/06
- 06/07.106 Working Cash Loan to Education Fund and Municipal Retirement Fund
- 06/07.107 Prevailing Wage
- 06/07.108 Expenditure Report, June 2007
- 06/07.109 Financial Statements, April 2007

John Sonnenberg asked about the expenditure for computer laptops and desktops. He wanted to know if this was tied to the tech plan. Dr. Zook explained that we are purchasing 475 computers. They will serve as workstations to support our new writing program. We will be upgrading the teachers' computers, and any computer that is less than three years old will go on a cart. We will be adding three new computer carts to both middle schools, and Townline. There will be two new computer carts at Elementary South. One new computer cart will go to Elementary North and one to Aspen. It will all be part of the tech plan. We are licensing with Vantage Learning for fourth through eighth grade students. The program will work on writing and word processing skills. Dr. Zook added that we are working on a way to make this program available to students at home. It is a three-year licensing agreement. Jeff Bard asked if all of the teachers will be getting new computers. Dr. Zook stated that they would. Jeff Bard asked if this is part of a replacement policy. Karen Cencula added that the timing is perfect because this works with our obsolescence policy. Lisa Jay asked how many computers there are in the classrooms. Dr. Zook reported that number varies. There is an avenue for all teacher requests for computers in the classroom. The new computers will help us to condense our MAP testing schedule. Teachers are also setting up learning centers. Jeff Bard asked if there is any way to work on the word processing skills other than at home. Dr. Zook stated we are building opportunities into recess and choice time. We have struggled with where and when. It will vary within buildings. The writing gives purpose to work on word processing skills. John Sonnenberg stated that he was glad to hear about the home feature. The plan is important. He commented that he would like to hear feedback later.

Tim Shanahan moved to amend the Consent Agenda to add the last two items listed on the agenda. Lisa Jay seconded the motion

- 06/07.110 Financial Statements, May 2007
 - 06/07.111 Personnel Report
- Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Bard, Comitor, Jay, Sonnenberg, Hoffman, Shanahan,
Nays: None
Absent: Gaidamak
Motion carried – 6– 0

Dr. Zook asked the administrators to introduce their new assistant principals and teachers. Anne Groh introduced the new assistant principal at Middle School North, Robert Natale. Joy Mullaney introduced the new assistant principal at Middle School South, Richard Viviano. Joy Kane introduced Leah Hendrick, a new art and technology teacher at Elementary South. Karen Cencula introduced Gambol Beham, a new dual language teacher at Townline. Karen Cencula then introduced Betsy Sostak who is changing positions to assistant principal at Townline. All of the new administrators and teachers came forward to sign their contracts and shake hands with the members of the board.

Action Items:

Anne Hoffman moved to appoint Alan Hahn to be School Treasurer for a one-year term beginning July 1, 2007 for a salary of \$7,100.00. John Sonnenberg seconded the motion.

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Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Bard, Comitor, Jay, Sonnenberg, Hoffman, Shanahan,
Nays: None
Absent: Gaidamak
Motion carried – 6– 0

Tim Shanahan stated that we are having a first reading of Board policy changes tonight, but no vote is needed. John Sonnenberg moved to have a first reading of Board policy changes. Anne Hoffman seconded the motion.

Tim Shanahan brought up the subject of administrative salary ranges. Lisa Jay moved to approve the salary ranges. Michelle Comitor seconded the motion. Jeff Bard asked if the administration sets the ranges, why the Board needs to vote on it. Tim Shanahan stated that because of the discussion, we felt we needed a vote. Anne Hoffman added that we set the range for the new hires. Not every board does this. Tim Shanahan reported that it is a courtesy between the Board and the Administration.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Bard, Comitor, Jay, Sonnenberg, Hoffman, Shanahan,
Nays: None
Absent: Gaidamak
Motion carried – 6– 0

President's Report: None

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Zook stated that she attended the Bernstein Leadership Institute in Gettysburg. This is our sixth year of participating. All of our teachers at Aspen and Townline are trained in Bernstein. There are a lot of teachers at our other schools who are also trained. It was an intense, awesome experience. Other teachers went as well. Dr. Zook reported that we will be proud to host others here in April. Hawthorn serves as a local training group.

Discussion Items: None

Committee Reports:

Jeff Bard told the Board that he and Michelle Comitor attended a SEDOL meeting. Their budget was presented and approved. A lot of new board members from other districts attended the meeting as well. They are looking at the issues to be discussed.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

Announcements: None

Informational Items: None

Adjournment:

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

Michelle Comitor moved to adjourn the meeting. Jeff Bard seconded the motion. Voice Vote: 6 ayes: 0 nays. Motion carried

Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 8:40PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Limer

Timothy Shanahan, President

Anne Hoffman, Secretary