

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 28th day of July 2008.

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, Lisa Jay, Michelle Comitor, John Sonnenberg, Donna Gaidamak, Anne Hoffman, Tim Shanahan.

Public Comment period: None

Student and Staff Accomplishments, Recognitions:

Dr. Yomtoob told the Board that HEI is over and was very successful. Summer Scholars started today. Tim Shanahan thanked Donna Gaidamak for marching in the Fourth of July Parade with the District float. Donna Gaidamak commented that Dr. Zook organized the students who were on the float and taught them a chant.

Staff Presentations:

Dr. Yomtoob stated that the representatives of the Vernon Hills Park District are here to present on the proposed land use across from Elementary South. Larry DeGraf introduced Dave Doerhoefer and Mike Meline. Dave Doerhoefer, president of the Park District Board, thanked the Board for their time. He stated that the groups have partnered before to help the community and the schools. Currently the district is land locked for physical education space on the south campus. The Park District land across the street was cleared last fall. The park district now has a preliminary plan for that land. Mr. Doerhoefer explained the plan. The preliminary plan is to move the skate park from the Sullivan Center parking lot, put in a softball/baseball field, parking lot, tot lot, sand volleyball if desired, open areas for soccer or football, restrooms, covered shelter, and a walking path to connect this area to the existing paths. He added that there will be wetlands on the site which can be used for science exploration. The entrance to this park will line up with the entrance to Elementary South.

Lisa Jay asked about the size of the area. Mike Meline indicated that it is 10 useable acres with a total of about 13. Anne Hoffman wanted to know if the covered shelter will be rentable. Mr. Doerhoefer commented that it will be. Anne Hoffman stated that she has a health concern with sand volleyball. She also wanted to know if the wetlands will be fenced. Mr. Doerhoefer responded that there is no plan to fence the wetlands because that would limit access for school-lead exploration. He added that they have not had a problem in the past with sand. Anne Hoffman wanted to know about soccer goals. Mr. Doerhoefer responded that the goals will be permanent, or there will be no goals. John Sonnenberg asked about a home run fence. Mr. Doerhoefer stated that there is no plan for a home run fence. Tim Shanahan asked if a traffic study has been done on this area. Mr. Doerhoefer stated that it has not yet been done. Donna Gaidamak asked Tim Shanahan if there has been any discussion with the Physical Education teachers about the proposal. Tim Shanahan stated that he has forwarded them the information as he has received it. Donna Gaidamak added that the gym teachers may be interested in other sports that are not currently represented. We may want to discuss this with the teachers.

Mr. Doerhoefer told the Board that there is no plan for the Park District to do any programming at this park. Anne Hoffman asked if the berm between the houses and the park will stay as is. Mr. Doerhoefer commented that the berm will stay, but the foliage has to be looked at. Lisa Jay asked about priority rights to the park. Mr. Doerhoefer responded that during the day the schools will have priority. Tim Shanahan asked whether District 73 residents would have the same priority in reserving and using the space as Park district resident based on using district funds to develop this space. Mr. Doerhoefer commented that a resident in District 73 will have the same rights as a Vernon Hills resident at the park as was agreed on in the intergovernmental agreement signed by both districts. Donna Gaidamak asked about intramurals. Mr. Doerhoefer stated that there will be no Park District programming at this park before 6PM. Anne Hoffman questioned if the Park District is considering putting up a berm behind Appleton. Mr. Doerhoefer responded that that has not been discussed. There will be drainage issues, but it can be considered. Anne Hoffman asked if the walking path will be paved on the south end. Mr. Doerhoefer stated that it will be.

John Sonnenberg stated that 25 parking places are not enough. He asked about the need for the tot lot given the playground at Augusta Park. Mr. Doerhoefer commented that there will be no official games at the park. It will serve as a practice field. We want to encourage this use as a neighborhood park, not a destination park. Those are the reasons to limit the parking spaces. Larry DeGraf added that the playground was put in at the request of the schools. They felt that there was a need for it. Lisa Jay asked what will happen if a classroom is out using the park, and neighborhood parents are out there with their children. Mr. Doerhoefer stated that the same situation happens at other parks right now. It has never been a problem.

John Sonnenberg asked about the playground. Jill Martin, Elementary South principal, commented that there are a lot of children on the south campus playground at lunch time. It would be good to have another area to send the kids, so each is less crowded. Donna Gaidamak asked about a running track, so that the middle school students can run the track rather than through the neighborhood. Mr. Doerhoefer stated that an asphalt track would have additional maintenance costs, but it would be easy to mark the mileage on the concrete of the walking paths so students can run around the park.

Mr. Doerhoefer explained to the Board that the \$1.2M budget is based on the concept highlighted tonight. The suggestion is that the school is responsible for 1/3 of the cost, the Park District is responsible for 1/3 of the cost, and the OSLD final 1/3 be paid through an OSLAD Grant (the Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) The OSLAD Program is a state-financed grant program that provides funding assistance to local government agencies for acquisition and/or development of land for public parks and open space. The federal Land & Water Conservation Fund program (known as both LWCF and LAWCON) is a similar program with similar objectives. Both are managed in Illinois by the Department of Natural Resources with concurrent application due dates, equal grant maximums and similar general rules.

Projects vary from small neighborhood parks or tot lots to large community and county parks and nature areas. The state program is financed by a percentage of the state's Real Estate Transfer Tax. The federal program is financed nationally by revenue from OSOD leases.

Under both programs, funding assistance up to 50% of approved project costs can be obtained. Grant awards up to \$750,000 are available for acquisition projects, while development/renovation projects are limited to a \$400,000 grant maximum) handles the last 1/3.

Michelle Comitor asked if there will be a walkway to the library. Mr. Doerhoefer pointed out that since that path would go over Village property, the Village would have to put it in. Donna Gaidamak asked about a timeframe for this project. Mr. Doerhoefer explained that we want to move forward in 2009 with construction in the spring of 2010. The grant is the key. Mr. DeGraf explained that the OSLAD Grants are for park acquisition or development. The more amenities added the better chance we have for the grant. This project is a great example of what the grant administrators are looking for. This would be our sixth OSLAD Grant for park development. Alan Hahn asked about upkeep. Mr. Doerhoefer stated that the Park District would be responsible for maintenance. The Park district will keep the park as developed for Hawthorn's use for a minimum of a 30 year commitment. John Sonnenberg brought up the issue that the kids would have to cross the street to get to the playground. Ms. Martin commented that the older kids would probably be the students who use that park. On the north campus students are required to cross the street to get to Century Park. John Sonnenberg stated that in that case the tot lot would not really be a tot lot. Mr. Doerhoefer stated that the playground would be for five to twelve year olds with a small tot lot. Ms. Martin added that the older kids would appreciate the field space. John Sonnenberg asked about improvements to Augusta Park. Mr. DeGraf explained that Augusta Park is a problem area. It is a detention area, and we cannot change the elevation. John Sonnenberg asked for a timeline for the Board of Education. Mr. DeGraf commented that we will have two fiscal years with which to pay off this project. John Sonnenberg also asked if there were any other cases where the park district and the school district had worked together to jointly fund improvements to potentially shared facilities. Mr. Doerhoefer said that the gyms at the Townline building were made to the 30 foot standard based on input from Townline teachers and the park district agreed that this would make these gyms more usable to a greater number of joint constituents. Mr. Doerhoefer stated that the school district did not request funds from the park district to offset costs for having higher gym ceilings at Townline. Donna Gaidamak asked about community input into the new open spaces across from Elementary South and Mr. Doerhoefer commented that they would welcome and seek out community input.

Consent Agenda:

Lisa Jay moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Anne Hoffman seconded the motion.

- 07/08.1 Board Minutes, regular session, 6/9/07
- 07/08.2 Board Minutes, regular session, 6/23/07
- 07/08.3 Expenditure Report, end of the year
- 07/08.4 Expenditure Report, July 2008
- 07/08.5 Financial Statement, June 2008
- 07/08.6 Transportation Fees
- 07/08.7 Personnel Report

Lisa Jay wanted to know if we are under any risk with our funds. Alan Hahn commented that we have almost no risk. Most of our money is in Illinois Funds, and they are very solid. Lisa Jay wanted to know why our State sources are down.

Alan Hahn responded that the State is hurting and are slowing the payments. Lisa Jay stated that it has been suggested by the Administration that we increase the cost of bus transportation to those who pay for it by 6%, but our real costs have gone up 22%. She wanted to know if that was a good idea. Alan Hahn responded that the bus costs are not an exact formula. That 6% seems to be a fair, manageable amount.

Ayes: Jay, Hoffman, Comitor, Gaidamak, Hoffman, Shanahan

Nays: Bard, Sonnenberg

Motion carried – 5 – 2

Joy Kane introduced new faculty, Debbie MacFarlan and Karla Downey. Eileen Conway introduced Eileen Duhig. All three came forward to shake hands with the Board and sign their contracts.

Action Items:

07/08.10 SEDOL Building Project

Dr. Yomtoob asked to move the discussion of the funding of the SEDOL expansion up on the agenda. Alan Hahn told the Board that Ray Coyne, our financial advisor, has suggested that we pay the \$1.1M that we will owe SEDOL in cash. We have some extra money from bond interest due to "Loss and Cost" that is available to us. Alan Hahn explained how the Lost and Cost funds work. We can use that money and finance the rest. He explained that we would sell more bonds to finance the rest. We can sell bonds at a better rate than SEDOL. Ray Coyne went over some of the options. John Sonnenberg asked over what period we have accrued the Lost and Cost funds. Alan Hahn stated the first payment was back in 1982. John Sonnenberg asked if we could give SEDOL an extra \$100K a year coming from the Lost and Cost. Mr. Coyne responded that holding the extra money gives the District some flexibility for future needs. We do not want to get too aggressive. It is better to wait for that money to be in hand. John Sonnenberg asked about the reserve study because we can use it to better determine our needs. Anne Hoffman commented that it is in process. Alan Hahn stated that we have to plan for the SEDOL expenditure because we have to tell SEDOL how we are going to pay them by August 1st of this year. Payments on this decision will not be due until August of 2009. This gives the district an entire year to formulate its plan to allocate funds from the existing budgets, raise funds from bond sales or explore other avenues. Alan Hahn stated that the district is in strong financial shape and because of this we have several options for paying SEDOL. We have the time to develop the best way to do this, 2008. Mr. Coyne stated that the District can use non-referendum bonds to finance the rest of the money owed. John Sonnenberg asked what is needed tonight. Alan Hahn stated that we are recommending paying SEDOL cash. The exact details of the financing will be determined after we receive the long term study, determine our future technology needs, and finalize the plan for the proposed park with the Park District.

John Sonnenberg moved to recommend that the Board of Education authorize the Administration of Hawthorn District #73 to finance their portion of SEDOL's building project in cash. Michelle Comitor seconded the motion.

Ayes: Sonnenberg, Comitor, Bard, Jay, Hoffman, Shanahan

Nays: None

Abstain: Gaidamak

Motion carried – 6 – 0

07/08.8 Tentative Budget 2008/09

Donna Gaidamak moved to recommend that the Board of Education accept the tentative budget as presented for the fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009, and that the budget be placed on file for public inspection from August 8, 2008 to September 8, 2008 at the District Office located at 841 West End Court, Vernon Hills, Illinois, and that a public hearing of said budget be held at 7:00PM on September 8, 2008 in the District Office Board Room located at 841 West End Court, Vernon Hills, Illinois. John Sonnenberg seconded the motion. Jeff Bard commented that the budget he was not comfortable approving a tentative budget that he just received today and that has not yet been reviewed by the Board. Donna Gaidamak pointed out that we are not approving the budget, just putting it on display. Jeff Bard indicated that the way the motion is worded that the Board was accepting the tentative budget and that the public would be reviewing the tentative budget that will be voted on in September. Anne Hoffman stated that there are State laws we have to abide by. We are approving the process, not the budget. John Sonnenberg questioned if there was any way to move this process earlier. Alan Hahn explained that there are a lot of unknowns. We do the best we can. We are still hiring teachers for the upcoming school year. Donna Gaidamak reread the motion.

She moved to recommend that the Board of Education accept the tentative budget as presented for the fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009, and that the budget be placed on file for public inspection from August 8, 2008 to September 8, 2008 at the District Office located at 841 West End Court, Vernon Hills, Illinois, and that a public hearing of said budget be held at 7:00PM on September 8, 2008 in the District Office Board Room located at 841 West End Court, Vernon Hills, Illinois. John Sonnenberg seconded the motion. Jeff Bard stated that he is not prepared to accept the motion given the fact that he just received the tentative budget today.

Ayes: Gaidamak, Sonnenberg, Jay, Comitor, Hoffman, Shanahan

Nays: Bard

Motion carried – 6 – 1

Tim Shanahan moved to recommend that the Board of Education publish the following legal notice in the Pioneer Press: " Notice is hereby given by the Board of Education of School District #73 in the county of Lake, State of Illinois, that a tentative budget for said school district for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008 will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at the District Office located at 841 West End Court, Vernon Hills, Illinois, after 8:00AM on the 8th day of August 2008. Notice is further hereby given that a public hearing on said budget will be held at 7:00PM on the 8th day of September 2008; in the District Office Board Room located at 841 West End Court, Vernon Hills, Illinois." Lisa Jay seconded the motion

Ayes: Shanahan, Jay, Comitor, Sonnenberg, Gaidamak, Hoffman

Nays: Bard

Motion carried – 6 – 1

07/08.9

Anne Hoffman moved that the Board of Education authorize the treasurer to loan money as needed from the Working Cash Fund to the Educational Fund and Municipal Retirement fund in anticipation of the 2007 tax receipts. Donna Gaidamak seconded the motion. Alan Hahn Alan Hahn Tim Shanahan stated that we do this at this time of the year every year based on the disbursement of funds to the district from the county. . He stated that it is cheaper for us to loan ourselves the money from our working cash fund than to seek an outside source. Alan Hahn stated that this is why we have a strong fund alance in the Working Cash fund.. Tim Shanahan questioned when we will be paid back. Alan Hahn responded that as of today, it is already paid back.

Ayes: Hoffman, Gaidamak, Bard, Jay, Comitor, Sonnenberg, Shanahan

Nays: None

Motion carried – 7 - 0

President's Report: None

Superintendent's Report: None

Discussion Items: None

Committee Reports:

Jeff Bard stated that there will be a SEDOL quarterly meeting in August. They are looking for members for a Building and Construction Committee to help with the planned construction project. There will be more details on the construction later.

John Sonnenberg told the Board that the tentative ground breaking for the new library will be October 4th.

Michelle Comitor pointed out that the agendas for Board of Education Meetings for the months of June and July are not yet up on the website. Dr Yomtoob stated that the district office has worked with the technology department to give Nancy McVicker the ability to load the approved minutes directly to the website. This procedure is being put in place at this time.. Joe indicated he would look into why they are not posted in a more timely manner.

John Sonnenberg asked if the budget will be available online. Alan Hahn stated that we can post the tentative budget online.

Tim Shanahan announced that starting at the next Board meeting we will be starting at 7:00PM rather than 7:30PM.

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. Lisa Jay seconded the motion. Voice Vote: 7 ayes: 0 nays. Motion carried.

Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 9:35PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Limer

Timothy Shanahan, President

Anne Hoffman, Secretary