

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 7:00PM on the 25th day of August 2008.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Tim Shanahan, President, at 7:00PM. Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Anne Hoffman called the roll, with the following members of the Board of Education answering present: Jeff Bard, Lisa Jay, John Sonnenberg, Donna Gaidamak, Anne Hoffman, Tim Shanahan.

Public Comment period: None

Student and Staff Accomplishments, Recognitions:

Tim Shanahan told the Board that the addition to Elementary North looks good. Dr. Yomtoob stated that we are trying an experiment at Elementary North with permanent grass. He added that the bus drivers did a great job today.

Staff Presentations:

Dr. Zook indicated that the assistant principals at the Middle Schools are going to give a presentation on Outdoor Education. We are no longer using Camp Edwards. They are going to present on the alternative program. Rob Natale, Middle School North assistant principal, told the Board that they had presented on Outdoor Ed last April. They have come up with alternative enriching activities that will go along with the school curriculum. After looking at several sites they selected Camp Duncan, Camp Henry Horner, and Ryerson Woods. The program will be called HEFTE, Hawthorn Environment, Field, and Team Experiences. Renee Ulberg, Middle School South assistant principal, stated that in October the students will go to Camp Henry Horner to participate in a challenge course, team building, canoeing, outdoor cooking, and shelter building. The early winter program will be at Ryerson Woods and focus on adaptations, science, and art. The early spring program will be at Camp Duncan and focus on challenge climbing, orienteering with GPS, environmental issues, and outdoor living. She went over how the program aligns with the State Standards. This new program will improve staff and parent participation because it will be during the day. Ms. Ulberg commented that there will be more opportunities for parents to volunteer. Outdoor Ed will be at no cost to students. Students are expected to attend. We are planning for increased participation and expecting a reduced level of absences afterward as compared to the old program. This program will be monitored and improved as needs arise. We will survey staff and students upon completion. She added that all of the sites have the ability for an extended day program if we want.

Donna Gaidamak wanted to know if this program will be all day. Ms. Ulberg stated that it will. Donna Gaidamak asked about the 12 days scheduled for Outdoor Ed. Mr. Natale commented that students will be divided into smaller groups for maximum participation. Donna Gaidamak asked who will conduct teaching at the sites. Ms. Ulberg reported that facilitators at the site will do the majority of the teaching. Donna Gaidamak asked about the cost factor. Dr. Yomtoob explained that the students used to fundraise for this program. Last year it cost each student \$80 to go. This year we will pay for all students to attend. Donna Gaidamak asked how the sites were chosen. Ms. Ulberg indicated the proximity, the cleanliness, and state of the art facilities were factors. Donna Gaidamak asked how many teachers were on the committee. Ms. Ulberg stated that there were three teachers. Lisa Jay asked how the outings work with the students' schedules. Ms. Ulberg responded that the entire team goes at once. Lisa Jay asked what will happen with the 5% of students who do not participate. Ms. Ulberg explained that this will be handled as a field trip.

John Sonnenberg asked for a time on task comparison to the Camp Edwards program. Ms. Ulberg stated that there will be four and a half hours at each location. Dr. Zook explained that we looked at the experiences available. There will be three to four experiences at each location each of the three days. That is double the time at Camp Edwards. Mr. Natale reported that they will all be unique experiences that are broader and with more variety than Camp Edwards. He added that they have been told that many schools are switching to this type of program. John Sonnenberg stated there were night time experiences at Camp Edwards. He wanted to know if there are optional programs for parents to participate with their children at night. Ms. Ulberg stated that night programs are available at all of the locations if we wish to expand. John Sonnenberg wanted to know about student assessment, accountability, and the evaluation process. Dr. Yomtoob responded that students will make a digital portfolio. Dr. Zook added that the programs will be October 12th to the 14th, December 2nd to the 5th, and March 24th to the 27th. Jeff Bard questioned if there are any provisions for bad weather. Ms. Ulberg stated there are. Jeff Bard asked about parent involvement. Ms. Ulberg indicated that parents will be asked to participate, and assist. Donna Gaidamak asked if the timing of the trips will correlate with classroom learning. Ms. Ulberg stated that it will.

Anne Hoffman asked about the liability issue. Dr. Zook stated that this change will reduce liability because there is no overnight stay. There will be some liability because of the bus rides and canoe trip, but there will be professional staff on site. Alan Hahn explained that our insurance covers the liability for off-site programs. The District pays for accident insurance during the school day and for activities. Tim Shanahan stated that this new program is right on target.

Consent Agenda:

Lisa Jay moved to approve the consent agenda. Jeff Bard seconded the motion.

- 08/08.8 Board Minutes, regular session, 7/28/07
- 08/08.9 Board Minutes, Committee of the Whole, 8/11/07
- 08/08.10 Expenditure Report, August
- 08/08.11 Substitute Pay
- 08/08.12 Lawsuit Settlement
- 08/08.13 Personnel Report

John Sonnenberg asked about substitute pay. Dr. Yomtoob explained that we had a two-tier system. Now we have one. There is no longer a bonus. We had permanent substitutes; we have decided we no longer need them.

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

Ms Groh introduced Kimberly Calbrese. Jaclyn Richter and Jennifer Tiller were introduced. Ms Cencula introduced Carmen Garcia and Jenna Maloney. Mr. Springborn introduced Tiffany Treat and Gerri Mullunchick. All of the teachers present came forward to sign their contracts and shake hands with the Board of Education members.

Action Items: None

President's Report: None

Superintendent's Report: None

Discussion Items:

Dr. Yomtoob brought up the Reserve Study. Alan Hahn reported that URS is waiting for our responses. We can speak with them pertaining to what we want them to do with the report. Jeff Bard asked if there were any revisions to be done. Alan Hahn responded that he is not sure, but if there are any they will be small. Tim Shanahan asked if there were any surprises. None were reported. Anne Hoffman asked what we are doing with the final report. Alan Hahn reported it will assist us with going forward. It will help organize us. Anne Hoffman stated we can schedule the next five years of maintenance. Alan Hahn commented that we use one wing of John Powers, referred to as the Townline Annex. Tim Shanahan commented that we have a comprehensive study of all of our buildings.

Dr. Yomtoob told the Board we have discussed putting in a maintenance building that will cost approximately \$850K. We were asked to compare the pros and cons which we gave to the Board. Jeff Bard asked about the scope of the building. James, the facilities manager, commented it will house stock, extra furniture, vehicles, be a staging area, and alleviate clutter. Jeff Bard asked why the cost of the building has gone up. Alan Hahn reported the scope of the building has increased and will be located next to Aspen Pointe and the Village requirements for an attractive appearance has increased. Tim Shanahan asked about square footage. James stated it will be 6,500 square feet. Lisa Jay asked if there is anywhere else to put the building. Alan Hahn responded that we could put it on the southwest corner behind Elementary South. He added he had no idea what the cost reduction would be as a result of additional excavation costs. Jeff Bard asked if there would be additional savings because of less outside repair costs. The staff can do tune ups, oil changes, and minor brake repair on District vehicles. John Sonnenberg reported that the maintenance building will free up space in the schools as well. We should look into cold storage underground because that would be another 6K square feet of storage. Tim Shanahan told the Board we need to make sure it is big enough for the future. We have not increased our facilities space with the increases in school space. Donna Gaidamak asked how many vehicles and staff the building is to store. James stated that the maintenance building is to store seven vehicles and house seven staff members.

Dr. Yomtoob discussed expansion of the Townline parking lot. Lisa Jay asked about the traffic flow with the additional 22 spaces. Anne Hoffman commented that it will eliminate the green space between Middle School North and Townline, but will not change the traffic flow. She added the Reserve Study indicated we have a shortage of 30 plus parking spaces. Jeff Bard asked about the Middle School North parking lot. Dr. Yomtoob reported that some Townline teachers park in that lot, but it is too far to walk. Donna Gaidamak asked why we did not address this issue at the beginning. The administration is asking us to spend \$65K, but still there will not be enough parking spaces. She wanted to know why we did not build the parking lot to building capacity at the beginning. Alan Hahn reported that it was not done to save money. Tim Shanahan pointed out that at the beginning the Board was assured that the parking was adequate. Alan Hahn stated that legally and collectively we have enough parking, but practically there is not enough. Tim Shanahan commented that he did not feel that \$3K a parking spot was fiscally responsible.

Lisa Jay said when she goes to Townline she parks at the Middle School North parking lot. Twenty-two additional spaces are not enough. We are not going to eliminate the need with the 22 spots. She commented that she would rather put the money toward the maintenance building. John Sonnenberg asked about incentives for car pooling. Dr. Yomtoob told the Board that teachers have a lot to carry. Anne Hoffman commented that we have lost the parking on Hawthorn Parkway. Ms. Cencula, Townline principal, added there are only five visitor spots in the Townline parking lot. Lisa Jay reiterated that 20 spots will not solve the problem.

Ms. Cencula stated the teachers are not complaining, but we worry about safety at night and in the winter. It is not a welcoming environment for parents or good for the community. Lisa Jay asked about a walkway from the Middle School North parking lot to Townline. Tim Shanahan asked about having Legat Architects perform a feasibility study. We need to look at long term solutions. Anne Hoffman added we want to fix the problem without adding a new one. Jeff Bard asked about a cost analysis before hiring the architects. Tim Shanahan said he does not think the current plan is the solution. Dr. Yomtoob reported that our student population has stabilized. Donna Gaidamak explained that she wants to see an estimate of a feasibility study before the study is done. John Sonnenberg stated that Townline spots should be reserved for Townline and John Powers use. Tim Shanahan said we need to find the solution and do it right.

Dr. Yomtoob said the administration has a plan for a \$9.6M bond issue that would not raise the tax rate. The bond money would be used for several things. Alan Hahn explained that the Reserve Study outlined some immediate, short term needs, ADA needs, and reserve costs for 10 years of building maintenance. The reserve costs account for \$8.7M. He laid out the costs of the Technology Pioneers Program (\$760K), the maintenance building (\$860K), SEDOL (\$391K), and the Park District/Hawthorn District Park (\$400K). The total comes to \$11.2M. Mr. Hahn explained that the bonds worth \$9.6M may be sold as Dept Service Bonds. That would allow us to change our budget to free up funds for other purposes in our plans. The bonds would eliminate the deficit spending that we are planning this fiscal year. Donna Gaidamak asked if we do not have the money now why don't we wait for the expenditures. Alan Hahn explained that we are going to have to pay for roofs. Donna Gaidamak went over the proposed costs for all of the major proposed projects. She commented that she is not sure that she wants to do all of these things. Lisa Jay asked how doing these things now will impact us for next year.

Donna Gaidamak reported that originally we were looking at this to pay SEDOL. Now we are looking to add on a substantial amount. Alan Hahn stated that we are looking to the bond issue for our reserve costs. Jeff Bard asked how we were planning to pay for our reserve costs. Dr. Yomtoob stated that we need \$8.7M over the next 10 years. We are also recommending the maintenance building, 21st Century Education, and SEDOL. We have discussed all of these things. The bonds will cover all of the costs. Donna Gaidamak added that the \$700K for the Technology Pioneers is only for this year. Dr. Yomtoob explained that if we have the bond funds, we will have additional money in the Education Fund. That Fund will help to fund our additional technology program each year. Donna Gaidamak said she needs more information about this new program. We seem to start new initiatives every year. There are many unanswered questions. Lisa Jay wanted to know how this will impact the future. Maybe we need to prioritize. John Sonnenberg commented that we need to discuss the Reserve Study. He does not necessarily agree with everything in the Study. He added that he thinks the Pioneers are going to want more funds sooner. Tim Shanahan stated that we can do this without raising taxes. The bond money would take care of what we need for the next ten years, paying for it over 20 years.

Anne Hoffman asked if the bond opportunity will change. Alan Hahn commented that the interest rate will change. Right now they are very low. There is no real benefit to waiting. Anne Hoffman reported that three years ago we were told that we had enough money for the maintenance of our new buildings. Alan Hahn stated that we had the operating cost covered. We never said that we could pay for the replacement costs. Donna Gaidamak wanted to know if there are any restrictions on the bond money spending. Alan stated that the money could be used for capital improvements. Donna Gaidamak wanted to know what would happen if our plans or initiatives change. Lisa Jay wanted to know the last time that we did this. Dr. Yomtoob stated that we had a bond issue in 1997/98 and 2002, but we never did it this way. This ensures that the new residents who come into the District pay their share of the costs. Alan Hahn asked about a consensus. This decision will affect the budget. Jeff Bard commented that we do not have to do all of these projects. We may want to discuss the merits of each one. John Sonnenberg reported that the Pioneers are ready to go, but they do not have the equipment they need. Tim Shanahan stated that we are not taking action on discussion items tonight. It is unfair to the Board to ask for a consensus.

We just got the information on these items. Anne Hoffman asked for a final copy of the Reserve Study before the next meeting, so we can make our decisions. Jeff Bard added that he does not have a feel for the cost of the Technology Pioneers Program beyond this year. He asked if there are any other alternatives for the maintenance building. Donna Gaidamak stated that she wants to see input from the PE teachers on the proposed Park District Park across from Elementary South.

Committee Reports:

John Sonnenberg told the Board that the big issue with the new library is whether or not to put in a basement. Dr. Yomtoob stated that he would call them to encourage them to put in one.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

Announcements: None

Informational Items: None

Adjournment:

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

Anne Hoffman moved to adjourn the meeting. Lisa Jay seconded the motion. Voice Vote: 6 ayes: 0 nays. Motion carried

Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 9:40PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Limer

Timothy Shanahan, President

Anne Hoffman, Secretary