

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 22<sup>nd</sup> day of September 2008.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Tim Shanahan, President, at 7:05PM. 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:**

Ronald Stolberg of 330 Farmington Lane told the Board that he found a Trugreen sign on a school property. He tried to contact Trugreen to find out what chemicals they use on the grass, but could not find out. He stated that he wants to know what is put on the lawns. He feels that the chemicals are dangerous. The chemicals are affecting our water supply. The number of people with cancer is growing exponentially. He questioned if there is filtered water for the students so that the kids are not drinking the poisons. Donna Gaidamak asked Mr. Stolberg where he found the sign. It was determined that the sign was found at Elementary South.

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

**Staff Presentations:**

Eileen Conway told the Board that she is presenting on the Afterschool Club and the Schoolhouse Day Care programs. She introduced Andrea Collins, new owner and CEO, David Lucas, co-owner and president, and Lisa Hansen, COO. Mr. Lucas told the Board that they have great communication and a great program with the District. Eileen Conway explained that having on-site day care has helped with retention of teachers. The Afterschool Club is currently in 12 districts in Lake and McHenry counties with 100 employees. Hawthorn and Libertyville are the districts with the largest enrollment. Elementary North and Elementary South house the before and after school programs. The Annex at the Powers School holds the kindergarten program, and Elementary North houses the Schoolhouse program. Ms. Conway reported that there are a maximum of 201 children in the Afterschool Club program during the day. She added that financial assistance is available in certain circumstances.

Ms. Conway went over the number of children in the preschool rooms and the maximum number of children allowed. There are six children who live in District 73 currently on the waiting list. She stated that the daycare is primarily used by teachers and administrators working in the District. Dr. Yomtoob indicated that the administration will have a proposal for the Board by November 1<sup>st</sup> with an approval needed by January. Donna Gaidamak asked if the kindergarten to fifth grade age limitation for the Afterschool Club is only at this District. Ms. Conway explained that the program is open to older kids at this district and at others. Donna Gaidamak asked about the changes that have been implemented since the new owners took over. Ms. Hansen commented that HAC has stayed the same. They do want to grow and add some new programs. The biggest change has been to the Schoolhouse. They have invested additional money into the program and changed some of the policies in order to raise the standard of the program. Schoolhouse is now accepting only children who live in the District or children of parents who work in the District. Lisa Jay wanted to know if Schoolhouse is open to any employee in the District. Ms. Hansen responded that it is.

John Sonnenberg wanted to know if the daycare program is run using State standards for early childhood. Ms. Hansen commented that they provide services above the DCFS standards. Ms. Conway pointed out that this is a daycare program, not a licensed preschool. John Sonnenberg stated that another daycare program will be opening very close by. Ms. Hansen stated that they do not consider themselves to be in competition with any other daycare program. Michelle Comitor questioned if there would be any plan to have daycare through age two and then start preschool for the older children. Ms. Hansen commented that they are working on the curriculum. Ms. Conway reminded the Board that this is a private organization. Tim Shanahan thanked the visitors for their time.

**Consent Agenda:**

Donna Gaidamak moved to approve the consent agenda. Lisa Jay seconded the motion. Jeff Bard asked to remove the Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes from the consent agenda due to their brevity and indicated that he did not think they adequately reflect the committee discussion in light of the guidance provided in the recently held training with IASB. Tim Shanahan told Jeff Bard that he needed a motion to remove the minutes. Mr. Bard made a motion that was not seconded.

- 09/08.14 Board Minutes, Committee of the Whole session, 09/08/08
- 09/08.15 Expenditure Report, September
- 09/08.16 Financial Statements, July
- 09/08.17 Financial Statements, August
- 09/08.18 2008 District Report Card
- 09/08.19 Personnel Report

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Gaidamak, Jay, Comitor, Sonnenberg, Hoffman, Shanahan,  
Nays: Bard  
Motion carried – 6– 1

**Action Items:**

Tim Shanahan reported that the Board has worked for a long time on the final budget. There was ample time to discuss the issues. The Board of Education has come to a consensus that we can all stand behind. He thanked everyone, and especially Alan Hahn, for all of their hard work. John Sonnenberg moved to recommend the Board of Education approve the final budget, as presented. Michelle Comitor seconded the motion.

Jeff Bard commented that we did spend countless hours, but the situation has changed. We are now in probably the worst financial crisis the U.S. has ever seen. This crisis has implications for the world economy. Jeff Bard stated his opinion that we did not look hard enough at our operating costs and ways to cut costs. He stated that he did not agree with spending more money than the district brought in revenues and that he does not agree with the spending \$850K for a maintenance building. He commented that he agrees that we need a maintenance building, but he does not agree with the size of the building and the magnitude of the project. Anne Hoffman large expenditures come before the board for approval. The School Code dictates how this is done. Donna Gaidamak added that this is a huge expense. This project has been tabled for years, and over the years the costs have continued to go up. She asked Alan Hahn to explain how we have the money to do this project. Alan Hahn explained that in each operating fund we have a balanced budget. We will pull some of the money from each fund into Working Cash to pay for the maintenance building. The budget will be balanced. The District is in good shape. The maintenance building is an investment. We will gain efficiency. Jeff Bard asked if we are spending more than we are bringing in. Alan Hahn reported that the needed transfer into the Working Cash Fund is less than the cost of the building. There will be a deficit because of the money coming out of the Working Cash Fund. John Sonnenberg commented that this is a good functional use for the money that we have in the bank. It is a one-time cost. He added that not all of the funds for the building will be spent in this fiscal year. Lisa Jay added that this still keeps us healthy financially. Michelle Comitor commented that now is the time it would be fiscally irresponsible for us to wait any longer, as construction costs keep going up. We will actually have to spend more money to wait. We all believe this is necessary. Tim Shanahan told Jeff Bard that he resents the comment that the Board did not review the operating costs of the District.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Sonnenberg, Comitor, Jay, Gaidamak, Hoffman, Shanahan,  
Nays: Bard  
Motion carried – 6– 1

Lisa Jay moved to recommend that the Board of Education approve the lease agreement for the computers as described in the memo and attached documents and authorizes the Superintendent or designee to execute the documents. John Sonnenberg seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Jay, Sonnenberg, Bard, Comitor, Gaidamak, Hoffman, Shanahan,  
Nays: None  
Motion carried – 7-0

Donna Gaidamak moved to recommend that the Board of Education approve the lease-purchase agreement for the copiers as described in the memo and in the attached documents and authorizes the Superintendent or designee to execute the documents. Lisa Jay seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Gaidamak, Jay, Bard, Comitor, Sonnenberg, Hoffman, Shanahan,  
Nays: None  
Motion carried – 7-0

Donna Gaidamak moved to recommend that the Board of Education approve the attached contract with TSA Consulting to provide third party administrative services for the 403b plan of Hawthorn School District 73 and authorize the Superintendent to execute the contract. Michelle Comitor seconded the motion. Alan Hahn explained that this is due to changes in the IRS rules. It is a drastic change. TSA will be our third party administrator.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Gaidamak, Comitor, Bard, Jay, Sonnenberg, Hoffman, Shanahan,  
Nays: None  
Motion carried – 7-0

**President's Report:**

Tim Shanahan explained that last Saturday the Board of Education and the administration met for six plus hour to refine our strategic plan and goals. We are working to put a plan in place. The plan will be up on the website and be made public using other avenues. Anne Hoffman added that we have created a mission and a vision. Each building will be working with that mission.

**Superintendent's Report:**

Dr. Yomtoob thanked the Board for their cooperation with the budget. This is his 13<sup>th</sup> budget with the District. This one had more discussion with the Board than any in the past. He thanked Alan Hahn for all of his effort.

**Discussion Items:** None

**Committee Reports:**

Jeff Bard attended the quarterly SEDOL meeting in August. He reported SEDOL is moving forward with their plans for expansion. The personnel at SEDOL are getting excited. Jeff indicated that about half of the districts are paying cash for their share of the costs; the other half are financing with SEDOL. He added that our first payment is due August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Tim Shanahan commented that last Tuesday the Board met with a representative of the Illinois Association of School Boards. There was a discussion of how to run an effective meeting. He went over some of the things discussed. A lot of it is based on trust and communication.

John Sonnenberg asked about the October 4<sup>th</sup> groundbreaking for the new library. Dr. Zook explained that the date has been postponed. They want to do it during the week, so that more students can participate. They will be getting back to her when the new date is decided on.

**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. Michelle Comitor seconded the motion. Voice Vote: 7 ayes: 0 nays. Motion carried.

Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 7:55PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Limer

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Timothy Shanahan, President

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Anne Hoffman, Secretary