

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 27th day of October 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: 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 all of our schools have been recognized by the State.

Tim Shanahan pointed out that there were Boy Scouts from Troop 95 and 273 present at the meeting. They are here working on their Communication Badge.

Staff Presentations:

Dr. Yomtoob explained to the Board that there are discussed standards for our schools. and testing measures. We use ISAT scores, MAP scores, and IEPs to determine how our students are progressing. We do not practice for the ISATs. He showed the Board the flowchart that we use to determine success. First we look at ISAT scores, and then MAP scores. In the future we will also have local assessments to look at. The last thing that we use to gauge success is an IEP, if a student has one. Those are our four criteria for success. A test that is given to a student on one day should not be used to determine success. Dr. Yomtoob explained that overall our student achievement is good in all areas but writing. He indicated that the ISAT reading test changed this year. This year 93% of our students met one of the three criteria for reading. This year 96% of our students met one of the three criteria for math. This year 71% of our students met one of the criteria for writing. He added that there were a lot of students who were very close to meeting the criteria. 92% of our students met one of the three criteria for science this year. Dr. Yomtoob stated that overall he is very pleased, but we do have work to do. Our goal is that for 100% of our students will to meet our criteria for success by 2010.

Anne Hoffman asked how many of our students met the criteria for success in writing last year. She questioned what percentage of our students was on the borderline this year. Dr. Yomtoob commented that he did not have the numbers in front of him. Donna Gaidamak wanted to know what we are doing to prepare for the ISATs. Dr. Yomtoob commented that we do not push our students to prepare for the ISATs. Jill Martin, Elementary South principal, reported that we do not officially prepare our students. We teach study skills. We use Study Island. Our curriculum is based on the State standards. ISAT is based on the standards as well. Donna Gaidamak asked about the local assessments. Dr. Yomtoob explained that eventually all of the teachers will have an exam or assessment test that they use every quarter or trimester. It will work similarly to how high schools have semester exams. Ms. Martin added that the new report card has helped with the standards based assessment.

Dr. Yomtoob told the Board that studies show that the higher the social economic scale the higher the achievement. The same studies also show that the lower the social economic scale the lower the achievement. At our schools, the kids who are not supposed to do well are doing well. Anne Hoffman commented that the number of students who receive free or reduced cost lunches has increased. Dr. Yomtoob agreed. He added that is a complement to our staff. We are shooting for 100% academic success. Jeff Bard wanted to know if we have looked at the data. Dr. Yomtoob commented that the all school improvement plans are almost completed. We will do winter MAP tests on those for students who need extra help. There is a 24-hour turn around time for MAP testing, not so with ISAT testing. We identify the kids who need extra help with the MAP tests. Donna Gaidamak stated that our goal is for all of our kids to success succeedeven without No Child Left Behind. Dr. Yomtoob commented that punishing does not work. It is better to work together. There is too much emphasis on tests.

Consent Agenda:

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

- 10/08.24 Board Minutes, regular session, 7/14/08
- 10/08.25 Board Minutes, regular session, 8/25/08
- 10/08.26 Board Minutes, regular session, 9/22/08
- 10/08.27 Expenditure Report, October
- 10/08.28 Financial Statement, September
- 10/08.29 Recognition of Schools
- 10/08.30 Personnel Report

John Sonnenberg asked about our bank funds in the bank... Alan Hahn commented that we have no money in the stock market. Schools are only allowed to invest in secure vehicles. That includes the State investment pool and bank accounts. Any funds above \$100K are collateralized. Our money is safe. Lisa Jay asked if there are any restrictions of the State investments. Alan Hahn reported that the State's policy is the same as ours. It is very safe.

Dr. Yomtoob commented that with the recognition that we have received and it being approved in the Consent Agenda, it is documented that our teachers and aides are highly qualified.

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

Action Items:

10/08.31 Approval of the 403b Plan Document and Adoption Agreement

Alan Hahn told the Board that the new plan was a lot of work that was required by the IRS. TSA Consulting will be our third party administrator. They are a premier company; they do a good job. Our plan follows the IRS guidelines. It is a benefit to our employees; it protects the school district. Lisa Jay moved to approve the 403b Plan Document and Adoption Agreement as presented and authorize 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

President's Report:

Tim Shanahan told the Board that he has met with the auditors. They are still working in the schools. They will be presenting to the Board at the Committee of the Whole Meeting. There are some extra standards that they need to review. Anne Hoffman commented that there are now more checks and balances.

Tim Shanahan mentioned the meeting of the Stevenson consortium. MAP tests were discussed.

Tim Shanahan brought up the subject of the groundbreaking for the new library. There were four classes of first graders from two of our schools and one-seventh grade team from Middle School South at the event. He mentioned the officials who were present. It was an amazing collaboration. John Sonnenberg commented that it was a long time coming. Tim Shanahan stated that the plan is to open the new library in 12 to- 14 months. John Sonnenberg told the Board that the first graders did a great job. Donna Gaidamak stated that we should acknowledge the Library Board and Village for all of their hard work. Dr. Yomtoob added that with the park district facilities and our schools nearby, the whole area will have a campus-like feel. He commented that he is very proud of our kids. They were polite, engaged and interactive.

Donna Gaidamak stated that on November 3rd Doug Reeves will be at Townline at 7PM for a town hall presentation. John Sonnenberg commented that he is the Michael Jordan of education. Donna Gaidamak reported that it will be engaging and enlightening. Tim Shanahan added that other districts are excited that he is coming to us.

Jeff Bard mentioned the International Fair that was held at Townline. The parents did a great job with the number of people and cultures represented and participating. Karen Cencula commented that this program was run by the Family Initiative Group. She mentioned the parents who organized the event. There was a multicultural fashion show. The McNulty Irish Dancers performed. Parents are already working on next year's program.

Anne Hoffman mentioned Snowflake. It was an outstanding, wonderful experience. Tim Shanahan acknowledged John Langlund's role in it. Mr. Langlund told the Board that there were about one thousand people in attendance. Michelle Comitor commented that it was neat to see the engagement of over 450 kids. They get it. Mr. Langlund reported that the program is growing every year. It is at capacity and seeking alternatives for next year. We did not have to sell the program to the kids at all.

Jeff Bard asked if it was too late to turn in a survey. Dr. Yomtoob commented that he thought the data is already being analyzed.

Superintendent's Report: Nothing

Discussion Items: Nothing

Committee Reports: Nothing

Unfinished Business: Nothing

New Business: Nothing

Announcements: Nothing

Informational Items: Nothing

Adjournment:

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

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

Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Limer

Timothy Shanahan, President

Anne Hoffman, Secretary