

**Minutes of the Special Business Meeting of the
Board of Education of Hawthorn Community Consolidated District Number 73, Lake County, Illinois
held in the Gymnasium at Hawthorn Elementary North, 301 Hawthorn Parkway, Vernon Hills, IL 60061
at 7:00 p.m. on the 17th day of April 2018.**

CALL TO ORDER

Sonali Patil called the Special Business Meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Wes Polen called the roll with the following members of the Board of Education answering present: Robin Cleek, Sonali Patil, Matt Jacobs, Julie Simpson and Wes Polen. Jayson Tran and Jeff Bard were absent. Also present was Abe Singh, CSBO, Director of Finance and Business Operations. Superintendent Nick Brown was absent.

Jason Myering and Kristen Gatzendorf, architects with DLR Group were also in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT - No one chose to comment.

PRESENTATION

Board President Sonali Patil provided opening remarks and a welcome to the community stakeholders who were present at the meeting and watching via the YouTube channel.

Note: At the beginning of the presentation, a technical error occurred, and the recording stopped for approximately 16 minutes. The presentation was restarted beginning with the Current Constraints: A Day in the Life video.

Members of the School Board provided an updated presentation on current enrollment trends and current space constraints, programming and growth, the proposed new kindergarten building at the Sullivan Center, expansion plans, budgets and tough decisions the community will have to face. At the conclusion of the presentation, President Patil opened the floor for community discussion through a Town Hall style session of questions/answers. At the conclusion of the Town Hall portion of the meeting, Sonali Patil, Robin Cleek and Julie Simpson each hosted small round table discussions.

Question & Answers:

WHAT IS THE INCREASE IN PROPERTY TAX IF THE PLAN GOES THROUGH?

Sonali Patil explained that based on the proposed \$42 million referendum in 2017, the property tax increase on a market value home of \$350,000 was approximately \$26 per month.

WHAT IS THE COST PER STUDENT? DOES THAT INCLUDE TEACHER PENSION?

\$11,992.04 per student.

The 2017 expense per pupil graph includes all of this District's TRS employer contribution requirements.

A question was asked related to the state contributions made on behalf of this District's TRS employees. As of 2015, and in compliance with the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, school districts have begun to report state contributions made "On Behalf" of the district's TRS employees. For the 2016-17 fiscal year, the state's TRS On Behalf payments equaled \$19,227,979.

HAS THE DISTRICT CONSIDERED USING SPACE AVAILABLE IN THE COMMUNITY FOR A SCHOOL BUILDING?

Robin Cleek explained that when the Core Team began the process of looking at options, Adaptive Reuse was explored. The Core Team looked at big box type spaces to renovate. Many of these locations do not have windows and were either too large or too small. The concept was presented to the community, but it was not well received because it was an expensive option. Mrs. Cleek does not believe the topic is off of the table because new spaces are coming online.

WHEN DO YOU ANTICIPATE THE DISTRICT WILL HIT FIRE CODE IN BUILDINGS AND WHAT WILL WE DO ABOUT IT?

Fire Code is not included on the capacity charts because the number of students per classroom would exceed our ratio. The District would add portables or cut programming.

HAVE YOU SEEN OVERCROWDING IN OTHER DISTRICTS?

Sonali Patil explained that many neighboring districts have recently passed referendums. One example is Lake Zurich School District 95. In March, the community passed a \$77 million referendum to build a new school and building renovations. Robin Cleek provided a few examples of failed referendums that caused a stall in housing markets. Additional research would need to be completed on this topic.

WHAT DISTRICTS ARE ROLE MODELS? WHAT DO "BEST IN CLASS" DISTRICTS LOOK LIKE?

Sonali Patil noted that Lincolnshire-Prairie View School District just completed renovations. Libertyville School District 70 had portable units while renovation was taking place. Julie Simpson added that Aptakisic-Tripp School District is now building.

Robin Cleek commented "Best in Class" is difficult to define because you need to look at many variables. Hawthorn 73 is a very diverse population. Our district will look different than others; you need to look at economics. For example, Libertyville has a much lower free and reduced population than Hawthorn and the bilingual component does not compare. The childrens needs dictate how the district resources are divided. Hawthorn 73 has high test scores and teacher retention rates.

In a separate space while the presentation was going on, School Board members Matt Jacobs and Wes Polen hosted small round table discussions for those community members who had already viewed the presentation. Assistant Superintendent Dr. Lisa Leali and Lynn Barkley, Director of Human Resources also participated in the discussions.

ADJOURNMENT

Sonali Patil requested a motion to close the Business Meeting.

Julie Simpson moved that the Board of Education adjourn the Special Business Meeting. Robin Cleek seconded.

Voice Vote:

Motion carried: 5 ayes; 0 nays

The Special Business Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Peterson



Sonali Patil, President



Wes Polen, Secretary

Date Minutes Approved: _____

4/23/18