

**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 Townline Elementary, 810 North Aspen Drive, Vernon Hills, IL 60061
at 7:00 p.m. on the 30th day of May 2018.**

CALL TO ORDER

Sonali Patil called the Special Business Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

Jason Lembke and Kristen Gatzendorf, architects with DLR Group and Tom McGrath of LAMP, Inc. were also in attendance.

President Sonali Patil welcomed the community to the meeting and provided an overview of past community engagement meetings and the agenda for the evening. Ms. Patil discussed the resignation of Superintendent Brown and the process that the School Board will go through in hiring an interim superintendent and the superintendent search. Next Ms. Patil discussed the potential timeline for a referendum and asked board members for their opinion on moving forward. Jayson Tran felt the board needed to hear the presentation on the two plans before a decision could be made. Robin Cleek addressed the immediate space needs of the district and is inclined to continue reviewing options. Wes Polen noted that there is community support and is in favor of moving forward with some type of plan. Matt Jacobs is also in favor of moving forward and would like the audience to have the opportunity to see the scheduled presentation on plans. Julie Simpson passed on providing her opinion because she would like a third option provided.

PUBLIC COMMENT – No one chose to comment.

DISCUSSION

Jason Lembke, principal architect with the DLR Group and Tom McGrath, Senior Estimator with Lamp, Inc. provided a presentation on the two plans under consideration: Adaptive Reuse Elementary South and the Updated Adopted EFMP plan. Lamp, Inc. worked in close collaboration with DLR Group to refine and determine costs associated with each plan. Based on the community survey results EC/Pre-K moving back to the District and library modernizations are not included in the total estimated costs or additions depicted. Either can be added into either plan. The first plan reviewed was Adaptive Reuse Elementary South. In this plan renovations and/or additions were shown at Elementary North, Middle School South and Aspen Elementary. Also included in the plan is the conversion of the Townline building into Middle School North and moving Townline Elementary to the existing Middle School North building. The current Aspen Elementary building would become the School of Dual Language. The adaptive reuse plan would move the current Elementary South into a new location and Aspen Elementary would relocate to the current Elementary South. The estimated total for the Adaptive Reuse Elementary South plan is \$72,491,706. Mr. Lembke explained that the estimated cost of the Adaptive Reuse Elementary South plan was reduced from

the May 14th presentation because the facilities square footage was decreased from 145,000 sq. ft to 115,000 sq. ft. The second plan presented is the Updated Adopted EFMP. This plan identifies renovations and/or additions to all buildings and includes the new kindergarten building located at the Sullivan Center. The estimated total for the Updated Adopted EFMP plan is \$51,425,121. The board had a discussion on community perception of dedicated STEM/STEAM space. Mr. Lembke noted that based on the survey results a high statistical value was placed on STEM. Operating costs and expenses for each plan was reviewed to determine if one plan was more expensive than the other. Mr. Lembke explained that a new building is about 50% more efficient than a 1980's existing building. Ms. Patil reviewed the debt ceiling limit and how much money the district could go out to referendum for. The Adaptive Reuse Elementary South plan exceeds the current borrowing capabilities of the district and the Updated Adopted EFMP plan is more fiscally responsible but still meets the space requirements. Board members reviewed the previous referendum and their perceptions as to why it failed to pass. Mr. Jacobs and Mrs. Polen believed a factor was lack of time and community knowledge. Both noted that since their time on the School Board, they have come to better understand the increase in enrollment and the space issues.

President Patil opened the meeting to community comment.

Tim Shanahan, 57 Knightsbridge Court, Mundelein: Mr. Shanahan is a former Hawthorn School Board member. He asked the board for better clarity of where the board members are at right now. He asked where the board is at with the kindergarten building? Mr. Shanahan does not see a problem with the board moving forward on a referendum while having an interim superintendent. Mr. Tran addressed the kindergarten building; the construction bids came in at \$14.1 million and the budget is \$12 million. The board has put a pause on the building and gathered community feedback. We have space issues and we need to address them now.

Lauryn Theisen, 313 Appleton Drive, Vernon Hills: Ms. Theisen noted that more community members are against the kindergarten building and asked the board why more classrooms cannot be built on to existing buildings for a cheaper cost? Mrs. Cleek explained that space needs are not only classrooms but gym space as well.

Elissa Gong, 271 Noble Circle, Vernon Hills: Mrs. Gong requested a better presentation of tax increases based on home value. She noted that the last publication was too dense with information. Ms. Patil will speak with Mr. Abe Singh, Director of Finance and Business Operations to address this.

Emily Coronado, 10 Bedford Drive, Vernon Hills: Ms. Coronado noted that at the May 21st community meeting there was no way the district could afford a new building however a new building remains part of both plans that were presented. Ms. Patil noted that that the May 21st meeting six plans were presented based on community feedback. Mr. Tran added that the kindergarten building would be built using \$12 million in district reserves. Mrs. Cleek thanked Ms. Coronado for her comments and agreed the board could have been decisive two years ago. This time the board decided to take the time to hear from the community before making any decisions.

It is noted that Julie Simpson left the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Mary Jane Wang, 1822 Sawgrass Street, Vernon Hills: Ms. Wang asked if the Village is responsible to help alleviate the expense to the district because of the expansion of new housing developments in Vernon Hills? Is there any recourse that the district can take? Ms. Patil explained that the school district is funded through property taxes however, the Village has been helpful in other ways. The Park District has been a partner with Hawthorn 73 and has been fantastic throughout the kindergarten building process. Mrs. Cleek added that there is no legal obligation on the part of the Village of Vernon Hill to help the school district. Mr. Tran noted that the district does receive a one-time impact fee on each house and it is a preset amount that is split with District 128.

Stacy Hernandez, 311 Richmond Place, Vernon Hills: Ms. Hernandez expressed that the community wants to know numbers and how they impact their taxes. This comes down to affordability for a homeowner. Has the district considered charging for full-day kindergarten? All of the neighboring districts charge. Mr. Tran said that Hawthorn 73 did charge for full-day kindergarten and participation was low.

Renee Brown, 308 Ardmore Court, Vernon Hills: Ms. Brown suggested simplifying the marketing plan. The titles provided are too long. She would like to see a statement of support from the School Board members for a plan.

Betsy Sostak, 1320 Hampton Lane, Mundelein: The meetings have been informative and there is community support for a similar plan. There is a lot of uncertainty and instability within the district and the community is concerned about the teachers. There needs to be a personal touch added to events. Ms. Sostak would like the board to question the teachers to see if they are onboard with the new kindergarten building.

Ms. Patil asked board members if they would like to focus on one plan that we can afford. The selected plan will be the focus of discussions going forward at board and community meetings. Mr. Jacobs does not see the need to discuss the Adaptive Reuse at Elementary South. He would like to get the community involved with the Updated Adopted EFMP plan. Mrs. Cleek stated that the end goal is to create space for the next 10 years while being fiscally responsible and meeting the needs of the students. She would remove the Adaptive Reuse plan and focus on the Updated Adopted EFMP plan. She would like a chart showing the impact of taxes. Mr. Tran noted that the presentation tonight was the first time the board saw the cost breakdown for each plan. From a bottom line perspective, he would support the EFMP plan. Mrs. Polen is against the Adaptive Reuse plan because the district doesn't know where the state is at with a property tax freeze or pension liability. Mrs. Polen would move forward with the EFMP plan.

Ms. Patil thanked the community for attending the meeting and providing additional feedback.

ADIJOURNMENT

Sonali Patil requested a motion to close the Business Meeting.

Robin Cleek moved that the Board of Education adjourn the Special Business Meeting. Matt Jacobs seconded the motion.

Voice Vote:

Motion carried: 5 ayes; 0 nays

The Special Business Meeting adjourned at 9:22p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Peterson*



Sonali Patil, President



Wes Polen, Secretary

Date Minutes Approved: June 11, 18