

**Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting of Hawthorn Community Consolidated District #73, Lake County, Illinois conducted In-Person in accordance with Tier 3 Mitigation Requirements imposed through Executive Order 2020-73—reissued by Executive Order 2020-74  
Meeting Location: Vernon Hills Village Hall, 290 Evergreen Drive, Vernon Hills, IL 60061**

**7:00 p.m. on the 12th of August, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Robin Cleek called the Board of Education meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

The Board Secretary called attendance and the following members attended in person: George Fievet, Michael Engle, Sonali Patil, Wes Polen, Karl Borchers and Robin Cleek. Also in attendance were the Asst. Supt. of Business & Finance Ms. LeeAnn Taylor; Asst. Supt. of Student Services Mrs. Alicia Corrigan; Asst. Supt. for Human Resources Mr. Adam Palmer and Superintendent Dr. Pete Hannigan. Joel Finfer was not in attendance.

**RECOGNITION**

No recognition at this time.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

In Person Comment:

Julie Simpson, 307 Onwentsia Rd, Vernon Hills

Written Public Comment:

Margaret Clark, 1134 Dawes Street, Libertyville

Gwen Janzen, 269 Danbury Dr, Vernon Hills

Alma Miranda, 8 Altoon Court, Vernon Hills

Simran Dang, 202 Arcadia Ct, Vernon Hills

Andy and MaryJane Wang, 1822 Sawgrass St, Vernon Hills

Rebecca Ferraro, 2365 Sarazen Dr, Vernon Hills

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Board member George Fievet announced that Representative Brad Schneider's office wanted to let the community know about the "Congress On Your Corner" event at Century Park in Vernon Hills held on August 17. It was open and free to the public. Anyone interested had to RSVP via his website.

**PRESENTATIONS**

No presentations at this time.

**DISCUSSION TOPICS**

Vice President Wes Polen discussed Policy 4:182 face coverings: In light of the executive order from Governor J.B.Pritzker on August 4, the district's policy has been updated to reference the executive order so all of our schools can be compliant and maintain students safety. It will be an action item later in the meeting.

Assistant Superintendent of Finance LeeAnn Taylor discussed future additions and renovations, athletic flooring at Elementary South, and the tentative budget hearing.

LeeAnn Taylor introduced the Legat team (Ted Houg, Kristen Eastman, and Tom McGrath) for the presentation. This discussion will open up more discussions in the upcoming days regarding the referendum that was approved in fall 2018. More detailed discussions will take place, as well as a report of enrollment trends, different construction funding sources, that will be discussed in the September board meeting. Ted, Kristen, and Tom from Legat have worked diligently with our district team and Middle South leadership and teachers to identify the areas of Middle South that need current renovation. Mechanical items are only needed at Aspen. The presentation was shown to view the current designs.

The next agenda item was the Elementary South athletic flooring. The presentation showed the lowest bids for approval in the September meeting.

The last agenda item was the tentative budget hearing. The finance department held a hearing and opened up questions from the board and the community. The final budget will be presented for approval on September 9th.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Hannigan reported that the district welcomed 27 new teachers for new teacher orientation the week of August 10th. Throughout the week the administration team shared their mission, vision, and collective commitments to ensure student success. Different district departments presented to the new staff with key information. The topics included building credibility, relationship building, classroom management, curriculum, professional learning communities, and more. The district had a special luncheon to welcome the new staff members. In preparation to welcome back all HD73 students, the district held an all staff kick off event on Wednesday, August 18 at Middle School South. All board members were invited to join. President Cleek addressed the staff as well as Dr. Hannigan, the foundation, and the PTO.

The district welcomed back 3500+ students on August 23rd. The communication that was sent out earlier in the month sparked some questions that were presented in this meeting, specifically about Test to Stay and Shield testing. All testing will take place with parent consent. Parents have received information and consent forms for testing and how they can opt in to the program.

With respect to Shield testing, the district has established a relationship with the University of Illinois to incorporate weekly testing to add another safety mitigation within our district. The testing is at no cost to the district. The testing will take place of a random sampling of unvaccinated students twice a week. The company will do one day a week on the north campus and one day a week on the south campus.

With respect to Test to Stay, this test only applies to students who are considered a close contact at school. If an event occurs that a close contact is discovered outside of school such as a playdate, sleepover, or a sporting event that is not associated with Hawthorn District 73, Test to Stay will not apply. According to the county, as long as both students are wearing masks appropriately regardless of distance and length of time, they both will qualify for participation. With that being said, the Lake County Department of Health determines who qualifies to participate. The school district, nurses, administrative team, do not decide who can participate in Test to Stay. The Test to Stay program will be on site and it will be the 1st, 3rd, 5th, and 7th day after exposure. The district will continue to maintain a COVID-19 dashboard pertaining to building and district exposures which will be updated every Friday and report out the data publicly in board meetings starting on September 9th.

The new district website was launched on Friday, August 20th and it is mobile compatible. Communication was sent out to the community when the site was live.

The next board meeting will be held at Middle School North on September 9th and it will not be livestreamed but will be recorded and posted on the district website. The district will be hosting a special VIP Open House to showcase the Middle School North additions and renovations prior to the meeting beginning at 5:30. An invitation was emailed on Friday, August 20th.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Robin Cleek welcomed everyone back. The board is really excited to start in person this year and look forward to our mitigation efforts to be as effective as they were in the Spring to help keep students safe and learning in person as many days as possible. President Cleek reminded the community to please cooperate and work together to keep the students healthy and remain in school.

**ED-RED REPORT**

The ED-RED Report has been postponed to September 9th due to Mr. Joel Finfer's absence.

**SEDOL REPORT**

Mr. Michael Engle reported that SEDOL held a public hearing on the final budget and a presentation was followed by a motion to approve the budget on Wednesday, August 18. The budget was based on approval basis which includes the evidence based funding and tuition revenues. For final budget purposes, the expenditures in the education fund for the 21-22 fiscal school year were set to \$47.5 million. The fiscal year 20-21 tuition was at \$1.14 million. The tentative tuition for fiscal year 21-22 was estimated at \$1.3 million which was showing a 15% increase from last year to this year.

**KEY to 73 REPORT**

Mr. George Fievet reported that the Key to 73 foundation is looking for board members. If anyone is interested, please check out the website and submit yourself.

**SITE & FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT** – Dr. Sonali Patil reported that Tom from LAMP held a presentation at their last sites and facilities meeting regarding the projections for Elementary South construction and the mechanical renovations for Aspen. The Open House for Middle North construction is ready to view. The construction at Elementary South is on track and the roof is done at Middle South.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- 6.1 Board Meeting Minutes 06/17/21
- 6.2 Expenditure Report, July 2021
- 6.3 AM EX Report for June 2021
- 6.4 AM EX Report for July 2021
- 6.5 Amazon Expense Report for August 2021
- 6.6 Treasurer's Report for May 2021
- 6.7 Personnel Report:
  - New Hires: 29
  - Resignations: 11
  - Change of Status: 1

29 New Hires: Jackie Jordan, 4th grade teacher, EN; Jessica Salerno, Language Arts, MN; Beth E. Jahn, ELA 6th Grade, MN; Alyson Garman, 8th Grade Math Science Teacher, MN; Maria Blancas, 4th Grade Teacher, DL; Anthony Akmakjian, 6th Grade Science, MSS; Elizabeth Haras, Spanish Teacher, MSS; Sandra Pineda, LBS1 Teacher, MSS; Chris Volpe, LBS1 Teacher, MN; Allison Renda, ESL/Bilingual, HSYL; Kara Hijerstedt, 7th Grade Math Teacher, MN; Sara Lenzi, 2nd Grade Teacher, Aspen; Barbara Rose, .5 SLP, MN; Isabella Martinez, LBS1 Teacher, DL; Chantal Katz, LBS1 Teacher, MN; Angela Kim, LBS1 Teacher, MSS; Rachel Girmschild, Instructional Assistant-LOP, EN; Lisa Nockels, Instructional Assistant-LOP, HSYL; Tracey Black, Instructional Assistant-SpEd, Matthew Beans, Instructional Assistant 1:1, MN; Deepika Bhardwaj, Instructional Assistant-ELL, TL; Anna Toczycki, Instructional Assistant, MN; Jennifer Kappler, Principal Secretary, EN; Hailey Yetman, Instructional Assistant- SpEd, TL; Marlene Wences, Communications

Specialist, DO; Grace Barajas, School Nurse, Aspen; Shana Gicens, Instructional Assistant, ES; Rebecca Dugan, Instructional Assistant 1:1, MS

11 Resignations: Nichole Kelso, LBS1, MN, 6/21/2021; Rebecca Green, 1st Grade Teacher, Aspen, 6/24/2021; Stephanie Cascio, ELL Teacher, HSYL, 7/8/2021; Jane Zhang, 7th Grade Math Teacher, MN, 7/16/2021; Heather Motley, 4th Grade Teacher, Aspen, 7/26/2021; Marykate Purcell, LBS1 Teacher, MN, 8/6/2021; Eleanor Klompus, L/R Supervisor, ES, 8/23/2021; Lora Viers Jacobs, School Nurse, MS, 8/2/2021; Darlene Forman, School Nurse, MN, 7/20/2021; Araceli Tovar, Instructional Assistant, DL, 7/27/2021; Caryn Sturz, Benefits Specialist, DO, 8/13/2021

Change of Status: Maria de Lourdes Hernandez, Principal Secretary, DL

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RECOMMENDED MOTION: Wes Polen moved that the Board of Education approve the **Consent Agenda** items as presented; seconded by Sonali Patil

**Roll Call Vote:** Wes Polen, Sonali Patil, Robin Cleek, George Fievet, Michael Engle and Karl Borchers.

**Motion carried: 6 ayes; 0 nays**

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CSBO Ms. LeeAnn Taylor explained the two action items on tonight's agenda regarding the purchase of air purifiers for district music classrooms and disposal of surplus.

The first action item sought board approval for the purchase of air purifiers in the music rooms as part of the district's mitigation strategies.

The second item sought board approval for disposal of surplus property. In regards to the district transitioning to a 1:1 tech ratio for ipads and chromebooks, the district has a lot of outdated devices that are at the end of their lifecycle or hold some value that will be sold to an asset company.

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#### **ACTION ITEMS –**

##### **Approval for the Purchase of Air Purifiers for District Music Classrooms**

MOTION: Wes Polen moved that the Board of Education approve the Purchase of Air Purifiers; Karl Borchers seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Wes Polen, Sonali Patil, Robin Cleek, George Fievet, Michael Engle and Karl Borchers.

**Motion carried: 6 ayes; 0 nays**

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Approval for the Disposal of Surplus Property

MOTION: George Fievet moved that the Board of Education approve the disposal of surplus; Michael Engle seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Wes Polen, Sonali Patil, Robin Cleek, George Fievet, Michael Engle and Karl Borchers.

**Motion carried: 6 ayes; 0 nays**

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Policy 4:182 Face Coverings

MOTION: Karl Borchers moved that the Board of Education approve Policy 4:182 Face Coverings; Sonali Patil seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Wes Polen, Sonali Patil, Robin Cleek, George Fievet, Michael Engle and Karl Borchers.

**Motion carried: 6 ayes; 0 nays**

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**GENERAL INFORMATION**

1. Enrollment- currently unavailable while school is not in session
2. FOIA Log, Dr. Hannigan reported that there was one FOIA request received since the last board meeting that has been responded to as identified in Section 8.2 of the Board agenda.
3. Board Email Log
4. Media Clips

**TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION**

President Robin Cleek would like to discuss reading email comments during board meetings in case the community feels uncomfortable coming in person due to the increase of Covid cases right now. This will be a future topic discussion.

Vice President Wes Polen would like to start discussing possible public forums. This will be discussed at the September 23rd board meeting.

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**ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION** – With no further business to discuss Wes Polen *made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Karl Borchers meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m. All in favor? Yes.*

**Motion carried: 6 ayes; 0 nays**

Respectfully submitted,  
Jessica Flores

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Robin Cleek, President

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George Fievet, Secretary

Date Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_