

**Minutes of the Special Business Meeting of the
Board of Education of Hawthorn Community Consolidated District Number 73, Lake County, Illinois
held in the Board Room, 841 West End Court, Vernon Hills, IL 60061
at 7:00 p.m. on the 26th day of October 2017.**

CALL TO ORDER

Sonali Patil called the Special Business Meeting to order at 6:02 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: Jayson Tran, Robin Cleek, Sonali Patil, and Wes Polen. Julie Simpson, Jeff Bard and Matt Jacobs were absent. Also present was Superintendent Nick Brown.

PUBLIC COMMENT - No one chose to comment.

PRESENTATION

Sonali Patil reviewed the results from the Educational Facilities Master Plan (EFMP) survey that was conducted during the summer. The presentation was a review of comments and questions that were received. Ms. Patil thanked those who took the time to take the survey. If community members have additional questions or concerns following tonight's presentation, they should contact a School Board member; contact information can be found on the district webpage. The emphasis of the presentation was data and facts with the opportunity to clarify misinformation. The Board members would not be debating questions and answers. The data gathered was reviewed and will provide future direction for the Board. The Educational Facilities Master Plan (EFMP) was adopted in January 2017 and is a 10-year plan for the district. On April 4, 2017, a \$42 million referendum question was proposed to the community for district-wide renovations and additions. The referendum was defeated 60/40. The Kindergarten Center at the Sullivan Center has always been a part of the EFMP, however, the building was not part of the \$42 million referendum as the District would use cash reserves to fund the project. Enrollment data was reviewed along with projections Series B and Series C from the Kasarda Report. Vernon Hills is experiencing generational turnover and new housing developments are coming online. Impact fee formulas are set and the Village of Vernon Hills is not able to change this. It is out of the District's jurisdiction to redistrict students who live in Mundelein and Libertyville. There are also neighborhoods in Vernon Hills that attend school districts other than Hawthorn 73 and these areas would be impacted. Neighboring districts would also have to be willing to accept the boundary change. There is a financial impact to redistricting. Capacity of buildings is not just the space for students but also space for programming. Buildings have different programming needs such as Elementary North due to the LOP program. If community members still have questions concerning space issues, please request a building tour. "True Capacity" may require additional clarification in the future. Going back to half day kindergarten would not solve space issues. All buildings have made adjustments to accommodate increased enrollment. A few examples are: Middle School North PE classes are held in the cafeteria, Townline enrichment classes are held on the stage, Aspen band and orchestra lessons are on the stage next to the cafeteria and Elementary South added two portable units. Mrs. Patil thanked James Staples, Facility Manager, and his staff for their work in converting the various spaces. The district-wide reorganization was not to address capacity/space issues but to rebalance schools. At the time growth was at a reasonable rate but now we are roughly five years ahead of where we thought we would be. Staff day care is no longer available and this space became classrooms. Early Childhood/Pre-K class was moved to the Lincoln Building. These changes created 10 classrooms which are all utilized. The Core Team reviewed many scenarios before presenting three options for the Board to consider. One option was "Adaptive Reuse" which was dropped due to the cost (approximately \$70 million). The second option was to purchase 11 acres and build a new elementary building (approximately \$62 million). The third option was a combination of renovation and additions which was chosen and presented to the community in the ballot question for \$42 million. Community members voiced concerns about the location of the Early Childhood/PreK program. While many parents have been very satisfied with the program at the Lincoln building, many would like to see the classrooms back on campus at located at the new kindergarten center. Due to land constraint, the new kindergarten building is not large enough to house the required 6 classrooms. On October 23rd, the Board of Education approved the schematic plan for the new Kindergarten Center at the

Sullivan Center. Some community members stated that they were unaware of the plan for the kindergarten center. It was noted that this building was part of the EFMP but not part of the referendum because the district intends to use cash reserves to pay for the construction. Traffic patterns are being reviewed by the Village, Park District and Hawthorn 73. Building details such as start/dismissal times have not been developed but as soon as the information is available it will be communicated. Teacher input was taken into account when the schematic design was developed and will be integrated during the design phase. The Board heard from the community that they did not want money being used to purchase a piece of land that was not going to be used immediately. The community expressed confusion over STEM Centers and the need for dedicated space. STEM centers are part of the 10-year EFMP. Funding and finances was a major topic. School districts are run by the property taxes and Illinois is ranked third highest in the nation in property taxes. Although the majority of the district funds come from property taxes, it is important to note that 100% of the property tax bill does not go to Hawthorn 73. Expenditure per pupil is relatively low in comparison to neighboring districts. Hawthorn 73 spends less than Libertyville, Diamond Lake, Fremont and Grayslake. Teacher and Administrator salaries are middle of the road in comparison to other school districts. Pension is in the Illinois state constitution and is a non-negotiable item. If the community is upset about the pension issue they should contact their legislators. Financial discussions occur regularly and the public is invited to attend School Board meetings to learn more about the budget. If anyone has additional financial questions they are encouraged to contact Abe Singh, Director of Finance and Business Operations or Superintendent Brown. The final topic was communication and planning of the referendum. The public felt that the process was rushed and was not effectively communicated. School Board members acknowledged that the timing was short but felt it was important to put a ballot question before the community. Information on the referendum was communicated via community meetings with the Core Team, small gatherings with the Superintendent, flyers, a mailing, newspaper articles and postings on social media. The district website has a tab dedicated to the EFMP. School Board members are not permitted to campaign for a referendum. School Board members thanked Ms. Patil for her time in preparing the survey PowerPoint.

ADJOURNMENT

Sonali Patil requested a motion to close the Business Meeting.

Robin Cleek moved that the Board of Education adjourn the Special Business Meeting. Jayson Tran seconded.

Voice Vote:

Motion carried: 4 ayes; 0 nays

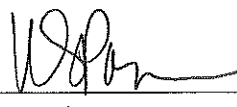
The Special Business Meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Peterson



Sonali Patil, President



Wes Polen, Secretary

Date Minutes Approved: 11/13/17