

**Minutes of the Board of Education Meeting of Hawthorn Community Consolidated District #73, Lake County, Illinois conducted remotely per Executive Order 2020-07 in response to COVID-19.**

**6:00 p.m. on the 8th day of January, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Robin Cleek called the Board of Education meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

The Board Secretary called attendance and the following members attended remotely, Joel Finfer, George Fievet, Victoria Helander-Heiser, Sonali Patil, Wesley Polen and Robin Cleek. Also attending remotely were Asst. Supt. of Business & Finance LeeAnn Taylor, Asst. Supt. of Teaching, Learning & Innovation Allison Stein, Asst. Supt. for Human Resources Adam Palmer and Director of Student Services Renee Ullberg. Superintendent Dr. Pete Hannigan was present at the District Office. Matt Jacobs was not in attendance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** - No public comments were received.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** - No announcements were made.

**PRESENTATION**

**D73 Return to Learning Update:** Dr. Hannigan indicated that the decision to return students to in-person learning has been decided in conjunction with prioritizing the health and safety of students, staff, and our Hawthorn community. Hawthorn District 73 has continued to use guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Department of Public Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Northern Illinois Public Health Consortium.

Due to changes in recommendations at the state and national levels, the Northern Illinois Public Health Consortium (Lake County School Decision Dashboard) has migrated to a risk stratified model. This model provides for the implementation of solid mitigation strategies, in addition to specific rates of transmission, as indicators for making decisions regarding remote, hybrid, or in-person learning.

Solid mitigation strategies significantly reduce the risk of transmission in our schools. Hawthorn District 73 has developed mitigation strategies in alignment with the guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health, Illinois State Board of Education, and Lake County Department of Health. We will continue to evaluate the public health data and best mitigation practices, with the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff as our top priority.

The Hawthorn District 73 Administration Team have selected two dates in January as Remote Planning Days, the first date will be grade-level specific as delineated below. Additionally two dates in February were selected to implement hybrid learning.

- January 21, 2021: Remote Planning Day (Early Release Day is cancelled)
  - Staff who serve students in grades K-8 general education and grades 3-8 self-contained special education participate in a Remote Learning Planning Day. *These students are not in attendance.*
  - Staff who serve students enrolled in early childhood, pre-kindergarten, and K-2 self-contained special education continue to facilitate learning. *These students are in attendance.*

January 8, 2021

- January 28, 2021: Remote Planning Day
  - *Students are not in attendance.*
- Week of February 1, 2021: Hybrid Learning Begins for Select Grade Levels
  - Students registered for hybrid learning and enrolled in early childhood, pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, grades 1-2, or grade 6 attend school in-person.
  - All other students attend remotely.
- Week of February 8, 2021: Hybrid Learning Begins for Remaining Grade Levels
  - All students registered for hybrid learning attend school in-person.
  - All students registered for remote learning continue to attend remotely.

The District will remain flexible and continue to prepare for multiple scenarios, including pivoting back to a remote learning model. Throughout this process we will be promoting collective responsibility and kindness throughout the Hawthorn community. Transportation information will be available for families who have requested it via the PowerSchool portal. Pickup and delivery of student lunches will continue to be available for families who request it. Lunch will be free for all students until June 30th. Staff vaccinations are anticipated in late January or early February, the information will be shared as soon as it becomes available. Staff should register through the AllVax site via the Lake County Health Department.

The PALS program will continue to be available for families for full-day and after school options; the location will remain at the Townline and Dual Language schools. The Vernon Hills Park District will advertise these options to families the week of January 11th. For more information, please see the full presentation posted on our website at: [www.hawthorn73.org/school-board/board-presentations](http://www.hawthorn73.org/school-board/board-presentations).

### **DISCUSSION TOPIC**

**In-Person Board Meetings:** Dr. Hannigan indicated that with a return to in-person learning, we will also be returning to in-person Board of Education meetings. It is recommended that beginning February 4, 2021 meetings will be held at the Vernon Hills Village Hall located at 290 Evergreen Drive in Vernon Hills. Public participation will be limited to room capacity while maintaining appropriate social distancing. Meetings will continue to be live streamed for public viewing. Any members of the public who wish to make a public comment but cannot attend the meeting in-person may email their comment to [elftmannb@hawthorn73.org](mailto:elftmannb@hawthorn73.org). These comments will be forwarded to the Board of Education and will be placed into the public record. Comments received via email will not be read aloud during the Board meeting.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Robin Cleek thanked the staff, administrators and community members for their patience and dedication to the education of Hawthorn students. She asked for flexibility and patience as we continue to navigate the challenges that arise due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Board of Education and District Administration will continue to monitor the metrics and a return to remote learning may be necessary if levels rise.

**TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION** – None at this time.

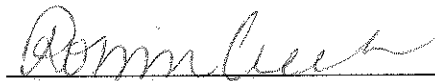
January 8, 2021

**ADJOURN THE OPEN MEETING** – With no further business to discuss Joel Finfer made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by George Fievet, meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m. All in favor.

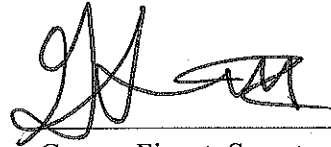
**Motion carried: 6 ayes; 0 nays, 1 absent**

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Respectfully submitted,  
Bobbi Elftmann



Robin Cleek, President



George Fievet, Secretary

Date Minutes Approved: 2/4/21