

**Minutes of the Regular Business Meeting of the
Board of Education of Hawthorn Community Consolidated District Number 73, Lake County, Illinois held in the Board
Room at 841 West End Court, Vernon Hills, IL 60061
at 7:00 p.m. on the 23rd day of October 2017**

CALL TO ORDER

Sonali Patil called the Regular 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: Jayson Tran, Julie Simpson, Jeff Bard, Robin Cleek, Wes Polen, Matt Jacobs and Sonali Patil. Also present was Superintendent Nick Brown and Abe Singh, CSBO, Director of Finance and Business Operations.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD – No one from the public chose to comment.

STAFF RECOGNITION – None scheduled

PRESENTATIONS

"Learning the Dual Way" by Dr. James Tohme, Principal of the School of Dual Language

Dr. James Tohme introduced 4th and 5th grade students who led an interactive presentation. Students re-enacted a typical classroom lesson and asked School Board members to participate with them. The children did a super job and received a nice round of applause.

Mr. Joe Perkoski, Managing Partner, Robbins Schwartz

Joe Perkoski, Managing Partner with Robbins Schwartz introduced himself to the Board and provided information about the firm. Robbins Schwartz was established in the 1970's and the firm represents 220 school districts throughout the state of Illinois. Robbins Schwartz has been representing Hawthorn 73 since 1997. Mr. Perkoski focuses his practice on labor and employment law and began representing Hawthorn 73 in 2001. Howard Metz and Caroline Roselli are partners in the firm who also work with Hawthorn 73.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Proposed Kindergarten Center Design

Jason Meyering and Keri VanSant of The DLR Group, Tom McGrath from LAMP Inc. and Dr. Lisa Leali presented plan modifications to the proposed kindergarten center to address School Board member concerns. Changes were made to the sensory space to eliminate glass and add a toilet facility; studio space was subdivided on the 2nd floor; a toilet area was added in the play space on the 2nd floor; and the entry sequence at the main door was separated for traffic flow into the building. Expansion beyond the 16 classrooms can be modified to a total of 22 classrooms. Total capacity of the building is 600 students with the addition of a petal. Board members expressed concern that the student/teacher ratio wasn't low enough; the original guideline provided to DLR was 25:1 and the current design is 24:1. Mr. Brown stated that research shows class size of 15:1 is ideal but needs to be maintained through the lower elementary grades. Abe Singh mentioned that SB 1947 had reference to classroom size. Teacher participation in the building design was discussed and several Board members wanted to know what the kindergarten teachers' perspective is on the building design and classroom size. It was suggested that the teachers be polled on their opinion. Mr. Brown reminded the Board that four kindergarten teachers participated on the Plan Team and they shared the information with their respective building team. Much of what was presented was driven by kindergarten teacher input. Cost control measures will be discussed throughout the project. The estimate provided is not the final cost. As the project moves to the Design Phase costs become better defined and clearer. There are constant checks and balances against the budget. Tom McGrath will begin to identify alternatives as the process continues to move forward. Jeff Bard is disappointed that the initial estimate given is beyond the \$12 million budget considering the district is paying for the building using Cash Reserves. Mr. Bard would like examples of

how the cost can be reduced? Kari VanSant explained that the easy fix is square footage but at what sacrifice to educational programming? Other areas to look at include finishes such as floors, ceiling and lighting. Mechanical changes are difficult because if you reduce your cost the district could be faced with changing out equipment sooner. The glass walls are designed to provide daylight and visual monitoring. If wall material is changed then you will also lose flexibility of space. Jayson Tran asked what assumptions were made when budgeting; is this the high, middle or low cost? Mr. McGrath indicated that at LAMP they look at middle range so that there is room to reduce. Robin Cleek asked about the possibility of changing exterior finishes? DLR was charged with creating a holistic building that would blend in to the community. The Park District has already approved the exterior of the building and any redesign would require new approvals. Jeff Bard asked what the specific uses were of the administrative area as it seemed to be a large space in his opinion. Mr. Brown reminded the Board that the administrative office is the storm shelter for the building which is required and must meet specific square footage. The space also provides for meeting space for extra services. Jayson Tran asked board members if they are proposing 18 classrooms are they asking the Plan Team to redesign the building? School Board members agreed that they do not want a full redesign of the building as that would delay the project. Mr. Brown and Dr. Leali both would stay with the design as presented since this is what the team came up with. Teachers created the space with flexibility in mind. Jeff Bard and Robin Cleek do not believe enough information has been provided. Julie Simpson asked what happens to art class if the studio space is taken away? Art would be moved to a maker space. Matt Jacobs added, in his opinion, the educators helped design the space and they gave the plan their blessing. The student/teacher ratio conversation should have been held months ago if the board was going to change from the original less than 25:1 guideline that was provided to DLR. Wes Polen was a member on the Plan Team and her overall sense was that the teachers were happy with the design and most of their wants were met. Mrs. Polen brought up the student/teacher ratio but the flexible spaces were what the teachers liked best. Tom McGrath added that currently there are no winter conditions built in to the estimate because the original thought was that the building would be closed up before the winter. If the project is delayed a month or two winter conditions are going to become an impact. Wes Polen asked what renovations would need to be made to the parking lot? Mr. McGrath stated that the turning radius for buses are good and no renovation is anticipated, there may need to be some minimal striping. Mr. Brown attended a traffic/transportation meeting with representatives from the Village, Park District, Cook library, DLR and Howard Metz, Hawthorn 73 legal counsel. Traffic patterns around Sullivan Center were discussed. Traffic is proposed to run through the Aquatic Center parking lot. This would be a mix of cars and buses but it would be controlled. The Village would like a long-term solution to the traffic issue on Aspen Drive. Two options under consideration are: access through Phillips Road or access through the parking lot from the property on Atrium Drive that is for sale. The Cook library is reviewing a request for 40 parking spaces in their new 52 space parking lot to be used by Hawthorn 73 staff during school hours. Mr. Brown suggested to the Village and Cook library that if the Village built the road needed, Hawthorn may have the money to pay a portion of the 21 parking spaces which would be approximately \$60,000. This is significantly cheaper than the roads being suggested. Robin Cleek asked Mr. Singh if an overall annual operating budget has been prepared for the new building? Mr. Singh stated yes and the approximate operating budget is \$993,000. More information will be provided.

Sonali Patil called for a 2-minute recess at 8:36 p.m.

Sonali Patil reconvened the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

The Residences at Cuneo Mansion and Gardens, Woodland Chase and Melody Farms new neighborhoods building placement
Superintendent Brown provided building placement recommendations to the School Board on October 9th – Cuneo Mansion and Gardens would be placed at Elementary North/Middle School North while Woodland Chase and Melody

Farms would be assigned to Aspen Elementary/Middle School South. Since October 9th, Mr. Brown has met with the middle school principals to further investigate the building placement recommendation and the recommendation remains the same. If additional space is required at the middle school level, Middle North would be able to gain four classrooms at the John Power's building. 34% of the population at Elementary North is identified as free/reduced. Cuneo Mansion and Gardens home prices begin at \$600,000+ which could potentially drop the free/reduced percentage at Elementary North to 29%. The district average for free/reduced is approximately 26%. Riviera Estates is about half built out and that area is assigned to Elementary South. Woodland Chase is being divided between four school districts (Hawthorn 73, Lincolnshire-Prairie View 103, Stevenson High School and District 128). The developer would like the neighborhood to be assigned to Lincolnshire-Prairie View and Stevenson High School. In order to do this all school districts would need to agree which is unlikely since all districts are full and would not want to give up the revenue. The other option is for the developer to file a detachment. Jeff Bard stated that the purpose of the boundary change was to balance ELL students and socio-economic status. Mr. Bard requested information on free/reduced percentages for all buildings. Robin Cleek expressed concerns about additional students attending Middle School North. She is also concerned about overcrowding in the band/orchestra room. Sonali Patil asked what costs would be associated with converting rooms at the John Powers building to classrooms? Mr. Brown said there are no major renovations needed and that the cost would be minimal. Wes Polen asked what the revenue loss would be if Woodland Chase was not part of Hawthorn 73? Mr. Brown did not have that information at the meeting but would be able to provide it.

Proposed 2017 Tax Levy Recommendation for Levy Hearing on November 13, 2017

Abe Singh presented the proposed 2017 Tax Levy recommendation. For the 2017 levy, Mr. Singh is recommending that the Board of Education levy \$43,976,241 exclusive of Bonds and Interest, an increase of 4.95%, including the SEDOL IMRF levy, over last year. The total levy would be \$51,722,542 including the Bond and Interest obligation of \$7,746,301. The levy recommendation is predicted on the tax cap CPI limit at 2.10%, an estimated \$4.05 million in new construction and 6.46% additional for growth. This new construction figure was provided by the Lake County Assessment Office. The levy must be certified and filed by the last Tuesday in December. The Levy hearing is scheduled for the November 13th Board of Education meeting and will be included as an action item on the Board agenda.

Lakeside Transportation Renewal

Abe Singh provided an update on the Lakeside Transportation renewal and the proposal that was received. Hawthorn 73, Libertyville School District 70 and District 128 met with Lakeside to review the renewal process for the 2018-2019 school year. Lakeside provided information on their cost increases such as labor, liability insurance, cost of vehicles and efficiency of routes. Past increases have not kept up with the costs mentioned and the increased cost of adding buses for special education routes since they are no longer able to pair with District 70 or District 128. Lakeside has proposed a 9.5% increase in regular education busing and a 35% increase in special education busing routes which equates to a \$333,000 increase over last year. District 70 is going to recommend going out to bid. Mr. Singh would like to wait until after the next Lakeside meeting before he brings his recommendation to the Board.

CONSENT AGENDA

10/23.34	Board Minutes 10/9/17
10/23.35	Closed Session minutes 10/5/17
10/23.36	AMEX September
10/23.37	Expenditure Report - October

Retirement:

A. John Metzger – psychologist, TL at the conclusion of the 2021-2022 school year
ESP: B

Matt Jacobs requested consent agenda item 10/23.35 Closed Session minutes 10/5/17 be moved to a separate motion.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Robin Cleek moved that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda excluding 10/23.35 Closed Session minutes 10/5/17 as presented. Jeff Bard seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Jayson Tran, Julie Simpson, Jeff Bard, Robin Cleek, Wes Polen, Matt Jacobs and Sonali Patil voted aye.

Motion Carried: 7 ayes; 0 nay

RECOMMENDED MOTION #2: Robin Cleek moved that the Board of Education approve Consent Agenda item 10/23.35 Closed Session minutes 10/5/17 as presented. Jeff Bard seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Jayson Tran, Julie Simpson, Jeff Bard, Robin Cleek, Wes Polen, and Sonali Patil voted aye. Matt Jacobs abstained.

Motion Carried: 6 ayes; 0 nay; 1 abstain

ACTION ITEMS

10/23.39 The Residences at Cuneo Mansion and Gardens, Woodland Chase and Melody Farms new neighborhoods building placement

The action item was tabled until the November 13, 2017 Board of Education meeting pending additional information on building demographics.

10/23.40 Approval of the schematic design for the Kindergarten Center at the Sullivan Center

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Jayson Tran moved that the Board of Education approve the schematic design for the Kindergarten Center at the Sullivan Center as presented. Matt Jacobs seconded.

Sonali Patil asked if there was discussion. Julie Simpson questioned the number of classrooms and stated that at 22 classrooms the building would cap out at 450 students assuming 20-21 students per room and that an addition would then be needed. Jeff Bard does not believe the Plan Team understood the guidelines prepared by the Board. He would like teachers polled and asked if they would prefer less students or more space. Mr. Bard believes there was misinterpretation as to if the Board would add additional teachers to reduce the class size. Robin Cleek requested the definition of schematic design? Ms. VanSant explained that the schematic design seeks to define the general scope and conceptual design of the project while presenting spatial and program layout of the building.

AMENDED MOTION: Jeff Bard moved that the Board of Education table the action item of approval of the schematic design for the Kindergarten Center at the Sullivan Center to the November 13th Board of Education meeting. Robin Cleek seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Jeff Bard and Robin Cleek voted aye. Jayson Tran, Julie Simpson, Wes Polen, Matt Jacobs and Sonali Patil voted no.
Motion failed: 2 ayes; 5 nays

Roll Call Vote on Recommended Motion: Jayson Tran, Julie Simpson, Wes Polen, Matt Jacobs and Sonali Patil voted aye. Jeff Bard and Robin Cleek voted no.
Motion carried: 5 ayes; 2 nays

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Sonali Patil requested to have the Educational Facilities Master Plan survey results presentation tabled to a special board meeting due to time constraints. Board members verbally agreed. A special School Board meeting date will be selected within the next two weeks and published accordingly. Middle School South will be hosting a Veteran's Day Breakfast on Thursday, November 9th.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Brown provided student highlights from the Cross Country state meet. Congratulations to the Middle South Boys Soccer team and Coach Robinson on winning the 2017 SMSC Championship. Middle North Girls Basketball team took 2nd place in the conference. Middle School North was recognized by ASCD for educating the "Whole Child" in the area of engagement; they will receive recognition in March. Dual Language and Townline Elementary will be holding Family Fun Night at the Mundelein Roller Rink on Friday at 6:30 p.m. Aspen Elementary shared the names of students who were recently recognized by their peers for demonstrating empathy with a certificate for their excellent behavior. Twenty-five 5th graders were selected to join the Aspen ACE (Aspen Caring Experts) Team. The Aspen ACE program is a service learning project and students are selected based on leadership potential. Congratulations to Mrs. Kathy Manchester, Aspen Elementary music teacher and National Board Certified Teacher for having a music lesson selected to be included in Kaleidoscope. Kaleidoscope is sponsored by the National Association for Music Educators and is focused on sharing standards-based lessons for the K-7 general music classroom. The Snowflake event was held at Middle School South and was a great success. More than 370 7th and 8th grade students from Middle North, Middle South and Oak Grove School attended the annual event that encourages adolescents to make good choices and lead a healthy lifestyle. Thank you to the many volunteers who worked hard to make the event a success. November 2nd is an Early Release Day, please check the website for dismissal times.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None scheduled

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS – None scheduled

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. The Board article
2. Hawthorn in the News
3. Treasurer's Report – August 2017
4. FOIA Request
5. Arbor Management September Update

TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

1. Academic Survey – state results are just being released

2. Robin Cleek would like an update on the 1:1 implementation. Mr. Brown added that student surveys will be going out soon and at the next meeting a brief summary will be provided. Mr. Brown noted the biggest recurring incident is cracked screens.

ADJOURNMENT – Sonali Patil asked for a motion to adjourn the Business Meeting. Julie Simpson made a motion to adjourn the Business Meeting. Robin Cleek seconded.


Sonali Patil called for a Voice Vote

Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nay

The Regular Business Meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Peterson



Sonali Patil, President



Wes Polen, Secretary

Date Minutes Approved: 11/13/17