

**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 Middle School North, 201 Hawthorn Parkway, Vernon Hills, IL 60061
at 7:00 p.m. on the 30th day of April 2018.**

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

In Wes Polen's absence, Robin Cleek 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. Wes Polen and Jeff Bard were absent. Also present was Superintendent Nick Brown and Abe Singh, CSBO, Director of Finance and Business Operations.

Jason Lembke, Jason Myering and Kristen Gatzendorf, architects with DLR Group were also in attendance.

Board President Sonali Patil provided opening remarks and a welcome to the community stakeholders who were present at the meeting and watching via the YouTube channel. Tonight's meeting will focus on reviewing plan suggestions received from the previous meetings. The board will go over the pro's/con's and viability of the plans.

Wes Polen arrived at 7:02 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Natalie Zellner, 571 Quaker Ridge Court, Vernon Hills – Mrs. Zellner is disappointed in comments made by the school board members. It is not fair to the community members if questions about operational costs are not answered. She needs more information to vote on a referendum.

Michael Schenk, 587 Central Park Place, Vernon Hills – Mr. Schenk thanked the Board for holding the Town Hall style meetings. He also thanked the Board President for driving discussions. Low turnout at the meetings doesn't mean that there is a lack of understanding of the issue; more families are becoming aware of the situation and asking about plans. There is community support for a 7th-8th grade building and two 5th-6th grade buildings.

DISCUSSION

Robert Collins, Principal of Middle School North, provided a brief overview of the differences between junior high and middle school. Mr. Collins directed the public to visit the AMLE website (<https://www.amle.org>) for information about the middle school philosophy.

Sonali Patil introduced a draft survey that was prepared by the DLR Group. The survey contains a list of items identified as potential priorities for the Educational Facilities Master Plan. High priority key issues include ADA accessibility, Health and Life Safety, code compliance and the safety of students. Board members reviewed the proposed questions and suggested some rewording. Ms. Patil asked board members to email additional revisions to her or Superintendent Brown. Mr. Lembke will edit the survey and forward the link to be posted for community response. The survey will be open until May 9th. Survey results will be discussed at the regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting on May 14.

Ms. Patil reviewed community ideas and asked board members to provide feedback on each.

Redistricting – redrawing boundaries of Mundelein and Libertyville so that these students would attend schools in their community. Superintendent Brown explained that this would be a very long legal process and would require approval from the ROE and the school districts involved. There are neighborhoods in Vernon Hills that are outside of the Hawthorn 73 boundary that would need to be redistricted. This is not a viable solution.

Send 8th grade students to the high school and make Hawthorn 73 a K-7 school district. This solution would involve four high schools not just Vernon Hills High School. Vernon Hills High School is also experiencing space issues. You could not move half of the 8th grade and have the other half remain at Hawthorn 73. This is not a viable solution.

Grade Centers which people define as what the district previously had. Although the suggestion did not specifically spell out how many grades per building, Grade Centers would be defined as two grades per building. The board wanted to revisit this idea to see if it is a viable option. It is Wes Polen's understanding that this option was reviewed by the Core Team and asked if a member of the team could talk about why they didn't go with this option? Mrs. Polen requested more specifics about Grade Centers and how the idea would work with current buildings. Robert Collins, principal of Middle School North was a member of the Core Team and confirmed that the team spent a lot of time on this idea. There are too many transitions for students, busing and traffic issues and this did not solve the space issue in the district. An acceptable number of transitions is 2-3. The original redistricting team also looked into grade level centers and found the same issue with enrollment and building capacity numbers.

Grades 5-8 in middle school and no kindergarten building. Middle School North and Middle School South would need to accommodate over 1,000 students. Both buildings would require larger cafeterias, gymnasiums and related art spaces. Robin Cleek would suggest keeping students separated into two groups: 5th-6th grade and 7th-8th grade with some common space. Mrs. Cleek does not feel there is enough acreage to increase the buildings to accommodate all of the students. Julie Simpson asked if a third middle school had been considered? Discussion on this idea centered around the various ages in this type of building and increase in student activities such as band/orchestra, athletic teams, competitive clubs etc. Dr. Lisa Leali noted that the district continues to try to increase extracurricular and academic activities and the facilities drive what can be done. Caps and lotteries may need to be looked at. The district has strong programs. Jason Lembke was asked to provide a rough cost for this type of new building. Robin Cleek would like numbers for an adaptive reuse facility and new building.

Grades 7-8 in a new building and two buildings of Grades 5-6 (MSN & MSS) / No Kindergarten Building. New 7th-8th grade building would need a capacity for 1,100 students. Julie Simpson would like to explore the adaptive reuse concept for a 7th-8th grade building. Jayson Tran is concerned that two buildings would be under-utilized. A third building would require additional dual language staff.

Available land for purchase. There is 10.84 acres available on Butterfield Road for \$5.51 million. This is a

combination of two parcels with two separate owners. The mailing address is Mundelein but within the Hawthorn 73 boundary. Julie Simpson asked if the price is negotiable? The price quoted is the listing price from last week. The Butterfield location would require bus transportation. The property adjacent to the Sullivan Center is approximately 11 acres. There would be a potential for walkers to this site. A question was directed to Jason Lembke about the possibility of building a school with a capacity of 1,100 on an 11 acre site. Mr. Lembke explained that it would be possible, however according to Illinois standards the building should be on 22 acres.

Suggested Plan: New elementary building on the land adjacent to the Sullivan Center and building shifts. A new elementary building would be built on the property adjacent to the Sullivan Center, students at Aspen Elementary would be moved to the existing Elementary South building along with the Early Childhood/Pre-K program (currently located at the Lincoln Building), the School of Dual Language would be relocated to the current Aspen Elementary building, Townline Elementary would be relocated to the existing Middle School North building and Middle School North would be relocated to the existing Townline Elementary building. The plan suggested is without a new kindergarten building. Class sizes are at 25:1. Julie Simpson would like to review this plan with an adaptive reuse facility instead of a new building on Aspen Drive. Wes Polen asked if the 11 acres has wetlands? Yes, there are some wetlands, and this would need to have further review.

Wes Polen shared a new suggested plan that was received via email. In this plan a 450 student adaptive reuse would be built to house the Dual Language. No kindergarten building. Townline would go to Middle North and Middle North would go to Townline. Aspen, Elementary North, Middle South and Elementary South would get additions. Elementary South addition would be a 2-story addition. If that was architecturally not possible then change boundaries so 125 more kids from Elementary South would go to Aspen. Aspen would be built accordingly. Elementary schools would be K-5.

Original EFMP Plan. Sonali Patil asked board members if the plan that was on the referendum should stay as is or be modified? All buildings would have STEM, Health and Life Safety updates and renovations as proposed. Julie Simpson would like to wait until information on the kindergarten bid overage is received from LAMP, Inc. Wes Polen does not believe there is community support for the kindergarten building. Robin Cleek would like to see a specific question about the kindergarten building added to the survey. Jason Tran would like to have the original EFMP cost re-estimated. Discussion was held on how the \$12 million reserve could be spent. Matt Jacobs would like the adaptive reuse facility option off of Deerpath Road vetted out. Wes Polen asked if adaptive reuse is faster than building a new building? Mr. Lembke explained that it is because you have the shell of the building to work with and crews are working in a heated space. There is some efficiency and time.

Summary of viable options for additional review:

1. 5th-8th building; new 3rd middle school
2. 7th-8th grade building; 5th-6th grades at Middle School North and Middle School South
3. New elementary south building
4. Original EFMP plan

5. DL in adaptive reuse

At the regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting on Monday, May 14th, survey results will be discussed.

Ms. Patil announced that the Community Engagement meeting tentatively scheduled for Thursday, May 10th will be canceled. The next Community Engagement meeting will be held on Monday, May 21st at Middle School South in the gym at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Sonali Patil requested a motion to close the Business Meeting.

Julie Simpson moved that the Board of Education adjourn the Special Business Meeting. Robin Cleek seconded the motion.

Voice Vote:

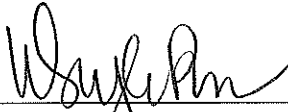
Motion carried: 6 ayes; 0 nays

The Special Business Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Peterson*



Sonali Patil, President



Wes Polen, Secretary

Date Minutes Approved: 5/14/18