

**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 Dr, Vernon Hills, IL 60061**

**7:00 p.m. on the 4th day of February, 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: Joel Finfer, George Fievet, Victoria Helander-Heiser, Sonali Patil, Wesley Polen and Robin Cleek. Also in attendance were the Asst. Supt. of Business & Finance LeeAnn Taylor, Asst. Supt. of Teaching, Learning & Innovation Allison Stein, Asst. Supt. for Human Resources Adam Palmer and Superintendent Dr. Pete Hannigan. Board Member Matt Jacobs attended via telephone.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Will Callinan, 626 Sycamore Street, Vernon Hills.

One public comment from Lauren Callinan, 626 Sycamore Street, Vernon Hills was emailed to the Board of Education and is attached to the minutes.

**RECOGNITION**

President Cleek thanked the Village of Vernon Hills Staff for allowing us to hold our Board of Education meetings in-person at their facility in a socially distanced manner.

Dr. Patil thanked the Administrators and Facilities Staff for all of their efforts during the vaccination event.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** - The PTO sponsored Valentine Day parties will take place Feb. 10th, during the parties there will be a valentine sign for the teachers in the classrooms who wish to participate. We greatly appreciate your support for our Hawthorn teachers.

**PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION TOPICS**

No Presentation or Discussion Topics were on the agenda.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Hannigan thanked the staff and community for all of their support, efforts and understanding during the transition to the hybrid learning model. We introduced our early childhood, pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, 1st, 2nd and 6th grade back into the buildings this past week. It is great to see them getting off the bus and into the buildings and going through their day at school. The Facilities and Maintenance Staff have done a phenomenal job of getting the buildings ready, they look great! Everyone is doing all that they can to make the most out of this situation.

Next week, the remaining students will be returning to the hybrid learning model on February 8th, we look forward to welcoming our 3rd through 5th graders and our 7th and 8th graders back into the buildings.

The last strategic planning mtg took place on Jan. 12th and their proposal will be presented to the Board of Education for approval. Our proposed mission is Learning for all; Every one, Every day!

Early this week, the Calendar Subcommittee reconvened Tuesday for a final review of the Fiscal Year 22 student attendance calendar as a few questions were received asking to adjust winter break to align more closely with District 128. In regards to the calendar, the highschoools that we feed into have winter breaks scheduled at different times, our proposed calendar has Dec. 23rd - Jan. 5th.

- District #128 is scheduled for Dec. 23rd - Jan 7th.
- District #120 is Dec. 20th - Jan. 3rd.
- District #125 is Dec. 20th - Jan. 3rd.

72% of our residents attend #128 as their high school district, 3.29% live in the #125 boundary, 23.24% live in the #120 boundary. Our proposed, recommended calendar split the difference for winter breaks. On Tuesday the

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Calendar Subcommittee created a #128 aligned calendar for the Board of Education to review, the original recommended calendar is scheduled as an action item tonight; if there is consensus to change the proposed calendar, we can approve the alternate calendar on February 25th. Discussion ensued and it was decided to approve the current proposed calendar as presented on the agenda.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Robin Cleek thanked the Board Members who had attended the Key to 73 meetings; after consideration it has been decided to have one board member designated as the liaison to attend the Key to 73 meetings, George Fievet has been appointed as that liaison.

Robin attended a webinar from the IASB for new Board Members, she requested that all board members give their feedback for what was a good use of time as a new board member so that she and the Superintendent can compile the information for our incoming board members. In addition, there is an upcoming virtual Lake division meeting on March 10th; the keynote speaker will be providing information on upcoming legislation, contact Bobbi to register for that meeting.

The ED RED annual summit was on Jan 22nd and five board members attended, there were State Senators and State Representatives attending the half hour sessions. Following is a brief summary: 1st session, Illinois is 47th for funding in education, we send a lot of funding in taxes to the federal government and don't receive a lot in return. The 2nd session touched on better Categorizing people for vaccination distribution. The 3rd session, tuition reimbursement for Social Workers who work in a P-12 district, and a bill that requires economic development to be less impactful to schools. Another session talked about working on changing the PTAL property tax law, and not liking the way that it limits districts into levying the maximum because it has repercussions for years to come. Finally they focused on what we can do as advocates, testifying at legislative meetings, contacting the media and working with legislation to have things work in favor of education. Discussion ensued regarding unfunded mandates and funding for covid.

**ED-RED REPORT** – Victoria Helander-Heiser recommends that our board maintain an active voice in ED-RED, she encourages D73 to apply for open board positions, there are currently four seats open. Unfunded mandates is only one section of what ED-RED is involved in, there are several school imperatives that will be coming up. Victoria's time on the Hawthorn Board of Education is coming to an end, so she is recommending that another board member starts the application process to the ED-RED board. Joel has voiced his interest in a seat on the ED-RED executive board.

**SEDOL REPORT** – Matt Jacobs indicated that the next SEDOL meeting will be in March.

**SITE & FACILITIES REPORT** – The next report will be at the February 25th Board of Education meeting.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- 5.1 Special Board Meeting Minutes 1/8/21
- 5.2 Regular Board Meeting Minutes 1/14/21
- 5.3 Special Board Meeting Minutes 1/21/21
- 5.4 Strategic Planning Meeting Minutes 10/22/20
- 5.5 Strategic Planning Meeting Minutes 11/17/20
- 5.6 Strategic Planning Meeting Minutes 12/8/20
- 5.7 Strategic Planning Meeting Minutes 1/12/21

The Strategic Planning meeting minutes were pulled from the Consent Agenda in order to vote on them separately as all of the board members did not attend the Strategic Planning Meetings.

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RECOMMENDED MOTION: Joel Finfer moved that the Board of Education approve the Strategic Planning Minutes for 10/22/20, 11/17/20, 12/8/20 and 1/12/21 as presented; seconded by Sonali Patil. **All in favor?** George & Matt abstained.

**Motion carried: 5 ayes; 0 nays, 2 abstain**

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RECOMMENDED MOTION: Joel Finfer moved that the Board of Education approve the Remaining **Consent Agenda** items as presented; seconded by Wesley Polen. **All in favor? Yes.**

**Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nays**

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LeeAnn Taylor the Assistant Superintendent of Business & Finance explained the business related items on the agenda. The first is to approve the contracts in order to move forward with the additions and renovations at Elementary School South. The board packet contains the letter of bid compliance from LAMP, a cost summary sheet and a bid tabulation.

We discussed the second action item back in November which relates to internet service for families that qualify for district provided internet assistance. It has been named Eagle Net and now that it has completed legal review and both parties have agreed to the terms, it is presented for your approval tonight.

**ACTION ITEMS –**

6.1 Elementary School South Additions and Renovations Construction Contracts - All Contracts

MOTION: Joel Finfer moved that the Board of Education approve the **Elementary School South Additions and Renovations Construction Contracts - All Contracts**; Sonali Patil seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Wesley Polen, Sonali Patil, Robin Cleek, Joel Finfer, George Fievet, Victoria Helander-Heiser and Matt Jacobs.

**Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nays**

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6.2 Comcast Internet Essentials Contract

MOTION: Joel Finfer moved that the Board of Education approve the **Comcast Internet Essentials Contract**; George Fievet seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:** Wesley Polen, Sonali Patil, Robin Cleek, Joel Finfer, George Fievet, Victoria Helander-Heiser and Matt Jacobs.

**Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nays**

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6.3 2021-2022 Recommended Student Attendance Calendar

MOTION: Joel Finfer moved that the Board of Education approve the **2021-2022 Recommended Student Attendance Calendar**; Sonali Patil seconded the motion. **All in favor? Yes.**

**Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nays**

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**GENERAL INFORMATION**

1. Enrollment
2. FOIA Log, Dr. Hannigan reported that there was one FOIA request which was received before the last board meeting and has now been partially denied as identified in Section 7.2 of the Board agenda.
3. Board Email Log
4. Media Clips

**TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION** – Advocacy should be discussed at an upcoming meeting; as we are going into an important legislative session, school board members need to advocate and ensure that our voices are heard as it relates to how decisions are made. The topic will be added to an upcoming meeting.

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**ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION** – With no further business to discuss Joel Finfer made a motion to adjourn to Closed Session; seconded by Wesley Polen, meeting adjourned TO CLOSED SESSION at 7:36 p.m. **All in favor? Yes.**

**Motion carried: 7 ayes; 0 nays**

Pursuant to 5 ILCS Robin Cleek read the motion(s) to adjourn to CLOSED SESSION for the purposes of: The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors, or specific volunteers of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor, or a volunteer of the District or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with this Act. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), amended by P.A. 101-459.

and

Collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2).

and

Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21).

**Reconvened back to open session at 8:20pm and with no further business to discuss, the open session was immediately adjourned at 8:20pm.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Bobbi Elftmann

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Robin Cleek, President

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George Fievet, Secretary

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