

**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 Drive, Vernon Hills, IL 60061**

**7:00 p.m. on the 11th day of March, 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, Matt Jacobs 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, the Director of Instructional Technology John Reid and Superintendent Dr. Pete Hannigan.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** – None at this time.

**RECOGNITION** – President Cleek thanked the Village Hall Staff again for allowing us the use of their board room so that we may conduct an in-person, social distanced Board of Education meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Holly Aronoff, 6 Montebello Drive, Vernon Hills

**PRESENTATIONS** –

**Bridges in Mathematics:** Math Adoption Date

Ms. Allison Stein, the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching, Learning & Innovation thanked the Board of Education, students and families for all of their support during the transition to this valuable new resource. She also thanked all of the educators who have implemented this program for their dedication to learning the materials in order to improve their students' success. As the final piece of introducing the math team's presentation, acknowledgement was also given to the evening's presenters who have given their time and talent to ensure that our district adopts a robust, tier 1 math program.

Highlights of the piloting process were reviewed, and key points were shared regarding this year's implementation. This includes securing materials, professional development for educators, the instructional schedule, guidance and support, digital support for 2020-2021, and student learning data. The materials support our Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum (GVC) by ensuring equity and access to grade level skills and content.

Please go to <https://www.hawthorn73.org/school-board/board-presentations/> to view the Bridges in Mathematics presentation in its entirety.

**District Facilities Assessment:** Ms. LeeAnn Taylor, the Assistant Superintendent of Business & Finance introduced Mr. Ted Haug from Legat to provide an overview of the condition of the school buildings. Mr. Haug explained the process from walking through the buildings and conducting a visual inspection to gathering existing plans. Key areas are architectural considerations and building infrastructure, items are being evaluated based on immediate, intermediate and long term need. They are exploring replacements such as Building Automated System (BAS), LED lighting, mechanical replacements and fire protection. Overall they are looking at long term conditions and will assess and prioritize them accordingly. A couple of projects that will need to be repaired this summer are the roof at Middle School South and the boiler at Middle School North.

**D73 Athletic Update:** Dr. Pete Hannigan started his presentation by sharing updated guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and the Illinois Department of Health (IDPH), it was just released on March 9 and there are significant changes from those shared last June 23. He reiterated that the health & safety of students and staff continues to be our number one priority. The six goals driving the decision making were reviewed.

- Prioritize *health and safety*
- Ensure a *smooth transition* back to in-person schooling for all students, staff, and families.
- Prepare for *multiple scenarios*
- Remain *nimble and flexible*, acting in accordance with guidelines from the Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Department of Public Health, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- Provide a *remote learning option* for families uncomfortable sending their child(ren) to school for in-person learning.
- Promote *collective responsibility* and *kindness* throughout the Hawthorn community.

Beginning on March 15, students currently registered for in-person learning will attend school:

- Lincoln: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday
- K-8: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

On March 3, staff and families received plan details, March 10 will be a Remote Planning Day (Student Non-Attendance Day). A survey was planned for the week of March 29, which will be postponed because it is anticipated that the ISBE will require in-person learning for the majority of the student body next year. Potentially, there will continue to be remote learning options for medically fragile students. On April 22 the tentative Fall 2021 reopening plan will be presented to the Board of Education and on May 13 the finalized Fall 2021 reopening plan will be presented. We will be implementing the updated capacity limit for groups and on buses as provided for on the revised guidance.

Regarding spring break, Lake County recommends following the public health guidelines. We ask families if you are not following the three Ws, please consider a 10-day self-quarantine and Covid-19 test.

For in-person athletics it will be a hybrid schedule, Covid-19 protocols are in place, masks will be required by athletes, coaches and officials. Games will be North vs South campus, no travel is being allowed. Spectators will not be allowed for indoor games, they will be live streamed. At this time we are still waiting for updated guidance for music programs, i.e. wind instruments and choir; guidance for music has not changed.

### **DISCUSSION TOPICS**

**Lakeside Contract Renewal:** Ms. Taylor indicated that we are currently in the third year of our transportation contract. After multiple conversations between District's #70 and #128 who we partnered with in the bidding process, the three districts are in agreement that a 8% increase over 2 years is appropriate, as Lakeside is offering a 7% wage increase to attract drivers and retain those they have. Lakeside is also seeking part-time drivers. The 8% increase will be administered with a 4% renewal over the next two years.

**IPAD Leases:** Ms. Taylor introduced Mr. John Reid, the Director of Instructional Technology to discuss device leases. In keeping with the district's mission, the Technology Department has been working to ensure equitable access to technology and internet access to Hawthorn students. Part of our action plan for the 2020-2021 action plan is to ensure that staff and students alike have current devices. 500 IPADs and 1,700 chromebooks were purchased in 2020 to refresh older devices. The Tech Committee identified the device needs of each student group per grade level and this information was shared during the presentation. In addition the Instructional Assistants will also be provided a

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matching device to aid in supporting students. The technology recommendation allows for a 3-year refresh cycle of iPads for elementary student devices to realize optimum functionality and buy-back value. The financing rate is .69% for a 36 month lease. The annual payment for FY22, FY23, and FY24 will be \$345,195.11. With the addition of these devices, the total annual technology lease commitment would be \$539,576.95. This expenditure represents only 1.2% of the total education fund expenses. The business office has included an annual lease expenditure of \$500K+ in all future financial projections. Board Member questions were asked and answered and additional information was requested to be shared at the next Board of Education meeting for how this will tie into curriculum.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** – Dr. Hannigan shared information from the Superintendent Communication Council, Mr. Joel Finfer and Ms. Wesley Polen were both in attendance. The discussion covered each school building, it was an optimistic group, everyone is supportive of each other and excited to have the students return. Questions were discussed regarding what is happening in the fall, and in regards to technology updates. It was a productive hour and a half meeting. There will be one more Superintendent Communication Council which is scheduled for May 13th.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT** – President Robin Cleek stated that the Statement of Economic Interests are due. A webinar from Robbins Schwartz regarding the updated guidance was very informative, it is recommended viewing for Board Members. On March 10th the IASB Lake Division meeting took place, the keynote speaker was promoting advocacy. On March 9th two Board Members attended a meeting with Village of Vernon Hills representatives and the Superintendent to discuss partnerships for the well-being of the community as a whole. The upcoming election on April 6th will result in at least two new board members, the ideal meeting date for re-organizing the Board of Education will be April 22nd. The County Clerk's office is expected to have the official canvass of votes completed on that date, in case an alternative date is needed, Board Member availability was requested.

**ED-RED REPORT** – Ms. Victoria Helander-Heiser reported that five candidates for the Executive Director for ED-RED will be going forward for final selection. As there are several important pieces of Legislation, House Bills for Special Education and funding that will impact all districts. Enrollment in ED-RED among Lake County districts is growing, and we are pleased to see increased participation from Northern Lake County districts.

**SEDOL REPORT** – Mr. Matt Jacobs indicated that he will review the recent SEDOL meeting and provide the report at the next Board of Education meeting.

**KEY to 73 REPORT** – Mr. George Fievet mentioned that the Foundation will be meeting again on Monday, March 15th and he will provide an updated report at the next Board of Education meeting.

**SITE & FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT** – CSBO LeeAnn Taylor reported that after the facilities assessment that was provided during this meeting, the subcommittee will meet again on April 7th and a report will be provided at the upcoming Board of Education meeting.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- 7.1 Board Meeting Minutes 2/25/21
- 7.2 Closed Session Minutes 2/25/21
- 7.3 Expenditure Report, March 2021
- 7.4 AMEX Report, February 2021
- 7.5 Amazon Cost Report, March 2021
- 7.6 Kindergarten Center Cost Log, March 2021
- 7.7 Treasurer's Report, January 2021
- 7.8 Personnel Report

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7 New Hires: Michael McFarlin, Coord. District Communications, DO; Nicole Rodrigo, Principal, DL; Elizabeth Palid, Instructional Assistant, ES; Jacqueline Ramos, Lunch/Recess ES/Aspen, Jocelyn Rios, Lunch/Recess DL; Savannah Robinson, Lunch/Recess HSYL, Sean Chatterjee, Lunch/Recess, TL.

7 Resignations: Norma Prenta, LBS1, DL; Robyn Strauss, Social Studies, MN; Michael Glassman, Art, DL; Genesis Brito Perez, Spanish, MN; Alexandra Smith, Art, TL; Rachel Rogers, Instructional Assistant, Aspen; Donna Bromsmith, Lunch/Recess, ES.

5 Leave of Absence: Gina Zubert, Bilingual Resource Teacher, ES; Stephanie Rusk, 5th Grade Teacher, EN; Catherine Lanyon, LBS1, TL; Jennifer Klein, Enrichment, EN; Lauren Wolk-Williams, LBS1, MS.

2 Retirements: Maureen Coutre, 4th Grade Teacher, TL; Sharon Mayfield, Custodian, Tower.

1 Change of Status: Shandey Reimann, Office Clerk, Aspen .

1 Dismissal: Heidi McColough, Instructional Assistant, DL.

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Dr. Hannigan introduced Ms. Nicole Rodrigo and Mr. Michael McFarlin as the recommended incoming administrators for the positions of Principal of Dual Language and Coordinator of District Communications respectively.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Joel Finfer moved that the Board of Education approve the **Consent Agenda** items as presented; seconded by George Fievet.

**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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**ACTION ITEMS –**

D73 Mission, Vision, Commitments and Goals

MOTION: Joel Finfer moved that the Board of Education approve the **D73 Mission, Vision, Commitments and Goals;** Wesley Polen 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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2021-2022 Staffing Plan

MOTION: Joel Finfer moved that the Board of Education approve the **2021-2022 Staffing Plan;** Wesley Polen 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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School Year 2021-2022 Student Fees

MOTION: Joel Finfer moved that the Board of Education approve the **School Year 2021-2022 Student Fees;** Sonali Patil seconded the motion.

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**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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Policy Update, PRESS Issue 106

MOTION: Joel Finfer moved that the Board of Education approve the **Policy Update, PRESS Issue 106**; Wesley Polen 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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**GENERAL INFORMATION**

1. Enrollment
2. FOIA Log, Dr. Hannigan reported that there were not any FOIA requests received since the last board meeting as identified in Section 9.2 of the Board agenda.
3. Board Email Log
4. Media Clips

**TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION** – It was mentioned that Board Members should have a discussion regarding the orientation of incoming board members. It was agreed that the Board of Education should have this discussion, the Board President has an outline which she created with the Superintendent. Please compile any ideas that you have to discuss on April 8th and Robin will send the outline that she has to the Board Members.

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**ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION** – With no further business to discuss George Fievet made a motion to adjourn to Closed Session; seconded by Matt Jacobs; meeting adjourned TO CLOSED SESSION at 8:33 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.

**Reconvened back to open session at 10:09 pm and with no further business to discuss, the open session was immediately adjourned at 10:09 pm.**

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Respectfully submitted,  
Bobbi Elftmann

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Robin Cleek, President

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George Fievet, Secretary

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