

# Hawthorn Board of Education Hawthorn C. C. District 73

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## MINUTES REGULAR BOARD MEETING HAWTHORN BOARD OF EDUCATION JANUARY 13, 2003

MINUTES of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Hawthorn Community Consolidated School District Number 73, Lake County, Illinois, held in the Board Room of said School District at 7:30 p.m. on the 13th day of January, 2003.

The meeting was called to order by President Paul at 7:30 p.m., and upon the roll being called, the following members of the Board of Education answered present: Jose Hernandez, Annie Christie, Mary-Jane Rattner, Bill Coli, Kevin Price, Jim Batson and Rich Paul. Absent:

### Public Comment Period

Mr. Bill Spangle, Middle School Teacher, expressed gratitude to the Board and administration on behalf of the Middle School for the process used to solicit input from the community and staff prior to making decisions regarding reconfiguration of the staff and schools.

Mr. Rich Berzanski, parent, commented on the importance of the decisions the Board would be making regarding the building of its new schools and how they would affect the community and children for years to come. He also related some concerns he had regarding enrollment projections shared with the community on the web site.

Mrs. Maureen Berzanski, parent, commented on her satisfaction with the current configuration meeting the needs of children, noting especially the Kindergarten, Middle and Junior High programs. She questioned why consideration was not given to expanding the current junior high school as a means of addressing the student growth.

Mrs. Carrie Pasquesi, parent, expressed appreciation to the Board of Education and administration for always keeping the children's best interests in mind when making decisions regarding how to accommodate Hawthorn's increasing enrollment over the years. She thanked the Board for receiving input from the community before making decisions about how to house the children in the future.

### Student and Staff Accomplishments/Recognitions eSchool News Tech-Savvy Superintendent Award

Mr. Hudson announced Dr. Yomtoob's selection by the national newspaper *eSchool News* newspaper as a "2003 Tech-Savvy Superintendent Award" winner. As one of only 10 superintendents in the nation to earn this significant recognition, sponsored by Gateway, it recognizes superintendents who have distinguished themselves through the effective use of technology in education. Dr. Yomtoob and the District's technology programs will be profiled in the January 2003 issue of *eSchool News*.

### Presentations

#### Cook Memorial Library

Mr. John Keister and Mr. Ed Abderholden, residents of Hawthorn District 73 and members of the Cook Memorial Library Board, provided a presentation relating to the proposed construction of a branch library in Vernon Hills and replacement of the existing building in Libertyville. He was proud to announce the opening that afternoon of the Interim Evergreen Library, providing restored services for Cook Library residents living in Vernon Hills. Cook Library, the eighth busiest public library in the State of Illinois, has outgrown its 33,000 sq. ft. facility and is unable to provide sufficient seating, study areas and programming for its current and projected residents. The site plans for proposed buildings offer a 45,000 sq. ft. facility in Vernon Hills (which can be built out to 60,000 sq. ft), located

at Rt. 60 and Aspen, and a 75,000 sq. ft. facility at its original site in Libertyville, with the original building scheduled for demolition. The Vernon Hills facility will improve access ability to the Vernon Hills area. The facility, located near Hawthorn's schools, will also contain a new building book collection, meeting rooms, a computer lab, study areas and quiet reading room. Programming to meet the community's needs would be available. Cook Library compares favorably to its neighboring districts in tax rate and has no outstanding bonds. Even with the tax increase of the proposed referendum, Cook Library falls below the tax rates of Fremont and Grayslake. Alternative measures were reviewed, adding the current library site in Libertyville does not allow for needed expansion for population as a one-site library. They requested the Board's support in this proposed referendum.

### **Report on Staff Support for Goals on Student Achievement**

Dr. Benjamin stated meetings during the first few months of school focused on terminology and reviewing available data with much staff learning occurring. The Quality School Portfolio (QSP) database, designed to serve rapid decisions regarding students, will be piloted at Hawthorn under the direction of Mr. Bob Hudson and Mr. Tom Donovan. The Bernstein Leadership Institute, in Atlanta, brings principals together to share stories in what is working well and taking them to the next level. Leadership is strengthened to solve problems in new ways. Members of the Harmony-Leland School staff visited Hawthorn and were excited to see a link in their philosophy with other teachers at Hawthorn. To say the least, they were very impressed with the growth and advanced experience of the Hawthorn staff in the Bernstein philosophy. Future meetings will focus on building on the strong base of implementation of Bernstein at Hawthorn. Given the strong experience in UbD at Hawthorn, we will be looking at skill building on best practices; analysis of student work. Noting the earlier challenge to the Board, he stated the Board has challenged itself through its goal of student learning.

### **Technology Update**

Mr. Hudson provided a overview of technology updates for the District.

**Enhancing Learning:** NWEA and Cresst Quality School Portfolio enable us to look at data we are collecting in addition to digital portfolios so that we can get an idea of progress children are making. Mobile Curriculum Lab -- a reference site at Elementary North and South by Apple Computer and its partners. Twenty-five I-Books and River Deep software is included with this pilot lab. Also, the Encyclopedia Britannica will be available on line in all school buildings and at home. Technology 2003 will be held March 19 in Springfield. Hawthorn's application for inclusion has been submitted with students from our district participating in presentations. **Professional Development:** Learning occurs by teachers learning to integrate technology into curriculum. Development continues through: iTroop, independent Study UbD/Bernstein, Classroom Connect (iTroop Course to be held January 22), Digital Portfolio Workshop, Apple Professional Development Workshop and WEB QSP Training of Trainers. **Optimize Operations:** The district has implemented the Skyward software for financials, operations and human resources, LAN & WAN upgrades, website usage and technology staff professional development. **Grants and Discounts:** Hawthorn is a partner with neighboring districts in the NCLB Ed Tech Consortium Grant affording the district approximately \$116,725 in funding, the bulk of which will be used to look at student achievement through the NWEA MAP Program. The District also receives funding from the following: Ed Tech Formula Grant , \$4,310; Erate (year 6-44% discount) \$52,800; CISCO Equipment (42-1/2% discount) \$76,000; Mobile Lab Pilot, \$29,999; Infinitec (3 yr. grant), \$235,000 and the Grammy Foundation, \$1,000. **Leadership:** Teachers willing to risk so others can learn. The District is also very rich in its building leaders.

### **Consent Agenda**

President Paul entertained questions concerning items contained in the Consent Agenda. Hearing none, he requested a motion for approval of the following:

- 01/03.67 Meeting Minutes, Closed Session of 12/09/02
- 01/03.68 Meeting Minutes, Regular Session - 12/09/02
- 01/03.69 Meeting Minutes, Regular Session - 12/20/02
- 01/03.70 Treasure's Report - November 2002
- 01/03.71A Notice of Retirement - Laura Budd, Assistant Principal, Elementary North
- 01/03.71B Notice of Resignation, John Alimi, Elementary North
- 01/03.71C Approval of Jen Weichman, Speech & Language Therapist, Early Childhood Students
- 01/03.71D Notice of Retirement - Mrs. Ruth Arendsen, Third Grade Teacher, Elementary North

01/03.71E Notice of Retirement - Ms. Jeannine Saltman, Music Teacher, Elementary North  
01/03.71F Notice of Retirement - Karen Kaplan, Kindergarten Teacher, Hawthorn Kindergarten  
01/03.71G Notice of Retirement - Ms. Barbara Barcus, Fourth Grade Teacher, Elementary North

Jose Hernandez moved and Annie Christie seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Consent agenda items, as amended. Voice Vote: 7 ayes; 0 nays. Motion carried.

### **President's Report**

No matters of this nature were on the agenda.

### **Superintendent's Report**

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Dr. Yomtoob stated meetings with architects are being held concerning the construction plan with two parallel paths, construction and configuration. The only decisions made are: (1) there will be an Option School, (2) three schools will be built, (3) three schools will be comparable with each other, (4) the building on the North Campus will join together with another to create one building, and (5) three buildings will serve students K-6th grades. There has been no decision concerning configuration as more data must be collected. Two or three plans will be developed for presentation to the Board, a public hearing will be held and a request for Board approval following same. The building must be ready by August 2004.

### **Discussion Items**

#### **Legat Architects**

Dr. Yomtoob introduced James McDonough, of Legat Architects, who provided an overview in the steps taken to construct a new building to include areas of programming (documentation of building on paper), schematic design, design development, construction documents, bidding and negotiations and construction administration.

### **Proposed Board Policy - Communications To and From the Board**

Dr. Yomtoob presented a draft of Board Policy 2:140 -- Communications To and From the Board. Specifically, the Board wishes to be proactive by proposing a policy and administrative procedure for the use of email by members of the Board which email contains Board-related matters. This policy would assure the Board's compliance with the Open Meetings Act. Discussion was held and President Paul assured the Board is currently in compliance. Discussion was held concerning email communication between two members of the Board, however, a third party may not enter into that same communication. The Board requested clarification from the District's attorney of emailing and receiving a response and also copying communications to other members. Dr. Yomtoob will consult the District's attorneys regarding same.

President Paul requested a motion for approval of the first reading of said policy.

01/03.72 Jose Hernandez moved and Mary-Jane Rattner seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the first reading of Board Policy 2:140 -- Communications To and From the Board, and that the Board move forward on said policy as written. Voice Vote: 7 ayes; 0 nays. Motion carried.

### **IHC Construction Management**

Dr. Yomtoob and Mr. Hahn reviewed the process taken in the selection of IHC Construction Management as the Project Managers for referendum-related construction. A contract is being negotiated with action on same to be taken at the next meeting of the Board. Gewalt Hamilton was also recommended to act as the chief designers for traffic issues/patterns with the Board taking action on same at its next meeting. Discussion pertaining to the Board's role during the construction phase was reviewed with communication between various committees to the Board a key element. Discussion pertaining to refurbishing of buildings, process, scope and cost were reviewed, as well as possible environmental issues.

### **Role of Board of Education During Construction**

Dr. Yomtoob reviewed noted the Board is involved and/or provided information relative to various committees which meet concerning referendum related matters. A timeline of 2002 Referendum Projects was distributed. He

added minutes of committee meetings are provided to the Board immediately following those meetings with questions on same directed to Dr. Yomtoob. Discussion was also held regarding refurbishing of buildings, process, scope and cost of same.

### **Committee Reports**

There were no items of this nature on the agenda.

### **Unfinished Business**

There were no items of this nature on the agenda.

### **New Business**

There was no new business to come before the meeting.

### **Announcements**

There were no items of this nature on the agenda.

### **Informational Items**

The Board was provided for informational purposes: (a) NIHIP Financial Statement as of 11/30/02; (b) Hawthorn in the News/Press Releases; (c) Schedule of Board Meeting presentations by buildings; (d) memo from State Superintendent; (e) Financial Report - November 2002; (f) Education Funding Advisory Board, Final Report Oct. 2002; (g) Board summary 12/09/02; (h) Board Summary 12/20/02; (i) Hawthorn Highlights - December 2002; (j) Middle School memo; (k) Effective Schools Conference Information and (l) Invitation

### **Adjournment**

Having no further business to come before the meeting, President Paul requested a motion to adjourn.

Annie Christie moved and Bill Coli seconded the motion to adjourn. Voice Vote: 7 ayes; 0 nays. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

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Richard Paul, President

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Mary-Jane Rattner, Secretary