

Hawthorn Board of Education Hawthorn C. C. District 73

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MINUTES REGULAR BOARD MEETING HAWTHORN BOARD OF EDUCATION APRIL 28, 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 28th day of April, 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.

Public Comment Period

There were no items of this nature on the agenda.

Student and Staff Accomplishments/Recognitions

Chris Weaver, President of Option School's Student Council, presented ceramic eagles to Dr. Joe and members of the Board in appreciation for successful changes brought to the District and their commitment to continuing quality improvement for Hawthorn's schools. The eagles were painted by Option School students.

Staff Presentations - Kindergarten Center Goals

Mrs. Luz Alvino, Principal, and members of the Kindergarten staff provided their building goals to the Board for their review. In addition to the staff working with district initiatives, they also looked at assessment and data of standards by using the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS), an assessment to monitor the development of pre-reading and early reading skills. Through these assessments, staff can identify and predict at-risk children, allowing the school to mobilize instruction. At-risk students are placed into the Direct Instruction Program, while assessments placed other students into the phonological awareness program, a piloted program.

The Direct Instruction model is incorporated into the Extended Learning Program. It is a unique teaching system which produces positive results in "at-risk" classrooms and through a structured learning process helps students "learn how to learn" while building reading and language skills. Through use of this program the per cent of students that score proficient or better has been proven to increase. Two newly adopted Direct Instruction programs adopted by the building staff are Language for Learning and Reading Mastery. Language for Learning gives a better understanding for what is spoken, written and read in the classroom, leading to higher order thinking skills. Concepts and skills of Language for Learning were reviewed as well as the program content. Those that benefit from this program are four, five and six year olds who have low language skills and knowledge to include English speaking students as well as those learning the English language.

Reading Mastery is a straight forward system of phonics and develops decoding skills while adding complex comprehension strategies. The building of a foundation for reading includes: phonics, fluency, blending, decoding, reading accuracy, automaticity, letter-sound relationships and oral language comprehension. The Reading Master Program contains: teacher presentation books, 40 sound "special alphabet, student take-home workbooks, daily classroom practice, review and application and seatwork blackline masters. No matter what the child's background, Reading Mastery develops fluent, independent readers who fully understand what has been read using phonemic awareness, decoding skills and comprehension strategies.

Analysis of DIBELS assessments were reviewed to include comparisons between winter and spring, showing students reaching their benchmarks. The other area of measurement was in the area of nonsense word fluency, which measures skill in alphabetic understanding in figuring out an unfamiliar word. Nonsense words are used to ensure that student skill in using a strategy is measured rather than simply measuring memorization. Winter and spring assessments were compared with all groups improving in application of letter sound correspondence and word attack strategy.

Plans for next year include: phonological groups in every classroom to include: (1) Power Talking and Writing Experiences; (2) expansion of Direct Instruction Program with grant funds; (3) continued articulation with first and second grade teachers for monitoring of students; (4) DIBELS use with bilingual population and (5) continue unit development of Bernstein and UbD.

Legat Architects

An update in the process of site and building designs was provided with various companies involved in the process represented. The design development is nearly complete for all buildings and well as the site work, with the first bid release being May 7. Site plans were exhibited with explanation of traffic circulation and play areas for both campuses. Building overviews were exhibited to include explanation of building components.

Consent Agenda

President Paul entertained questions concerning items contained in the Consent Agenda. Hearing none, he requested a motion to approve same.

- 04/03.107 Meeting Minutes, Regular Session - 4/14/03
- 04/03.108 Treasurer's Report - March 2003
- 04/03.109 Transportation Contract Extension
- 04/03.110 2003-2004 Transportation Parent Fee Payment
- 04/03.111 Personnel Report:
 - A Resignation of one administrative staff member, Debbie Wilson, Principal of the Jr. High
 - B-C Appointment of two administrative staff members: (1) Brian Rude, Principal, Option School, and (2) Eileen Conway, Assistant Principal, Elementary North
 - D Leave of Absence for one certificated staff member, Angela Mun, 3rd grade teacher, Option School

Jim Batson moved and Mary-Jane Rattner seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. Voice Vote: 7 ayes; 0 nays. Motion carried.

Action Items

Expenditure Report - April 2003

Mr. Batson noted the organization for which he works does, at times, provide materials to the District. Under those circumstances, those bills are listed as a separate item(s) in the expenditure report (ETA/Cuisenaire), at which time he is required by law to abstain from voting on such separate expenditures. In reviewing the expenditures listing, there is an item, however, it is canceled out later in the report. Should a Board member's name appear in the expenditures listing, it is for reimbursement of expenses. One is only required to abstain from voting if there is some potential personal gain. President Paul entertained questions concerning the April 2003 Expenditure Report (excluding ETA/Cuisenaire). Hearing none, he requested a motion.

- 04/03.112 Annie Christie moved and Jose Hernandez seconded the motion that the Hawthorn Board of Education approve expenditures, as presented. Voice Vote: 7 ayes; 0 nays. Motion carried.

Purchase of Children's World Property

Dr. Yomtoob noted last December he was notified of available property adjacent to the District, Children's World. After discussing this property with administration and staff, it was determined this would be an opportunity of a lifetime to have property adjacent to the District to serve as a permanent location for the District Office. It would also

be part of our campus, but yet provide safety and security to students due to its location being separate from schools. During the referendum it was stated the District Office would be housed wherever there was room. Dr. Yomtoob further stated with a district of our size, he feels a permanent office for the District Office would be appropriate. The location would be part of our North Campus and would provide space for staff development. Due to additional buildings incorporated into the district, technology is increasing, and a permanent location for technology is required.

The Board was informed of this opportunity and authorized administration to investigate price, determine condition of the building and size. If the Board decides to move forward and purchase, renovation would be required as well as an addition. Architects and engineers have reported the building is sound. The Board was, again, approached to seek direction for purchase of the property following which administration entered into negotiations and now comes to the Board with a recommendation. The cost of the property is about \$950,00. With refurbishing and an addition of approximately 5,300 - 5,400 sq. feet, the building would total approximately 11,500 - 12,000 sq. feet. The total cost would be \$2.6 million. He stated the District can afford said purchase. We have a five-year building fund projection with payments for this building incorporated. He recommended the District issue a debt bond at a rate of 4.25% over 20 years.

President Paul requested a motion to approve the resolution authorizing purchase of the Children's World Property.

04/03.113 Kevin Price moved and Jim Batson seconded the motion that the Board of Education approve the Resolution for the purchase of the Children's World Property, subject to final approval and review of the contract by the attorney.

President Paul entertained questions and comments. The Board moved into discussion concerning this matter. President Paul began by stating he sees the need for a separate facility to house the District Office and to service the staff and visitors of the District. The location of the property could not be better. He feels when weighing the cost of moving the full District Office and technology from a school into another facility sometime in the undetermined future, the cost would far exceed that of the current property in question.

Mrs. Christie inquired if this property is a necessity at this time. What was the appraisal for the land and building together? There have been two appraisals, one provided by the seller at over \$1 million and another by the District at \$560,000. She voiced her concern that a copy of the Seller's \$1 million appraisal was not available to the Board, and looking at the purchase price it is clearly over the appraised value. Dr. Yomtoob responded a permanent building for the District Office is a necessity and feels technology should be housed with the District Office and not at another building in the district. Mr. Hahn stated we have no legal right to obtain a copy of the \$1 million appraisal. Mr. Coli stated appraisals are based on three elements: (1) replacement cost, (2) income approach and (3) comparable parcels. He finds it quite odd that there is such a vast difference in the two appraisals. Mrs. Christie stated she cannot justify spending so much money over the appraised price for property that will not benefit students educationally.

Mrs. Ratter questioned the alternatives if we do not purchase this property. The District office would utilize classroom space which will have been refurbished for office purposes. As student population increases, the classroom space will be needed and the District Office relocated. This would involve one cost for the initial refurbishing in the school plus additional cost to refurbish the offices back to classrooms. Dr. Yomtoob noted the plans for five, five-story condos proposed for the Clavey Property. This will impact student projections by adding 160 - 300 more students to the District..

Mr. Hernandez and Mr. Price both supported the proposed purchase. After weighing the facts, the location and attachment of the property to the District will be beneficial to further the District's goals.

Mr. Coli compared other districts. The District Office for Libertyville High School 128 is located adjacent to the Butler Lake campus and nowhere near Vernon Hills High School, which school is not suffering due to the location of its District Office. However, land is a good investment, i.e., land purchased years ago on which the Junior High now stands. Projections can change. He supports the decision to purchase the property, however, he cannot agree to this unless we hold off on refurbishing of the property until we have a better handle on enrollment figures. Mr. Batson added the Resolution is to purchase the property. If we expect to use the facility soon, we would need to make a judgment call. There were several options available in terms of buildout. There should be additional discussion regarding refurbishing. The property is valuable and worth pursuing.

Mrs. Rattner stated we must make decisions concerning reconfiguration of buildings, and we cannot do this until we know where the District Office will be housed. We wish to make this reconfiguration consistent for a number of years, and we must also think of the security and safety of our students.

Hearing no further discussion, President Paul requested a roll call on the motion: Roll Call: Kevin Price, Jim Batson, Jose Hernandez, Mary-Jane Rattner and Rich Paul voted aye. Annie Christie and Bill Coli voted nay. 5 ayes; 2 nays. Motion carried.

Teacher Appreciation Day

With the week of May 5 designated Teacher Appreciation Week, The Board read a resolution commemorating same. Following the reading, President Paul requested a motion.

04/03.114 Mary-Jane Rattner moved and Annie Christie seconded the motion that the Hawthorn Board of Education approve the Resolution for the commemoration of Teacher Appreciation Week, as presented. Voice Vote: 7 ayes; 0 nays. Motion carried.

Resolution in Support of Regional Offices of Education

Dr. Yomtoob reported that due to the financial condition of the State of Illinois, it has been recommended by the Governor to eliminate funding for the Regional Offices of Education. Following an overview of services performed by such offices, he requested the Board to approve the Resolution in support of these Offices. Following discussion, the Board agreed to amend the Resolution to reflect support of the Lake County Regional Office of Education. President Paul entertained a motion.

04/03.115 Jim Batson moved and Annie Christie seconded the motion that the Hawthorn Board of Education approve the modified Resolution for support of the Lake County Regional Office of Education. Voice Vote: 7 ayes; 0 nays. Motion carried.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Yomtoob discussed plans for the May 12 meeting of the Board, with Parichehr's and Dr. Joe's Most Improved Student Awards being presented at its Regular Session.

Discussion Items

Dr. Yomtoob stated information has been provided concerning the recommendation of Mr. Hahn to lease purchase eight digital copiers for the District. Action on same will be requested at the next meeting.

Committee Reports

There were no items of this nature on the agenda.

Unfinished business

There was no unfinished business to come before the Board.

New Business

There was no new business to come before the Board.

Informational Items

Items were made available to the Board for informational purposes.

Adjournment

Having no further business to come before the Board, 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 Board adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Richard Paul, President

Mary-Jane Rattner, Secretary