

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Hawthorn Community Consolidated School District Number 73, Lake County, Illinois, held in the Conference Room at 841 West End Court at 7:30PM on the 9th day of July 2007.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Tim Shanahan, President, at 7:35PM. Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Debbie Limer called the roll, with the following members of the Board of Education answering present: Jeff Bard, Michelle Comitor, John Sonnenberg, Donna Gaidamak, Anne Hoffman, and Tim Shanahan.

Public Comment period: None

Student and Staff Accomplishments, Recognitions: None

Staff Presentations:

Dr. Yomtoob told the Board that he was very fortunate to have met Dr. Benjamin in the 1970s. They were superintendents in Michigan at the same time. Dr. Benjamin helped with the implementation of Bernstein and is involved with the Board. He focuses on learning and has a lot of experience. Dr. Benjamin commented that it is a pleasure to work with Dr. Yomtoob. He said Dr. Yomtoob is willing to get involved with the kids. "Learning for all" is a journey. Dr. Yomtoob is leading the District to a breakthrough. The Board has insight on achievement. Dr. Benjamin pointed out that U.S. kids are at a disadvantage versus other countries. We all have state standards, but they are not high enough to catch U.S. students up to the international ones. We are still behind internationally. He also pointed out that the emotional quotient of our children is very important. It is more important than IQ when assessing academic success.

Dr. Benjamin began his Hawthorn 73 Board of Education Update presentation. He stated that the Iowa Lighthouse Study looked at how school boards use best practices. Compared to the average school district, the Hawthorn Board of Education looks great. We are working on continuous improvement. He commented on Jim Collins and the practices used in the corporate world. "Good" is the enemy to "great" because people get complacent. "Good" is not good enough. Hawthorn has a culture of continuous improvement. The District is moving along on math, reading, science, and social studies. We are moving onto creative problem solving and creating relationships. With the transition plan we are overlapping positions. Dr. Benjamin discussed the Stevenson transition plan. Their plan runs well, and the district is considered one of the best in the nation. We want to see what they are doing and how they are doing it. Hawthorn is going beyond with our enlightened, broadened curriculum.

Dr. Benjamin told the Board what we will be working on during the Aug 17th and 18th Board retreat. He asked them to make a list of their priorities for the District. He went over the breakthrough flow charts that show student achievement. Dr. Yomtoob added that the preliminary ISAT data for our students this year is very good. The preliminary data shows 88% of our students meeting/exceeding state standards in reading, 91% in math, and 94% in science. Dr. Benjamin reported that we already have leading, intermediate, and trailing indicators on student achievement. The tendency is to try to exert more control over the staff but that leads to less professional situations and the achievement gains do not come. Instead of bossing the idea is modeling, but it is not easy to do. He asked that the Board think of things we want to focus on before the retreat. He recommended that the members take the strengths questionnaire again even if they have done so already.

Dr. Benjamin mentioned the transition plan. He interviewed Dr. Yomtoob, Dr. Zook and Tim Shanahan to get a feel for that. We need to stay focused and work together. John Sonnenberg thanked Dr. Benjamin for sharing. He commented that he looks forward to learning from him. We have to set a true course, so we can focus on the big issues. Tim Shanahan thanked Dr. Benjamin. Dr. Yomtoob suggested that the administrative team take the strengths questionnaire as well as the board members. He added this will be the first retreat for the new board.

Consent Agenda:

Donna Gaidamak moved to approve the consent agenda. John Sonnenberg seconded the motion.

07/07.1 Board Minutes, regular session, 5/14/07

07/07.2 Board Minutes, regular session, 6/11/07

07/07.3 Board Minutes, regular session, 6/25/07

07/07.4 Expenditure Report, end of the year

07/07.5 2007/2008 contract renewal for Sodexo

07/07.6 Board Policy changes

07/07.7 Personnel Report

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Gaidamak, Sonnenberg, Bard, Comitor, Hoffman, Shanahan,

Nays: None

Absent: Jay

Motion carried – 6– 0

Dr. Zook introduced Jennifer Koschmann, a new third grade teacher at Townline. Ms. Koschmann shook hands with the Board members and signed her contract.

Action Items: None

President's Report: None

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Yomtoob told the Board that expenses are final for the end of the year. We came in with a balanced budget. He thinks that revenue will come in as planned. He would like to have a closed meeting at the end of the next meeting. We look for quality teachers. For every job opening we have, we have 500 applicants.

Discussion Items: None

Committee Reports: None

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

Announcements: None

Informational Items: None

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Tim Shanahan requested a motion to adjourn.

Anne Hoffman moved to adjourn the meeting. Michelle Comitor seconded the motion. Voice Vote: 6 ayes: 0 nays. Motion carried

Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 8:35PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Limer

Timothy Shanahan, President

Anne Hoffman, Secretary