

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 10th day of September 2007.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Tim Shanahan, President, at 7:30PM. 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, Lisa Jay, Michelle Comitor, John Sonnenberg, Donna Gaidamak, Anne Hoffman, Tim Shanahan.

Recess Regular Session: Michelle Comitor moved to recess into the Public Hearing. Anne Hoffman seconded the motion. Motion carried – 7 – 0.

Public Hearing – Tentative Budget: Tim Shanahan asked if there was any public comment regarding the District Budget. There was none.

Donna Gaidamak moved to close the Public Hearing. John Sonnenberg seconded the motion. Motion carried – 7 – 0.

Reconvene Regular Session: John Sonnenberg moved to return to regular session. Lisa Jay seconded the motion. Motion carried – 7 – 0.

Tim Shanahan stated that there is one issue with the budget. That issue is the School Resource Officer. The Village Board wants \$55K from Hawthorn as full reimbursement for the officer. Dr. Joe, Alan Hahn, Tim Shanahan, and Anne Hoffman attended the Village Board meeting last week. The Village Board discussed the Hawthorn School Board's proposal to phase in the increase for the Resource Officer. After discussion between Dr. Joe, Tim and the Village Board, the Village Board voted not to accept District 73 phasing in the increase. They want the \$55K for this year. Michelle Comitor stated that she thought we should pay the money this year, but should look into other options for upcoming years. Lisa Jay commented that she agreed. Donna Gaidamak asked if the Village Board had any other suggestions. Tim Shanahan stated it was \$55K or nothing, although the Village Board indicated that they were not going to pull the Resource Officer. John Sonnenberg told the Board that he is grateful that we are continuing this program, but we should reevaluate it for next year. Lisa Jay stated that we should be provided with a curriculum from the officer. We need to know more about what he is doing. Tim Shanahan reported that the Chief of Police will be here on the September 24th to discuss the School Resource Officer. Dr. Yomtoob added that he will send out the letter that the middle school principals wrote last year about the program. Michelle Comitor stated that there needs to be an evaluation process of the Resource Officer, perhaps a survey from the kids and teachers. There should also be a longevity study to determine whether or not this program is paying off once the kids are in high school. Tim Shanahan directed the administration to look into conducting such a study. Dr. Yomtoob indicated that we can address all of those issues on the 24th.

Anne Hoffman stated that we came to the Village Board in the spirit of partnership. She commented that she is glad that both boards put the needs of the children first, but we need to look into other options with a timeline for next year. Lisa Jay asked if we have a timeline with the Police Department. Dr. Yomtoob stated that they want a commitment in the springtime. He suggested a discussion in March with a decision in April. Donna Gaidamak told the Board that we should participate in the presentation from the Chief. That should generate ideas from the Board of Education that the administration can investigate. Tim Shanahan reminded the Board to be careful with email correspondence to not violate the Open Meetings Act.

Jeff Bard suggested that the public be made aware of what happens to the budget now as far as the process for final approval. John Sonnenberg stated that there will be a Finance Committee Meeting just before the regular board meeting on September 24th to finalize the numbers. The final budget will be voted on at that meeting. Donna Gaidamak commented that there is a Communications Meeting scheduled before the meeting on the 24th, but because of the time issues with the budget it can be changed. Alan Hahn explained that Dr. Yomtoob, Dr. Zook and he will finalize the numbers with the best guess they can in the next few days. State funding is changing, but he does not know much about that. It is still very much up in the air. He will update the budget with salaries and the School Resource Officer. The Finance Committee will meet ahead of the approval on the 24th. At the previous Finance Committee meeting in August Alan, Dr. Zook, and Dr. Joe answered questions from the Finance Committee and other board members. In addition, a list of questions was prepared for Alan that he will be replying to. It was mentioned again as a reminder to not create discussion among board members outside of the public meetings. Such questions should be sent through Dr. Joe's office in the future.

Public Comment period: None

Student and Staff Accomplishments, Recognitions:

Dr. Yomtoob told the Board that there are a lot of positive things going on. The Back to School nights are going well. We transport about 2K kids; there have been some challenges with some of the special education children, but it is going well. Each special education student is being addressed individually. He added that freezing the routes has worked well.

Staff Presentations:

Dr. Yomtoob stated that we work on continuous improvement. We have summer school for kids who we determine need extra support at the end of the school year. The timing of this program was recently moved from the end of the current school year to right before the beginning of the next. This was done to help with retention. The program is also run at each of our schools. Dr. Zook introduced Lara Christoun, the coordinator of bilingual education. This position has been in place for the last three years. Ms. Christoun has had the position since last October. She runs all of our federal projects and is continually looking for new projects. Ms. Christoun told the Board that since taking over the position she has started a parent committee. There are now 12 parents on the committee.

Ms. Christoun explained that the Summer Scholars program accepts the bottom 30% of the student population. The data for that 30% comes from MAP scores, DIBELS testing, and teacher recommendations. We are using the Summer Success Program. We tried to max out the classrooms with 15 students. All of our schools had students in attendance. If a student was moving on to a middle school, he or she attended the program at their new school. Ms. Christoun stated that the ESL teachers helped with the program. The students were given pre and post tests in the three week period. The Summer Success Program is a six week program. At least half of the kids made positive gains. The upcoming teacher and the parent year received an update on the student's progress at the end of the summer session.

Ms. Christoun reported on Sunrise Scholars which is an ESL program that we ran last spring for third to fifth graders. It was successful last year, and we plan to do it again this year. The students were bused in for class from 7am to 8am. She stated that she plans to track the MAP scores of these students. Tim Shanahan asked if there is any data on non-regression. Ms. Christoun stated that she is going to be looking at that. She hopes this will stop regression. Michelle Comitor asked if there was any other criteria to get into the program. She wanted to know what happens if a student's MAP scores are low, but everything else is at the standard. Ms. Christoun stated that she talks to the teachers and parents to get a response. The principal gives approval as well. Michelle Comitor indicated that the letters for Summer Scholars did not go out until the end of May. She questioned if there is some way to get the letters out sooner because by the end of May families have already made camp and vacation plans. Providing the information to parents earlier will allow them to make better decisions for their children. Ms. Christoun explained that the program was expanded, and she had to make sure she had teacher coverage before admitting students. She was not aware of all of the issues with the program. She commented that for next year she is planning to use the winter MAP scores, and the letters will go out in March. John Sonnenberg suggested getting the dates of the program out ahead of time, so parents who think their children will qualify can plan ahead. Dr. Zook stated that the dates will be out in January.

Donna Gaidamak asked how many children who were invited to attend did not. Ms. Christoun commented that the refusal rate was 15%. About 250 kids attended the summer program. Donna Gaidamak asked about expanding the dates. Ms. Christoun explained that there is a resource allocation problem with HEI and teacher availability. Dr. Zook reported that the program was three weeks, full days rather than six weeks of half days. John Sonnenberg asked about tracking the students who attended versus those who choose not to attend. Ms. Christoun told the Board that everyone was very supportive, appreciative, and positive. The program was a huge effort, but we made it a positive summer school atmosphere. Estimates are that 85% of the kids and staff were very happy. Anne Hoffman stated that the word on the street was that it was exceptional. Jeff Bard indicated that he had also heard a lot of positive comments on the program.

Consent Agenda:

Anne Hoffman moved to approve the consent agenda. John Sonnenberg seconded the motion.

09/07.22 Personnel Report

Motion carried – 6– 0

Several student teachers introduced themselves and why they were attending tonight's meeting.

Eileen Conway introduced Maureen Berzanski, .5 Kindergarten teacher at Elementary South. Ms. Berzanski came forward to sign her contract and shake hands with the members of the Board.

Action Items:

09/07.23 Reject Waste Disposal Bid

Alan Hahn explained that the issue is that we can only use front load waste disposal trucks because of our dumpsters. That was a problem because we only received one bid for waste disposal. That bid was very high. He had the contract rebid and was able to save the District \$6K over 3 years. Anne Hoffman moved to reject the July 11, 2007 bid from Waste Management for waste disposal and recycling services for 2007-2008, 2008-2009, and 2009-2010. John Sonnenberg seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Gaidamak, Sonnenberg, Bard, Jay, Comitor, Hoffman, Shanahan,

Nays: None

Motion carried – 7– 0

Donna Gaidamak asked it would more economical if we changed the dumpsters to ones that can use different loaders. Alan Hahn commented that we do not have room for different dumpsters.

09/07.24 Award of Three-Year Waste Disposal Bid

John Sonnenberg moved to approve the bid and award a contract to Veolia Environmental Services for the District's disposal and recycling services for the 2007-2008, 2008-2009, 2009-2010 school years at the amounts indicated above for a three-year total of \$59,766.22. The 2007-2008 year contract will be prorated and will begin October 1, 2007. Donna Gaidamak seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Gaidamak, Sonnenberg, Bard, Jay, Comitor, Hoffman, Shanahan,
Nays: None
Motion carried – 7– 0

President's Report: None

Superintendent's Report: None

Discussion Items: None

Committee Reports:

Jeff Bard told the Board that he attended the quarterly SEDOL meeting on August 29, 2007 and the SEDOL budget was approved. They reported that they are financially solid. Their health care costs are rising, but they have been able to save 10% this year. Starting next year there will be no transportation offered by SEDOL to member districts. The member districts are able to get lower cost transportation contracts because they have been able to go out for bid after SEDOL had obtained bids. As a result, SEDOL can no longer get good rates from the bus companies. Districts will need to arrange for their own bus contracts or partner with nearby districts. Donna Gaidamak asked how SEDOL is saving money on their health care costs. Jeff Bard stated that they did not discuss the details. Jeff also reported that SEDOL's facilities are at capacity. At the meeting, they voted to have a feasibility study conducted to determine whether to build a new building or look for other space in Lake County. The expansion is needed primarily for students with significant medical needs. Tim Shanahan asked where they are looking to expand. Jeff Bard commented that they are looking to see if they have room on existing grounds or at member districts. Joy Kane added that the Larchmont School is very old. It needs major repairs. Any construction or expansion costs, if ultimately approved, would be shared by member districts. Joy added that this discussion has been going on for a long time.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

Announcements: None

Informational Items: None

Adjournment:

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

Lisa Jay moved to adjourn the meeting. Donna Gaidamak seconded the motion. Voice Vote: 7 ayes: 0 nays. Motion carried

Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Limer

Timothy Shanahan, President

Anne Hoffman, Secretary