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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 24th 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, Michelle Comitor, John Sonnenberg, Donna Gaidamak, Anne Hoffman, Tim Shanahan.

Public Comment period: None

Student and Staff Accomplishments, Recognitions:

Dr. Yomtoob told the Board that Middle School South art teacher, Mary Benton, has been recognized for her art collection. She will be coming in for a future meeting.

Staff Presentations:

Dr. Yomtoob stated that representatives from the Village have volunteered to come in to discuss the school resource officer program. Mike Allison, Village manager, is here to discuss the issues. Mr. Allison told the Board that this is a good opportunity to for everyone to discuss the situation. He introduced Police Chief Mark Fleischhauer and Police Officer Ward Feeger. Mr. Allison commented that they want to lay the ground work for 2008-2009. Chief Fleischhauer stated that he was happy to be here. He commented that they have looked at the video tapes from the past Board of Education meetings. At those meetings the role of the resource officer was not discussed. He is here to explain some of the questions that came up at the meetings. The school administration is involved in the process of the selection of the officer. The Police Department puts out a memo with the criteria for the position within the department. The candidate must have a certain education, experience and training as a juvenile officer, and years of experience. That candidate's supervisor must approve the candidate. At that point the candidate goes to the school and is interviewed by the administration. Chief Fleischhauer explained that this time there was only one candidate to apply. The administration could have refused the candidate, and the process would have started over again. The evaluation process for the current officer happens within the department and with the school administration. The review is done with the school resource officer, his or her supervisor, and the principal. The role of the officer can be modified as needed.

Officer Feeger told the Board that he wanted to thank the Board and the administration. He is very proud of the program. He outlined a "typical day." He starts the day off making sure that the building is secure; he checks in with the administration and the social workers. He talks to kids during the school day. Those discussions can include relationship issues and home issues. Officer Feeger reported that he monitors the lunch room when he can. He works between the middle schools. He switches the days weekly. He explained that he does not want the kids to necessarily know the days he is at each school. He gets called on an "as need" basis to any of the other schools. As an example earlier in the week Vice Principal Ulberg called him. There were some students who did not want to run the mile, so they left the campus. He added that he does home visits when necessary. He visits all of the classrooms. In sixth grade, during the Health rotation, he does safety presentations with the students. In seventh grade he teaches the kids about the Fourth Amendment, Miranda rights, and case law to go along with their study of the Constitution. In eighth grade he focuses on drug and alcohol use. The students get to try out the fatal vision goggles. Officer Feeger stated that he is always available to help. Today he helped a fourteen-year old find a job. He also participates in the assemblies.

Chief Fleischhauer told the Board that he did not know if it would cost any less to get an off duty officer who freelances. A part time officer could be hired by the school, but the school resource officer is not a security guard. There is more to it. A part time officer cannot transport, counsel, interact, teach, or mentor the way the resource officer can. There have been internet incidents in the past. The resource officer can begin a faster follow up. He did not think that the school could find anyone to be faster and more efficient. He is very proud of the program.

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Michelle Comitor asked if there is any internet safety teaching. Officer Feeger commented that he helped to set up the ISAFE program that has been passed onto the administration.

John Sonnenberg told the officers that he appreciated them coming in. The School Resource Officer program was started with a Federal grant that is now gone. He questioned what would happen if the officer was not in the schools. He wanted to know if the Police Department would still handle truancy, transportation, and education. He commented that we need the programs and services, but hoped that we can work out the finances. This financial issue is a chance to look at new ideas. It is a positive thing. Chief Fleischhauer stated that the program is very different than it was six years ago when it started. The officer is much more involved than before. The officer is on the crisis teams and helps the emergency trainer. He added that nothing is static. They have met with Dr. Yomtoob and the principals for changes. Lisa Jay wanted to know if the resource officer walks the halls. Officer Feeger commented that he really does not do that. He has an office, but will get one of the social worker if a meeting is needed with a student. He very rarely will meet with a student alone in his office. Chief Fleischhauer stated that the students feel comfortable going to Officer Feeger. Donna Gaidamak wanted to know how the kids get to talk to him. She questioned if they get a pass to come to his office. Officer Feeger explained that he will find out that student's schedule and have the student called down to the office. He does not go to individual classes. Donna Gaidamak asked how the student is able to seek Officer Feeger out. Officer Feeger reported that he tells the kids where to find him, where his mailbox is located. Kids are sometimes referred to him by teachers or a social worker. Donna Gaidamak asked many kids he sees. Officer Feeger commented that this week he saw between 30 and 40 kids, but some weeks he does not see any.

Donna Gaidamak asked if he monitors gang activity. Chief Fleischhauer reported that they use a team approach. The Police Department is aware of gang activity before the schools are. They can go to Officer Feeger to deal with the kids while at school. Identifying and addressing the issue early is to everyone's benefit. Officer Feeger stated that he and the social workers keep an eye on the at risk kids. He provides the staff with information about gangs. He did an in-service for the teachers that provided examples, information, and handouts. Officer Levicki comes in and does a program for the students about gang awareness. Anne Hoffman stated that we are data driven. There has to be an update of incidents that the Police Department reports on. She questioned if there is an incident report through the schools. She wanted to know if that report is confidential. Officer Feeger reported that it depends on the situation. He works with the social workers. Anne Hoffman commented that the social workers keep track. Documentation on the number of kids who are helped as a result of the program would be helpful to determine if the program effects change. Chief Fleischhauer stated that juvenile activities are recorded, but the numbers have never been broken out. Anne Hoffman asked about communication. Chief Fleischhauer stated that they can develop a form. They will set it up, have it reviewed, and pass it on to the school.

Michelle Comitor asked about a longevity study. She wanted to know what happens down the road to the kids at risk. She wanted to know if there is an impact on the at risk population when those kids get to high school. Chief Fleischhauer commented that that would be a grant study. They have informal records. Mr. Allison stated that they could do something more short term. Michelle Comitor indicated that there is no way to know the impact of the program. Anne Hoffman commented that there are so many variables with the at risk kids. She has seen the impact. John Sonnenberg told the Board that the Police Department is a social industry. If an earnest effort is made to document, we may find out some interesting data. We may determine that we need more temporary resources. He questioned if we did not have Officer Feeger would that financial burden to the Village go up in the next three years. Chief Fleischhauer stated that he believed that it would. John Sonnenberg commented that he sees this as a joint relationship. If the costs to the Village would go up without the school resource officer then the schools are currently taking on that burden for the Village. We are helping to keep the costs down to the Village.

Tim Shanahan wanted to know if any programs have been done for the parents of the kids, such as town hall meetings. Officer Feeger commented that he works with the high school, he works on Snowflake, the after school coalition, and underage drinking programs. He has not done assemblies for parents. He focuses on cultivating a relationship with the kids. He added that he worked security at Hawthorn Mall this weekend.

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Kids all over the mall stopped him to say hello. He is well known within the school community. Jeff Bard asked about the commitment of the school resource officer. Chief Fleischhauer stated that it is a four year commitment. Anne Hoffman wanted to know how often the officer puts in to renew his or her position. Chief Fleischhauer commented that they try to shuffle the position. It is fatiguing. We want to give the opportunity to a new officer with a new perspective. Donna Gaidamak asked how many at risk kids are being monitored. Officer Feeger commented that the numbers have gone down. They get copies of the reports that include kids under 17. He has contact with other school resource officers in Lake County. County wide behavior and discipline issues have gone down. Anne Hoffman suggested that he come back with accurate information. Michelle Comitor commented that if the numbers have gone down, that is great. We need data to support the money that we are spending. We need to find out if the program is worthwhile. Mr. Allison stated that they can come back with illustrations to show that the program is a success. Tim Shanahan wanted to know if there was any way to look at all of the school districts. Chief Fleischhauer stated that he is not sure there is a formal way to do that. It gets complicated if the student does something in another county. If the offense is serious enough, we will be notified by the other town.

Dr. Yomtoob stated that for the last twelve years we have had a great relationship. We all work together. He commented that he has gotten involved in the serious cases. When the school resource officer has gotten involved all of the situations ended satisfactorily. Tim Shanahan added that his daughter was very comfortable talking with Officer Feeger while she was at the middle school. Anne Hoffman commented that as a kid she was always intimidated by the Police. They are now bridging that perception. Mr. Allison thanked the Board. He wants to continue the dialogue. Tomorrow he will talk to the administration about a liaison. Everyone feels that is very important. Lisa Jay stated that the presentation was very informative. Mr. Allison indicated that they should have done this sooner.

Dr. Yomtoob brought up the subject of data on success for reading, math, and writing. He showed the Board the definition of success on a flowchart. We are looking at more than one measure of success. Using the results of the flowchart, 94% of our students meet our criteria of success. We would like to get that to 100%. He added that we have our ISAT results. Donna Gaidamak wanted to know if the results have been broken down by building. Dr. Yomtoob commented that we have not done that yet. He went over the latest MAP results. Anne Hoffman stated that the seventh grade reading scores concern her. Dr. Yomtoob reported that he just got the results today; he will find out what is the problem. Anne Hoffman commented that the scores are great; she did not want to take that away. Dr. Yomtoob complimented the staff for the great scores.

Jeff Bard stated that it is good to be able to track multiple grades over multiple years. Dr. Yomtoob added that this is the first year that we are able to look at MAP and ISAT scores at the same time this early in the school year. Michelle Comitor wanted to know what is done for younger students who top out the Dibels test. She wanted to know if they take a primary MAP test. Teachers do not get as much information on a student if he or she tops out the test. Dr. Zook explained that other districts have not found the primary MAP test to be useful. Michelle Comitor asked what teachers are doing. Dr. Zook indicated individual reading assessment. Michelle Comitor questioned if the assessment is consistent from building to building. Dr. Zook stated that it is not. Jeff Bard asked about the local assessment in the flowchart. It is not being done yet. Dr. Zook reported that training took place last December. This summer teachers worked on the local assessment in grade level teams. Work is happening now. Dr. Yomtoob added that it takes time.

Dr. Zook reported on the writing assessment scores. We are not where we need to be. We have worked for the training of teachers. The fall writing prompt is coming soon. We have revamped the writing curriculum. It is a comprehensive writing curriculum kindergarten through eighth grade. October's scores will be the baseline. ECRA, the grading company, has beefed up the benchmarks for scoring. Different traits are focused on in different grades. Dr. Zook explained that the totals look better when we look at the scores of 3.5 and up rather than just 4.0. We are working with the TLCs. We are not sending home the October scores; they are being used as a baseline for teachers. My Access is going to help for regular feedback for the fourth through eighth grader. Donna Gaidamak wanted to know if there are any changes in the curriculum in fourth through eighth. Dr. Zook stated that there are changes for all the grades.

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Donna Gaidamak asked about ISAT scores. Dr. Zook reported that they will go home with the students on November 1st with the MAP scores. Jeff Bard asked if there are any other changes in the training. Dr. Zook reported that there are whole faculty study groups. We are making writing a focus this year. We are giving teachers strategies, looking at weekly prompts. Jeff Bard asked what happens if the testing company changes the type of writing that is assessed. Dr. Zook commented that we can adjust My Access to make it specific to the grade level assessment. Tim Shanahan asked why the scores dropped in some cases. Dr. Zook explained that there are different benchmarks from grade to grade. Donna Gaidamak asked how we compare to other districts. She questioned if they used the same tools and the same grading company, ECRA. Dr. Zook commented that more of the high schools do this than elementary grades. Michelle Comitor added that this is a huge advantage for our students. John Sonnenberg explained that math is much easier to define because it is objective. Writing is an evolutionary process. We need to communicate the development to the parents. Michelle Comitor asked if there is any way to not have the student's score flash up on the computer screen when they complete the test. Dr. Zook stated that we are working on it, but not yet. Donna Gaidamak added that the score can have an impact on the students.

Consent Agenda:

Anne Hoffman moved to approve the consent agenda. Lisa Jay seconded the motion.

09/07.25 Board Minutes, closed session, 7/23/07

09/07.26 Board Minutes, regular session, 8/27/07

09/07.27 Board Minutes, regular session, 9/10/07

09/07.28 Expenditure Report, September 2007

09/07.29 Recognition of Schools

09/07.30 Personnel Report

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

Nays: None

Motion carried – 6– 0

Joy Kane introduced Katherine Ori, speech therapist at Townline.

Action Items:

John Sonnenberg moved to adopt the budget for Hawthorn School District #73 for the fiscal year July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008, as presented by the Director of Finance and Business Operations. Donna Gaidamak seconded the motion. Donna Gaidamak told the Board that she wanted to call out the capital outlay that she is recommending that the Board approve. It is for bathrooms in the new cafeteria at Elementary South. The budget item is listed on page five under the Building Fund. Tim Shanahan clarified that at the time the cafeteria was being built the support staff did not feel that the bathrooms were going to be a gain. Support staff would have to cover two sets of bathrooms. The new Board of Education has the right to approve the outlay. Michelle Comitor asked Jill Martin's opinion whether or not the bathrooms are needed. Ms. Martin, Elementary South principal, told the Board it is currently a huge problem. The office staff has to buzz 30 to 40 students a lunch period through the office to use the bathrooms. John Sonnenberg commented that we want the principals to be focused on learning. We are sending a message to focus on learning.

Jeff Bard stated that the Finance Committee met before tonight's meeting. All of our questions went to Alan Hahn. We appreciate all of the answers; they were very detailed. The budget is open for public viewing. He thanked the administration for all of their time to go over things. He suggested that in the future the schedule be moved up due to the size of the budget, and the time it takes to go through it. John Sonnenberg commented that the Board of Education did our due diligence. He had praise for all. We are watch dogs for the residents. We are in great financial shape. Alan Hahn reported that he has been in the District for six years. Five years ago we looked at major facility issues. We have made major improvements and have done a tremendous job providing for students within our guidelines. Dr. Yomtoob stated that every year we do a five year projection. We know that we are good for at least the next five years. Tim Shanahan thanked the administration, the Board of Education, and the Finance Committee.

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Donna Gaidamak asked when the bathrooms will be in. Alan Hahn commented that they will be done by the winter holidays. Donna Gaidamak asked who the enrollment information questions should go to. Tim Shanahan stated that administration should get those questions. Dr. Yomtoob indicated that the administration will be doing a presentation on the subject as soon as possible.

President's Report: None

Superintendent's Report: None

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.

Michelle Comitor moved to adjourn the meeting. Anne Hoffman seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: 7 ayes: 0 nays. Motion carried

Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 9:30PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Limer

Timothy Shanahan, President

Anne Hoffman, Secretary