

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 26th day of November 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.

Adjourn to Public Levy Hearing:

Donna Gaidamak moved to close the regular session Board meeting. Anne Hoffman seconded the motion. Voice Vote: 7 ayes: 0 nays. Motion carried.

John Sonnenberg moved to open the Public Hearing. Donna Gaidamak seconded the motion. Voice Vote: 7 ayes: 0 nays. Motion carried.

Public Levy Hearing:

Alan Hahn explained that the Board will be passing the Tax Levy at the next meeting. The levy is done to raise tax revenue. We have asked for a levy of 11.1%; which is over the allowable amount. That is the reason that we have to have the hearing. The tax cap is in place, so that limits what we receive. The amount that we can receive is the tax cap or the CPI whichever is lower. This year the CPI is at 2.5%, so that is what we can plan to receive. Alan Hahn stated that even with the tax levy at 2.5% some will pay more, some will pay less. It depends on individual assessments. The bottom line is the District will be receiving 2.5% more in taxes. New construction enters into that as well. Tim Shanahan reported that the assessment is done by the County Assessor, not by the School District. There were no public comments.

Adjourn Public Levy Hearing:

John Sonnenberg moved to close the Public Hearing. Jeff Bard seconded the motion. Voice Vote: 7 ayes: 0 nays. Motion carried.

Reconvene Board Meeting, Regular Session:

Michelle Comitor moved to reconvene the Board Meeting. John Sonnenberg seconded the motion. Voice Vote: 7 ayes: 0 nays. Motion carried.

Public Comment period: None

Student and Staff Accomplishments, Recognitions:

Tim Shanahan told the Board that Elementary South, Middle School South, and Townline were recognized for high attendance during the week of October 22nd to the 26th. He thanked our parents for making school attendance a priority. Tim Shanahan stated that we want to recognize our flag design contest winners. Dr. Zook added that we had a flag design contest in October. There were 75 entries. The three honorable mentions will get a \$25 Barnes and Noble gift card. The grand prize winner will receive a \$100 Barnes and Noble gift card and the prize winning flag. The honorable mention in the Kindergarten to second grade category was Tyler Schaefer. He is a second grader at Elementary South. Tyler Schaefer's flag design was displayed, and Tyler came up to shake hands with the Board. Dr. Zook announced Jacqueline Luna as the third to fifth grade honorable mention. She is a fifth grader at Elementary South. Jacqueline Luna's flag design was displayed, and she came up to shake hands with the Board. Dr. Zook reported that Jennifer Cheng was the honorable mention for the sixth to eighth grade category. She is a sixth grader at Middle School North. Jennifer Cheng's flag design was displayed, and she came up to shake hands with the Board. Dr. Zook announced Edgar Nevarez as the winner of the flag design contest. He is an eighth grader at Middle School North. Edgar Nevarez's flag design was displayed, and Edgar came up to shake hands with the Board. Edgar's flag will fly at the district office. Edgar will also receive a flag made from his design. Tim Shanahan thanked everyone for participating.

Staff Presentations:

Tim Shanahan told the Board that Dr. Zook is going to present on the middle school's arts and technology rotations. Dr. Zook gave the history of the middle school reconfiguration and the middle school philosophy. Part of the philosophy is to give the students a wide range of learning opportunities for subjects that the students did not get exposure to at the elementary level. As it is now, the students get a seven week rotation of five different subjects. Both middle schools have Art, Health, and Music in their Arts and Technology rotation. Currently, Middle School North has Digital Filmmaking and Information Literacy. Middle School South has Consumer Technology and Industrial Technology. Dr. Zook went over the proposed changes for next year and beyond. The first change is to put Health into the PE rotation as it is done at the elementary schools.

This would require one more PE/Health teacher at each building, but it is still one less teacher per building than there was before the reconfiguration. Putting the Health rotation into PE will provide for more flexibility. The tentative titles for the five exploratory rotations are: Applied Technology, Consumer Education, Media Literacy, Performing Arts, and Visual Arts.

Dr. Zook stated that the premise for the exploratory program is to offer the middle school students opportunities not available at the younger level. We want to promote the students being not only critical consumers of content, but producers of good content. The instruction will be varied to integrate learning experiences, students' questions, and focusing on real life issues. It will be expected that there will be differentiation within the program. We will be emphasizing collaboration, cooperation, and community. We will be seeking to help the students develop good values and moral sensitivity. The learning tasks will be developmentally appropriate and follow the guidelines of the National Middle School Association.

Dr Zook went over the preliminary thoughts for each of the five rotation subjects. Applied Technology is to include materials and processes, architecture, engineering, product design, and Computer Aided Design. Consumer Education will include life skills, relationships, caring for self and others, money management, and fashion and foods. Media Literacy is to include critical consumers and producers, Photoshop, Keynote, Stop Motion Animation, digital story telling, digital video, pod cast, broadcasting, and web design. The Performing Arts rotation is to include music and drama. The Visual Arts will include art history, computer graphics, digital photography, digital imaging, hand built pottery, ceramics, pottery wheel, realism, perspective, value drawing, watercolor, collage, acrylic painting. Dr. Zook gave the outline for future meetings on this subject. The cost analysis will be done by January 2008. We will finalize the staffing requirements by February 2008, and we will continue planning and making adjustments during the spring and summer of 2008. The new Arts and Tech rotation is proposed to be implemented for the 2008-2009 school year. Dr. Zook stated that we are looking to have the same, unique rotations and experiences at both middle schools. We want engaging experiences that promote and develop 21st Century skills.

Tim thanked Dr. Zook for listening to the parents' surveys. Donna Gaidamak wanted to know if there will be days or weeks with the students losing a physical outlet because they do not have a recess. Dr. Zook stated that that is a concern, but many students are doing sports after or outside of school. We may rotate them in groups that may be a few times a week. That is how it worked in the past. Donna Gaidamak wanted to know how the Visual Arts are going to be different. Dr. Zook commented that it will include Bernstein units, art history, and technology at both schools. Donna Gaidamak wanted to know who is doing the planning. Dr. Zook responded all of the Arts and Tech teachers. Lisa Jay asked how the program works now. Dr. Zook explained that there are five rotations. They are art, music, health, and then the other two are separate programs for each school. We have decided to equalize the programs. We looked at what is going on around the country. Michelle Comitor wanted to know about the cost analysis since cooking will be done in both schools and equipment updating will be needed. She questioned if this can be done in the existing space. Dr. Zook responded that it can. Anne Hoffman asked about the design issues. Dr. Zook stated that some retrofitting will need to be done, but both schools are adaptable for the changes. Anne Hoffman wanted to know if Middle School South is big enough for this. Dr. Zook commented that we now have less than 650 students in the building. It was built for 800, so it should not be a problem. Anne Hoffman wanted to know when we will know if there are facility issues. Dr. Zook responded by January or February.

John Sonnenberg commented that the exploratory environment is very important. He wanted to know if there will be an assessment process with a portfolio of projects. It develops accountability for the 21st Century. Dr. Zook stated that we can talk about collaboration and assessments. The students will be documenting what they are doing for their progress. Jeff Bard questioned if we got input from the students as to what exploratory opportunities they wanted. Dr. Zook responded that there was a survey done, but the responses ran the gamut. There can be choices of projects done within the rotation. Jeff Bard wanted to know if the process used will be reviewed and updated each year so as to change as student interest change. Dr. Zook commented that we are looking for continuous improvement. Jeff Bard asked why we would need an additional teacher in the Health/PE rotation. Dr. Zook stated that the PE teachers now have thirty plus students per class. There will be the same number of students with the five arts and tech teachers, but we are adding students into the Health/PE rotation. Adding a teacher will allow more flexibility and allow them to spread out. She pointed out that we are still down one teacher per building from before the reconfiguration. Jeff Bard stated that we want to integrate technology at the lower levels and questioned whether that would not be duplicated in the middle schools. He questioned whether or not we will be accessing what the elementary school students are learning. Dr. Zook stated that we will have an informal assessment. There is no tech rotation at two out of four of our elementary buildings.

Jeff Bard asked about a mini keyboarding program because having the students do it at home is unrealistic. Dr. Zook responded that we are looking at a multi sensory keyboarding approach. It should allow Kindergartners to learn keyboarding. We have not emphasized speed or accuracy. It is something that needs to improve. Jeff Bard wanted to know how we will decide what is being done. Dr. Zook stated that the teachers will come back with the specifics in the five areas. She added that the titles can still change.

Jeff Bard wanted to know if we have teachers with the skill sets we will require for the classes or if we will need additional teachers? Dr. Zook reported that the teachers we have now have the skills. Donna Gaidamak commented that she wanted to go back to the discussion about keyboarding. She wanted to know if it is taught at the elementary level because from her experience it is hit or miss. She wanted to know if the kids after fifth grade will be held accountable for keyboarding. Dr. Zook stated that they would. Donna Gaidamak stated that we are doing our kids a disservice because our kids are not necessarily learning keyboarding. Dr. Zook reported that this is a hot topic with the fourth and fifth grade teachers. They are concerned. We are looking for an effective way to teach keyboarding. It can be done during choice time, before school, after school, during lunch or recess. We do not want to take time out of literature. Donna Gaidamak commented that if we are not teaching keyboarding then we should not expect the students to type their papers directly into My Access. Anne Hoffman commented that everyone learns differently. We have to service all students and look toward the future. Dr. Zook indicated that current technology can change. Voice recognition and writing tablets are the next big improvement for computers.

Donna Gaidamak wanted to know if there is room for cooking and sewing at both schools. Dr. Zook stated that they will be set up as lab modules, but is not sure yet exactly how that will look. John Sonnenberg told the Board that we are getting to a higher level. The best way for the students to communicate is for all of them to have the basic level. We should set the standards and set the process to improve. All computers some day will have voice recognition, tablets and keyboards. Michelle Comitor stated that we should be careful how much time we devote to keyboarding. It is possible to make adjustments for the kids who need it. On the spot lessons can be done. Dr. Zook wanted to know if she should forge ahead with the art and tech rotation plans. Michelle Comitor stated that she is glad to see the consistency. She is happy to see the change. Lisa Jay commented that it helps us as a community; it levels the playing field.

Consent Agenda:

Michelle Comitor moved to approve the consent agenda. John Sonnenberg seconded the motion.

11/07.44 Expenditure Report, November 2007

11/07.45 Financial Statement, October 2007

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

Nays: None

Motion carried – 7 – 0

Action Items: None

President's Report:

Tim Shanahan reported that the Board went to the IASB Joint Conference in Chicago the weekend before Thanksgiving. It was a good experience with board members attending different seminars. He had the opportunity to talk to a superintendent whose district covers 210 square miles, but there are less than 1K students in the district. The superintendent had challenges just getting those kids to the school. Donna Gaidamak commented that she attended a seminar on contract negotiations. It was very helpful and useful going forward. We had a good group school board meeting. We have outlined our visions and goals. She is proud to be a part of this Board. Anne Hoffman stated that she concurs. She is very impressed with this Board. The seminars were very informative. She liked the seminar on advanced learners. She likes that we are continually working toward taking away the ceiling. Michelle Comitor reported that she learned a lot. She has a new found respect for Alan Hahn. The financial seminar overwhelmed her, but she has a better understanding for what he does and how he does it. She also went to a seminar on evaluation. The conference was a good experience.

John Sonnenberg told the Board that he went on a tour of a school on the west side in a very bad area. It was a Kindergarten to eighth grade school. Every student has a lap top. 100% of the students live in poverty. These kids already have plans for college. They are very self-actualized. Technology has provided them with their leveling agent. Lisa Jay commented that the best part of the weekend was the group meeting we had. She added that she did not realize how many hands were in the pot when dealing with our finances. We are mandated in so many ways. Lisa Jay said that everything was valuable. Jeff Bard reported that he learned a lot. He takes comfort knowing that Alan Hahn is very well respected throughout the state regarding school finance. We are very fortunate to have him. Jeff also stated that he attended a seminar on advanced learners and he was interested to learn that advanced learners are considered to be a high risk group. Often times they are overlooked as resources are spent bringing students up to meet the NCLB standards. It is important to understand that and make sure the needs of advanced learners are met especially if we want to make sure that we provide learning for all. Tim Shanahan commented that we have a focused idea of where we are headed. We should raise the roof for all of our students. Dr. Yomtoob reported that he saw how this young Board came together and focused. We are showing great unity. We have a high caliber Board.

Superintendent's Report: None

Discussion Items: None

Committee Reports:

John Sonnenberg told the Board that he attended a Cook Memorial Library Board Meeting with Dr. Yomtoob and Dr. Zook. Their Board wants to provide for Vernon Hills as soon as possible. They are looking at two sites. Both are within $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of every one of our schools, but there are issues to both sites. They have already talked to the Village and the Park District about an easement, so that our students can walk to both sites from their schools. Jeff Bard asked about a timetable. John Sonnenberg commented that they want this to happen as soon as possible. If they pick the Wickes site, it would open within a year. Tim Shanahan commented that the Library Board is being very aggressive.

Michelle Comitor reported that she has a SEDOL meeting on Wednesday, and a Park District meeting on Thursday.

Anne Hoffman stated that the Policy Committee is meeting tomorrow evening.

John Sonnenberg indicated that he wants to have a Finance Committee Meeting in December.

Donna Gaidamak stated that there will be a Communications Meeting before the December 10th Board Meeting. It will start at 6PM. We will be discussing the plan for the town hall meeting.

Dr. Yomtoob told the Board that he will have a copy of the presentation for those who cannot attend the upcoming presentation. He added that he has invited other school districts, the Village and the Park District to attend as well. Anne Hoffman commented that in the future a better effort should be made to send out invitations more promptly.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

Announcements: None

Informational Items: None

Adjournment:

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

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

Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 8:55PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Limer

Timothy Shanahan, President

Anne Hoffman, Secretary