

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 14th day of April 2008.

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 (via phone), Lisa Jay, Michelle Comitor, John Sonnenberg, Donna Gaidamak, Anne Hoffman, Tim Shanahan.

Public Comment period: None

Student and Staff Accomplishments, Recognitions:

Alan Hahn told the Board that we have been recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education. They look at the finances of every district in Illinois. There is a set of criteria. Hawthorn has received the highest rating. We are in very good shape. We have come a long way. Tim Shanahan complemented Alan on the good job that he is doing.

Betsy Sostak, assistant principal at Townline, stated that Townline had its first annual Spanish spelling bee with the fourth and fifth graders. The top 15 students from the fourth and fifth grade competed. The Chicago Tribune came and reported on the bee. We are all very proud of the students' accomplishments. Karen Cencula, principal of Townline, told the Board that we have a student who participated in the state Geography Bee. Ms. Sostak announced that Robbie Williams was a geography bee finalist.

Dr. Yomtoob reported that all Hawthorn schools have received the Bright Red Apple Award. Less than 100 schools in the nation get this award.

Staff Presentations:

Dr. Delp of SEDOL told the Board that his presentation will be short. It is on the need to expand the SEDOL classroom space at Laremont on the Gages Lake campus. Laremont was built in the 1970's. It was not built to provide for students in wheelchairs. We have had to turn students away who have had to go to private placements. Now all of the private placements are full. The SEDOL Board has authorized the administration to take action. We are in an emergency situation. Dr. Delp explained that we can build on the Gages Lake property or Warren Township, whose property is adjacent to ours, has offered to sell us 5 acres at \$35K to \$50K an acre. That would enable us to build a new Laremont school and rehab the current Laremont School for students with behavior disorders. We are looking for space in the south county area for behavior disorder students. We are looking at the old Lake Forest High School or John Powers. We want space for 170 students in the north area of the county and 170 students in the south area of the county. He added that Laremont's numbers have stayed about the same with no major increases.

Dr. Delp told the Board that we are looking for \$26.5M in bonds to build the new building, remodel the old, and have a new facility on the south end of the county. The member districts are still paying for the Cyd Lash facility. For Hawthorn that is a \$23K a year assessment. The new bond issue would go out to 2028. The vote on the bond issue will probably be in August. We need a majority of governing Board members to approve the construction. We need 19 yes votes. Dr. Delp stated that he wants to have the vote sooner rather than later because the bond rates are projected to go up. Michelle Comitor stated that as a SEDOL governing Board member she will have to discuss this with the Board of Education before she votes either way for the SEDOL expansion.

Dr. Delp explained that there will be payment options available so a member district could choose to pay all at once and save interest expense, or spread the payments out over the life of the bond. The money for the expansion will come out of operating funds of the member districts. The 1% sales tax increase that is being considered separately in Lake County can be used for building funds and thus can be used for the proposed bond issue. He reported that cheapest private placement for a special needs student is \$42K a year with a transportation cost of \$14K to \$18K. A behavior disorder placement within SEDOL is \$20K a year. Donna Gaidamak wanted to know if any Hawthorn students have been turned away. Dr. Delp stated that he did not think so. He added that we do not want to turn students away. John Sonnenberg questioned if SEDOL will be good until 2028 when the bond is retired with this addition. Dr. Delp stated that he thought that SEDOL would be good until 2028 with the addition without having to add on any more capacity. There are transition sites for life and job skills training for our older students at area shopping malls. We would be able to move those sites back to Laremont and reduce our rent expense.

Lisa Jay wanted to know the cost to us if students are turned away. Dr. Delp commented that Hawthorn would probably have to hire one full time teacher for every two students. The behavior disorder population is getting larger. Students with autism are also getting larger. He thanked the District for the use of the John Powers School. We have an Aspergers program there.

John Sonnenberg reminded Dr. Delp that John Powers is part of a campus. Dr. Delp explained that we are only looking to put students K-8 at that school. The second floor is empty. It could be used for elementary behavior disorder students. We are looking for more spaces for next year. We have already moved our eighth graders to the high school. That is not an ideal situation for us. Jeff Bard asked if the finances of the bond issue will change if other districts join or withdraw from SEDOL, or if there is a change in the number of students from each district. Dr. Delp explained that if a district were to join, they would be given a special assessment. If a district were to withdraw, they would have to continue to make their required payments. If a district has an increase of students to SEDOL, their payment would stay the same. He stated that for the finances we have to pick a point in time. The amount each district has to pay will not be able to be adjusted. Only 1% of the student population is disabled. Tim Shanahan stated that we will discuss this at the next meeting.

Tim Shanahan asked for a break at 8:15PM. The meeting resumed at 8:20PM.

Tim Shanahan told the Board that we were going to change the order of the agenda. The consent agenda and action items will be addressed before the rest of Staff Presentations.

Consent Agenda:

Lisa Cerauli introduced Robert Collins, who was not present at the meeting, as the new assistant principal for Aspen Elementary and Elementary South for the 2008-2009 school year. He will be at the next meeting. Richard Viviano introduced Luis Salto as the new assistant principal for Elementary North and Townline for the 2008-2009 school year. Betsy Sostak introduced new dual language teachers, Laurel Deeter and Melinda Sierzega, for the 2008-2009 school year. Everyone came forward to sign their contracts and shake hands with the Board of Education.

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

04/08.80 Board Minutes, regular session, 3/10/08

04/08.81 Board Minutes, regular session, 3/26/08

04/08.82 Personnel Report, approval of four certificated staff members: Robert Collins, Luis Salto, Laurel Deeter, Melinda Sierzega

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

Nays: None

Motion carried – 7– 0

Action Items:

John Sonnenberg moved to award a contract to Boller Construction Inc, the lowest and best bidder of the Hawthorn Elementary North landscape bid for the base bid of \$96K and alternate #3 for \$15,328. Anne Hoffman seconded the motion. Dan Dalziel told the Board that the bid came in 25% under the estimate. Donna Gaidamak asked if there are sprinklers at other schools. Alan Hahn reported that there are sprinklers at Middle School South for the athletic fields, and they work great. It is extremely helpful to add sprinklers. Mr. Dalziel added that sprinklers lower the maintenance costs and increase longevity of the landscaping. Jeff Bard commented that he was glad to see the bids come in under the estimate, but he feels the landscaping is excessive and there are better uses for district funds.

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

Nays: Bard, Gaidamak

Motion carried – 5-2

Staff Presentations - cont:

Tim Shanahan, Lisa Jay, and Michelle Comitor presented on the Effective Schools Conference that they attended in Scottsdale, AZ in March 2008. They went over the Seven Correlates of Effective Schools and the history of the research. They highlighted the keynote speakers: Larry Lezotte, Doug Reeves, John Antonetti, Lee Canter, Larry Ainsworth, Lisa Carter, Joe Whelan, and the North Penn School District. The second generation Correlates of Effective Schools include: strong instructional leadership, clear and focused mission, climate of high expectations for success, safe and orderly and caring environment, frequent monitoring of student progress, opportunity to learn/time on task, positive home, school and community partnerships.

Dr. Zook told the Board that we are looking to work with Doug Reeves. His associates have been here. We are looking to get more support from them. Tentatively, Doug Reeves will be coming in November. She added that it is nice to hear the validation of what we are doing from the Board members. John Sonnenberg wanted to know how we get to the next level. Tim Shanahan stated we have a curriculum across the District. Lisa Jay commented that we should have a curriculum across the County. Tim Shanahan added we should have a curriculum across the State and the country.

President's Report: None

Superintendent's Report: None

Discussion Items:

Alan Hahn stated that with reference to the proposed 1% tax increase he did not have a presentation to give. All of the information is already out. He added that Dr. Delp's presentation showed that we may have a significant cost added to our budget. Donna Gaidamak asked if it will be an issue to fund SEDOL without the proposed 1% tax increase. Alan Hahn stated that it is hard to say. It is a lot of money. Donna Gaidamak questioned when the reserve study will be completed. Alan Hahn reported that he hopes it will be done in May. Michelle Comitor wanted to know if the money for SEDOL can come from the 1% if it passes. Alan Hahn commented that it can, and it is a good idea. Anne Hoffman added that we can also pay down debt.

Dr. Yomtoob told the Board that NIU is offering us a partnership for a doctoral program in leadership. We are currently working on the intergovernmental agreement. This partnership would be a safeguard for our employees. Anne Hoffman added that it would provide a discount on tuition for furthering their education.

Alan Hahn explained to the Board that the proposal for the Reserve Study went out to 10 firms. We got four back. All of the firms are top level, but URS rose to the top. We have met with them to refine the scope of the project and go over the fee proposal. Donna Gaidamak wanted to know where the money to pay for the study will come from. Alan Hahn responded the Building fund. Donna Gaidamak reported that the amount is not to exceed \$70K. Alan Hahn reported that if they can do it for less; they will.

Tim Shanahan told the Board that we have a tentative Board Meeting calendar for next year. Dr. Yomtoob stated that we are changing the format of the meetings. The first meeting of the month will be a working session. The second will be for business and paying bills. The first meeting will usually be longer. Tim Shanahan added that the first meeting of the month will be a Committee of the Whole meeting. Everyone will have to be prepared; everyone will get input on everything. This will be a more efficient use of time.

Committee Reports:

Anne Hoffman told the Board that the Policy Committee met to discuss homework. We researched 34 districts in Lake County. We researched their policies and procedures regarding homework. We then evaluated our policy. It was a unanimous decision to leave our policy as it is at this time. The Policy Committee, however, did ask the administration to review the district's procedural guidelines and update them.

Donna Gaidamak stated that the Communications Committee met before tonight's meeting. We went over the positives and negatives of the Town Hall, and the feedback. We decided it would be good to have another Town Hall in the fall, maybe with Doug Reeves. We are looking at doing Town Hall meetings in November, February, and May. We would focus on a single topic and take questions.

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. Lisa Jay seconded the motion. Voice Vote: 6 ayes: 0 nays. Motion carried.

Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 9:45PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Debbie Limer

Timothy Shanahan, President

Anne Hoffman, Secretary