

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 12<sup>th</sup> day of May 2008.

**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, Lisa Jay, Michelle Comitor, Anne Hoffman, Tim Shanahan.

**Public Comment period:** None

**Student and Staff Accomplishments, Recognitions:**

Renee Ullberg and Rob Natale, middle school assistant principals, introduced the winners of the design for the cover of the academic planner for the next school year. They were Emily Chung, sixth grader from Middle School South, and Daniel Power, sixth grader from Middle School North.

Tim Shanahan told the Board that he wanted to thank the teachers and staff for all of their hard work during Teacher Appreciation Week. He stated that Eileen Conway and Dr. Yomtoob went around to all of the schools to thank the staff. Dr. Yomtoob commented that it was a great day. We saw positive things going on in the classrooms.

**Staff Presentations:**

Dr. Zook gave a presentation on the High School Freshman Preparedness Survey. She outlined the goals for the study which included feedback on quality of education, learning environment, quality of instructional strategies, overall experience at Hawthorn, and preparedness for high school. Dr. Zook went over the demographics of the students who participated in the study. This included high school they are attending, gender, and academic grades. She thanked the administrators at the high school for helping with participation in the study. Dr. Zook went over the statements regarding overall educational experience at Hawthorn that had the highest agreement, lowest agreement, and average agreement. She then went over the statements on high school preparedness that had the highest agreement, lowest agreement, and average agreement. Dr. Zook commented that there was a section of the survey that asked what we could have been done to better prepare students for high school. She read some of the common comments. They included comments on homework, expectations, and writing skills. She made observations as to the strengths she saw that Hawthorn has based on the comments made by the freshman, and she commented on the challenges she saw based on the comments.

Lisa Jay reported that it would be nice to know why the students said what they said. She questioned if the next time we do this if we could have a focus group, so we can ask secondary questions. Dr. Zook indicated that this study validates what we are hearing. We are hearing that our students are prepared for high school. Vernon Hills High School students are state champs in math and the arts. That is a reflection on us. We can always do a better job. Study skills are always a challenge. Anne Hoffman asked about our relationship with District 128. Dr. Zook stated that we have articulation meetings with the various high school departments. We are going to share the results of this survey with them. She added that the meetings are not necessarily formal meetings. Because of these meetings we have streamlined the testing we do of our eighth graders. We are also focusing on writing. Dr. Zook commented that District 128 was very supportive in helping with the survey.

Tim Shanahan wanted to know if there was any way to split up the surveys by the different high schools the students are currently attending. Dr. Zook stated that she can divide up only the comments. Michelle Comitor reported that we should look at this as baseline data. She wanted to know if we can track the students who took the survey year to year. Dr. Zook stated that this was a blind study. Jeff Bard thanked Dr. Zook for doing this study. He commented that it has the potential to provide a lot of useful data that we can use to make improvements. He indicated that he hopes that we can improve the data that we collect in the future. He asked if we might be able to correlate student responses to student test scores rather than self reported grades. Dr. Zook told the Board that if we want, we can invest in an outside group to do a more scientific study. Jeff Bard commented that he would like to fine tune some of the questions for next year to ensure we capture the most meaningful data. Dr. Zook added that the high school may want additional information. We could do the study before the kids leave eighth grade and do it again after they start ninth grade.

Jeff Bard suggested that the questions be more specific such as asking how a student is prepared academically for high school rather than the way the question was phrased, "Hawthorn helped me understand and apply math in everyday life,". . He also pointed out that his review of the data suggests that Hawthorn students were perhaps not as prepared in Science and Social Studies as they were in other subject areas. Jeff Bard cautioned about how the conclusions are drawn.

He indicated that the presented observation that students seem to agree there is adequate use of technologies is different than the question asked in the survey which was, "Hawthorn helped me to use computers and other technologies to research, gather information, and communicate". Jeff Bard stated that he thought the items listed as what could Hawthorn have done such as more challenging classes, more rigorous work and higher expectations can all be affected by the culture that is set by the district as far as expectations. He asked what the next step with the survey will be. Dr. Zook stated that changes may not happen before the end of the school year. Like all of the schools in the District the middle schools have improvement plans. Goals will be set in the fall based on data. Writing will be stressed. We will be working on homework. Jeff Bard asked about the school improvement plans. Dr. Zook explained that they are data driven around areas of need. There is an action plan with steps, resources, and who is responsible for each step. It is a working document that is monitored, implemented, and adjusted. Tim Shanahan asked if each school could present their improvement plan to the Board of Education as had been done in the past. Dr. Zook commented that we were already planning on doing this. We have a culture of continuous improvement.

**Consent Agenda:**

Alan Hahn explained the prevailing wage. It is required by law to ascertain the prevailing wage for bidding and construction purposes. Anne Hoffman moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Michelle Comitor seconded the motion.

05/08.94 Board Minutes, regular session, 4/10/08

05/08.95 Board Minutes, regular session, 4/14/08

05/08.96 Prevailing wage

05/08.96 Personnel Report

Voice Vote: 5 ayes: 0 nays. Motion carried.

**Action Items:** None

**President's Report:** None

**Superintendent's Report:**

Dr. Yomtoob told the Board that 32 students pre-kindergarten through eighth grade were recognized with their parents as "The Most Improved." It was very nice. There were almost more staff present than students.

**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. Lisa Jay seconded the motion. Voice Vote: 5 ayes: 0 nays. Motion carried

Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Limer

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Timothy Shanahan, President

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Anne Hoffman, Secretary