

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2018** IN THE AUDITORIUM AT THORNTON HIGH SCHOOL, 15001 BROADWAY AVENUE, HARVEY, ILLINOIS, BEGINNING AT 6:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 6:41 p.m. President Graham made the following announcement: Any person may record or broadcast an open Board meeting. Special requests to facilitate recordings or broadcast an open Board meeting should be directed to the Superintendent at least 24 hours before the meeting. Recording meetings shall not distract or disturb Board members or participants. Please know if you participate in public participation, you are part of the Board meeting and may be taped.

ANNOUNCEMENT  
BY BOARD  
PRESIDENT

On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Moody and Whittington answered. Members Banks, Cruz and Lawrence were absent. Dr. Leotis D. Swopes, Superintendent; Mr. Brett Fickes, Director of Curriculum; Mr. Toriano Horton, Assistant Superintendent for Business; Mr. Thomas Porter, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; Mr. John Arrington, Director of College and Career Partnerships; Mr. Tony Ratliff, Thornton Principal; Mr. Dennis Willis, Thornwood Principal; Mr. Dwayne Bearden, Faculty Association President; Mr. Gerald Doughty, Faculty Association Executive Director and Mr. James Petrunaro, legal counsel, were also present.

ROLL  
CALL

**Report from Curriculum Committee:** Mr. Fickes reported that a Curriculum Committee meeting will be held on January 18, 2018. Agenda items will include the possible location change of Outlook Academy to South Suburban College; possible changes to the math curriculum and a review of the proposed Civics textbook.

COMMITTEE OF  
THE WHOLE

**Report from Finance Committee:** Mr. Horton reported that a Finance Committee meeting was held on January 4, 2018. Discussion included five action items that will be recommended for approval at tonight's meeting. The next Finance Committee meeting will be on February 6, 2018.

**Report from Policy Committee:** Dr. Doss reported that the Policy Committee will meet on January 24, 2018 to review amendments to the Board policy as recommended by the PRESS December issue and revisions to the immunization policy.

**Report from Discipline Committee:** None.

**Report from Facilities Committee:** Mr. Garrett reported that the Facilities Committee will meet on January 25, 2018. Topics to be discussed will be current capital improvement expenditures and capital improvements for the summer of 2018.

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Approve the Consent Agenda**, which includes the following:

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of November 8, 2017.
- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated December 14, 2017 through January 10, 2018.
- Personnel dated January 10, 2018 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations).
- Ratification of Overnight Field Trip for Thornton Boys Wrestling Tournament in Lincoln, Illinois.

MINUTES

BILLS

PERSONNEL

RATIFICATION

On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION

- Felita Crayton (Dolton): 1) asked how many classrooms have subs since the beginning of the 2017-18 school year; 2) asked about the heat at Thornridge; 3) is concerned about the food service contract going out to bid, and 4) would appreciate working out the gap.

- Donkor Parker (Harvey) thanked the Board for doing a fine job and thanked Bill Garrett for fixing the heat promptly at Thornridge.

PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION,  
Con't.

President Graham **Opened the Public Hearing on the Intent for the District to Sell \$2,000,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds**, stating the reason for the proposed issuance is to increase the working cash fund. There were no questions or statements from the Board or the public.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Moody seconded, to **Adjourn the Public Hearing**. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURN PUBLIC  
HEARING

Dr. Doss reported that since the last scheduled Board meeting, one FOIA request was completed and one pending. All requests have been responded to within the allotted period of time.

FOIA

Mr. Arrington presented the following information:

COMMUNICATIONS

- The Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration will be held on January 15, 2018 at South Suburban College. All are invited.
- The ESSA Annual Conference will be held on February 12-14, 2018 at the Sheraton Hotel, Chicago. Three DISTRICT 205 presentations are recommended for the Annual Statewide ESS Conference: 1) Ensuring Parent Centered Engagement in Focus and Priority Title I Schools; 2) Outlook Academy-Drop Out Prevention and Credit Recovery Program and 3) One Team, One Mission: Designing, Implementing and Monitoring Effective Title I Programs in District 205.
- The District 205 FACE Summit will be held on March 24, 2018.
- Thornridge AVID announced Student of the Month, Freshman Labria Gordon.
- Thornridge hosted its first All School Spirit Day on January 3, 2018 with multiple activities.
- Thornton Speech Team competed at Thornwood Thornton Sophisticats placed 3<sup>rd</sup> and finished 4<sup>th</sup> overall.
- Thornton Sophisticats placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the IDTA 2AA Hip Hop Dance competition at Main East High School and will compete on January 10 in the SWSC All Dance Conference at Bolingbrook High School.
- Thornwood Career Prep Class has been very successful and hopes to expand this work-study program district wide in the fall.
- Outlook Academy staff member of the month is Pam Martin, counselor. The student of the month is Jerald Simmons.

Mr. Fickes introduced Ms. Rachel Santos, AP coordinator and Thornwood psychology teacher, who spoke about the Advanced Placement program. There have been comparisons with the IB (International Baccalaureate) and AP programs. IB students take college courses the entire day to receive an IB diploma. AP students can choose which AP courses they wish to take and may take regular courses for their other classes.

ADVANCED  
PLACEMENT  
PROGRAM AND  
THORNWOOD AVID  
PROGRAM

- AP courses have been taught for at least 20 years in District 205.
- Thornwood has 6 AP courses that serve 75 students,
- Thornton has 8 AP courses that serve approximately 95 students.
- Thornridge has 5 courses that serve 30 students.
- The key objective of AP is to challenge students with a college experience in high school.

Brianna Matthews, Thornwood alumni and current State of Illinois employee, spoke about her AP experience and how it helped her transition into college. Other current Thornwood AP students also spoke about the benefits of AP classes.

On January 4, 2018 an AVID Family Reunion was held and over 75 people came together to celebrate the impact of AVID on the lives of the students in District 205 over the past 6 years. Ms. Veronica Mosley-Raggs and Ms. Tammy King spoke about the Thornwood AVID Program and introduced AVID students who shared their experiences.

Mrs. Whittington moved, Mrs. Moody seconded, to **Approve the Policy 7:100 Amendment** as presented by Dr. Doss regarding health and eye examinations; immunizations and exclusion of students. To accommodate the needs of the district, September 15<sup>th</sup> will be the exclusion date starting July 1, 2018. The recommendations have been on review for more than thirty (30) days. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
POLICY 7:100  
AMENDMENT

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Approve the Out-of-State Field Trip** as presented by Mr. Willis for 8 band students and 3 chaperones to travel to Atlanta, Georgia from March 21-25, 2018 for the HBCU National Band Directors Consortium. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
OUT-OF-STATE  
FIELD TRIP

Mrs. Moody moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the Overnight Field Trip** as presented by Mrs. Williams for one student, one chaperone and one band director to travel to Peoria, Illinois from January 24-27, 2018 to participate in the ILMEA All State Band Competition. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
OVERNIGHT FIELD  
TRIP

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Moody seconded, to **Sylvan Supplemental Services (SAT)** as presented by Mr. Fickes for Sylvan Test Prep of Homewood to provide 50 Thornwood students with the Sylvan Prep program in preparation for the April 10<sup>th</sup> SAT in the amount of \$37,500.00 using Title I funds. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
SYLVAN  
SUPPLEMENTAL  
SERVICES (SAT)

Mrs. Moody moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Approve the Chromebook Charging Carts Purchase** as presented by Mr. Fickes for three charging carts (one for each school) to charge, store and safely transport tablets and Chromebooks from Chicago Office Technology Group in the amount of \$9,296.00 using Title I funds. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
CHROMEBOOK  
CHARGING CARTS  
PURCHASE

Mrs. Moody moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the READ 180 Professional Development** as presented by Mr. Fickes for individual coaching to assist educators integrate new skills immediately into their practice. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt will provide the services for the 2017-2018 school year in the amount of \$29,980.00 using Title II funds. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
READ 180  
PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT

Mrs. Moody moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the READ 180 Licenses Purchases** as presented by Mr. Fickes for all components of READ 180 Universal Teacher Kit and Independent Library. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt will provide the necessary licenses for the 2017-2018 school year in the amount of \$79,653.99 using Title I funds. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
READ 180  
LICENSES  
PURCHASE

Mrs. Moody moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the Drivers Education Vehicle Purchase** as presented by Mr. Horton to purchase a 2018 Ford Fusion to replace a vehicle, that was in a total loss accident at the fault of a student driver, from Roesch Ford in the amount of \$17,680.00. The district received \$4,074.00 from the insurance company, making the total net cost \$13,605.00. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
DRIVERS  
EDUCATION  
VEHICLE  
PURCHASE

Mrs. Patti Brucki, representing the Faculty Association, spoke about the issues President Bearden brought to the Board on November 8, 2017. His address was in compliance with the established chain of command. She stated that in addition to the ongoing and unresolved issues at each building, including but not limited to, safety-related matters, staffing, restroom facilities, technology and students returning from the PEACE Center with no communication, teachers are feeling marginalized and disrespected by the district. The established joint committees have been ignored. Teacher input regarding curriculum,

FACULTY  
ASSOCIATION

technology integration and use, safety and security, attendance and discipline has been discarded by the district as unimportant. Our teachers have many attributes that impact the students and their input should be valued. Instead, the district has chosen to invest all decision-making authority in administrators, the majority of whom have little or no teaching experience. It is the desire of the association to work collaboratively with the district and suggests behavior modifications include respect for teachers, the contract and joint committees and allow the professional teachers to help shape the direction of the district.

FACULTY  
ASSOCIATION,  
Con't.

None.

SUPERINTENDENT  
REPORT

At 7:57 p.m., Mrs. Moody moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to go into **Executive Session pursuant** to Section 2C of the Illinois Open Meetings Act to consider:

EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

- The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity;
- Student discipline;
- Collective negotiating matters;
- Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent.

EXECUTIVE  
SESSION, Con't.

On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

At 10:02 p.m., Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Moody seconded to **Reconvene Regular Session**. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RECONVENE  
REGULAR SESSION

No Action.

STUDENT  
DISCIPLINE

No Action.

SUPERINTENDENT  
CONTRACT

Mrs. Moody moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the Written Decision Regarding the Union of Support Staff Grievance No. 8252017**. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ACTION  
REGARDING  
SUPPORT STAFF  
GRIEVANCE NO.  
8252017

At 9:53 p.m., Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Moody seconded, to **Adjourn the Meeting**. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

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President

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Secretary