

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2017** IN THE AUDITORIUM AT THORNRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL, 15000 COTTAGE GROVE AVENUE, DOLTON, ILLINOIS, BEGINNING AT 6:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 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 Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington answered. Member Cruz was absent. Dr. Leotis D. Swopes, Superintendent; Mr. Brett Fickes, Director of Curriculum; 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 and Mr. James Petrungaro, legal counsel, were also present.

ROLL
CALL

Report from Curriculum Committee: Mr. Fickes reported that a Curriculum Committee meeting was held on November 6, 2017. Agenda items included the new civics course update for the class of 2020, the Rubicon Atlas Curriculum management tool, and an update from all Division Leaders.

COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE

Report from Finance Committee: Mr. Horton reported that a Finance Committee meeting was held on October 31, 2017. Discussion included SRO's at Thornridge and IT upgrades to the infrastructure. The four items approved at that meeting will be discussed in the new business section of tonight's meeting. The next Finance Committee meeting will be on December 5, 2017.

Report from Policy Committee: None.

Report from Discipline Committee: None.

Report from Facilities Committee: Mr. Horton reported that the Facilities Committee met on October 26, 2017. The following updates were provided: Capital improvements, field house project, future capital project update, Thornwood elevator and Thornwood pool. Total capital improvement expenditure to date is \$10,745,101.48. The next Facilities Committee meeting will be on November 16, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated October 12 through November 8, 2017.
- Personnel dated November 8, 2017 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations).

BILLS

PERSONNEL

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

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION

- Felita Crayton (Dolton): 1) asked regarding her FOIA request on SRO issues at Thornridge; 2) asked if the SRO issue is only being addressed at Thornridge and 3) requested the packet regarding the Superintendent search that was distributed at today's special board meeting. Mr. Horton responded: 2) the SRO's will be removed from the PEACE Center and Thornridge by the Dolton Police Dept. due to staffing issues.
- Daysia Williamson (South Holland, Thornwood student) presented a signed petition for Bryan Fomby to be the Head Softball Coach.

Mr. Arrington reported that since the last scheduled Board meeting, there are no outstanding FOIA requests at this time.

FOIA

Mr. Arrington presented the following information:

COMMUNICATIONS

- In response to last month's public participation, the current enrollment is as follows:
- Thornton 1947; Thornridge 1307; Thornwood 1850; Outlook Academy 217 and PEACE Center 45.
- Thornridge Band family filled 100 shoe boxes with donations for the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child organization.
- Thornridge Marching Band received 1st place in Class A at the Rich Central Band Festival.
- Thornridge Speech team made their debut at the Homewood Flossmoor Viking Classic Tournament and received honorable mentions.
- Thornridge 2016-17 graduates Calia Brooks and Yareli Avila earned 20-24 credit hours at the University of Illinois for their IB courses.
- Thornton Haunted Hallway took place on October 26th where 247 young people attended.
- Thornton Boys' Unified Basketball team took 1st place in the Homewood-Flossmoor Viking Invite.
- Thornton Speech Team competed at Homewood-Flossmoor and took 2nd place overall.
- On October 14, Thornwood's Special Olympics Bocce Team earned 15 medals, including 4 gold medals and 3 players qualified for the State Special Olympic Games.
- Thornwood English teacher, Cerelia Hampton, was invited to join the IATE's Board after her presentation in Normal, Illinois on October 20.
- Thornwood Flag Football Team took 1st place in the tournament in Trenton, Illinois.
- Two Thornwood students placed at the Sectional Bowling Tournament in Addison, Illinois. Dwayne Sanders and the Thornwood Band received the Overall Grand Champion Trophy along with 1st place in Class AA Best Winds, Percussion and Drumline competition.
- Thornwood IB student Chante Johnson received a full scholarship to Indiana State University.
- Outlook Academy staff member of the month is Josh Folsom; student of the month is Pedro Gonzalez.
- Dual credit classes at Chicago State University include, among others, Diversity and International Studies, Dance & Aerobics and Manufacturing.
- A brief video was shown featuring highlights of the upcoming HBCU Tour.

November 15, 2017 is Illinois School Board Members Day. Dr. Swopes thanked the Board of Education for their dedication and tireless efforts to ensure all students are provided the opportunity for a successful education as well as growth and progress for the community.

RECOGNITION OF
BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Fickes introduced Ms. Martinez and her students who talked about the AVID program and the 2nd Annual Thornridge AVID Color Run that took place on September 30, 2017. Participants walked 3.1 miles and raised \$3,100 for the senior scholarship fund, which assists 2 AVID seniors with funding for college. Over 130 people attended the Color Run including the Dolton mayor, chief of police, administration and AVID alumni.

THORNRIDGE AVID
COLOR RUN TEAM
AND THUNDEBIRDS
SPOKEN WORD
TEAM

The Thornwood Poetry Slam Team has been in existence since 2005. Their sponsor, Mrs. Patti Brucki, spoke about how the team members have grown, finishing regularly in the top 10 in various events throughout the Chicagoland area. For the past 12 years, they have competed in "Louder Than a Bomb", the largest team poetry festival in the nation, and have placed 4th in the competition. Students shared some of their poetry and spoke about the positive impact the poetry group has had on their lives.

Mr. Dwayne Bearden, Faculty Association President, applauded the students who do so much with so little in this district. Despite attempts to address concerns of the schools, labor management meetings have been to no avail. Technology is 10-15 years behind. The Curriculum is not competitive with neighborhood schools and instead of expanding core classes, the administration has been tripled.

FACULTY
ASSOCIATION

At 7:36 p.m., Mr. Butler left the meeting.

MR. BUTLER LEFT
MEETING

Certified teachers are needed in core classes, not substitute teachers. This is not putting our students first. Working conditions in the buildings are not safe; there are issues with mold, asbestos, roofing, sewage and rodents. Students and staff are subject to gang fights and threats. We overlook that we continue to put our students in jeopardy. For the past two years, questions about student activity funds have gone unanswered. Attempts have been made to work with administration and engage collectively with the joint committees to work through the issues. It was also brought to Mr. Bearden's attention that a directive was received to sabotage his evaluation as a teacher. The association must employ other things to effectively address the needs of our staff and students.

FACULTY
ASSOCIATION,
Con't.

At 7:40 p.m., Mr. Butler joined the meeting.

MR. BUTLER
JOINED MEETING

Mrs. Moody moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Approve the Out-of-State Field Trip** as presented by Mr. Arrington for 80-90 students and 10-12 chaperones to attend the Historically Black College & University tour in Tennessee and Mississippi during Spring Break from March 26–29, 2018. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
OUT-OF-STATE
FIELD TRIP

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Approve the IASB PRESS Plus Maintenance Service Agreement** as presented by Dr. Swopes in the amount of \$1,500.00 for custom full maintenance policy update services. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF IASB
PRESS PLUS
MAINTENANCE
SERVICE
AGREEMENT

No action was taken and the item will be tabled until the next Board meeting.

APPROVAL OF
COOK COUNTY
SHERIFF SRO
AGREEMENT

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the Chromebooks Purchase** as presented by Mr. Horton for 30 Chromebooks in the amount of \$8,865.00 which includes a 3-year warranty. The funding source is the College & Career Budget. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
CHROMEBOOKS
PURCHASE

Dr. Swopes, in response to tonight's Faculty Association presentation, stated that the district has been straightforward and transparent relating to technology, safety, finance, Curriculum and all expenditures. Through committee meetings, all of these issues have been addressed on numerous occasions. This Board's election platform was turn back the anguish, distrust and confusion that existed previously among the administration, Faculty Association and the Board.

SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT

At 7:55 p.m., Mr. Butler moved, Mr. Banks 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 Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

At 9:40 p.m., Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded to **Reconvene Regular Session**. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RECONVENE
REGULAR SESSION

Mr. Butler moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Approve the 5-day Suspension Without Pay and Notice to Remedy for Fred McGee**. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ACTION
REGARDING
TECHER
DISCIPLINE AND
NOTICE TO
REMEDY

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Approve the Step Increase to Step 10 for Thornridge Dean, Rashone Franklin**. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ACTION
REGARDING STEP
INCREASE

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Approve the Step Increase to Step 10 for Thornton Science Teacher, Elizabeth Rivera**. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ACTION
REGARDING STEP
INCREASE

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Approve the Hiring of Nathaniel Cunningham as Thornridge Interim Assistant Principal** at the rate of Five Hundred (\$500.00) Dollars per day. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ACTION
REGARDING
HIRING
THORNRIDGE
INTERIM
ASSISTANT
PRINCIPAL

President Graham stated that Agenda Item D will be tabled until the December Board meeting.

ACTION
REGARDING
SUPERINTENDENT
CONTRACT

At 9:44 p.m., Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Adjourn the Meeting**. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

President

Secretary