

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 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 Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington answered. Members Banks and Cruz were absent. Dr. Leotis D. Swopes, Superintendent; Dr. Jerry B. Doss, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Mr. Brett Fickes, Director of Curriculum; Mr. John Arrington, Director of College and Career Partnerships; Mr. Tony Ratliff, Thornton Principal; Mr. Dennis Willis, Thornwood Principal and Mr. James Petrungaro and Mr. Justin Petrarca, legal counsel, were also present.

ROLL  
CALL

**Report from Curriculum Committee:** Mr. Fickes reported that there was no Curriculum Committee held since the last Board meeting. A meeting will take place in November when the date is determined, the agenda will be posted.

COMMITTEE OF  
THE WHOLE

**Report from Finance Committee:** Mr. Garrett reported that a Finance Committee meeting was held on October 3, 2017. The items approved at that meeting will be discussed on the new business section of tonight's meeting.

**Report from Policy Committee:** None.

**Report from Discipline Committee:** None.

**Report from Facilities Committee:** Mr. Garrett reported that the Facilities Committee met on September 28, 2017. The following was discussed: the need for pest control and snow removal contracts; district-wide weight room and fitness center issues, and capital improvement expenditure update. The amount spent thus far on capital improvement projects is \$10,561,071.48. Mr. Butler added that rumors concerning fitness center funds for the faculty being used for something else are not true.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of August 9, 2017.
- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated September 14 through October 11, 2017.
- Personnel dated October 11, 2017 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations).

MINUTES

BILLS

PERSONNEL

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

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION

- William Gossett (Gary, IN) representing the National Teachers Associates Life Ins. Co., presented information regarding supplemental health insurance they provide to over 19,000 school districts nationwide including Chicago Public Schools and responded to questions from the Board.
- Felita Crayton (Dolton): 1) asked for the enrollment at each school, and 2) stated she enjoyed the chat hosted by Dr. Holmes regarding parental involvement.

Dr. Doss reported that since the last scheduled Board meeting, there are four Freedom of Information Act requests pending awaiting documents.

FOIA

Mr. Arrington presented the following information:

COMMUNICATIONS

- In response to last month's public participation, the instructional cost per student in District 205 is \$11,420. Dr. Holmes may be contacted at 225-4200 regarding parental involvement and volunteering. The district has received no new information regarding the federal investigation. The entry cost for students to sports activities is controlled by the Southwest Suburban Conference.
- Dr. Jerry Doss will travel to China next month for the Chinese Bridge Delegation Program which is designed to help educators start or strengthen their institution's Chinese programs and partnerships.
- Over 120 people attended the Thornridge AVID Color Run on September 30, 2017. The AVID program raised over \$3,000 for the senior scholarship program.
- Thornridge Marching Band performed at this year's Circle City Classic in Indianapolis.
- Robert Powell, Thornton paraprofessional, was selected as IEA's Education Support Professional of the Year.
- Thornton's Unified Soccer Teams took 3<sup>rd</sup> place in their divisions over the past weekend.
- Over 140 seniors and their parents attended Financial Aid Night at Thornton.
- Andrew Chidester will represent Thornwood in the Project MOSART HSPS (Misconception Oriented Standards-based Assessment Resource for Teachers in High School Physical Science) at Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. The efforts of this program is to improve methods used to assess high school Physical Science topics and collect data on student understanding of various physical science projects.
- Over 40 students were inducted into Thornwood's National Honor Society on September 21, 2017.
- Staff Member of the Month at Outlook Academy is Leo Conry. Student of the Month is Brandi White, who aspires to become a lawyer.

Mr. Fickes presented information on the District 205 Communication Development Program which serves struggling students in the social world. The vision is to work together to provide a program of instruction that gives support for communication, social and academic development within the school setting. Thornwood teacher Gloria Hoekstra highlighted the communication development of the students. The program helps students develop perspective taking; learn social thinking concepts; comprehend complex academic language; practice friendship skills; gain confidence to join sports and clubs and learn strategies to express themselves. The students took a field trip to Camp Manitouque in Frankfort to engage in team building exercises to interact with others, including problem solving. She thanked the Board to recognize the importance of experiences outside the school building. Some of the students spoke about the positive outcomes of their experiences in this program.

COMMUNICATION  
DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRAM  
PRESENTATION

Mrs. Moody moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to **Approve the Out-of-State Field Trip** as presented by Mr. Ratliff for 34 students and 5 coaches to travel to Washington, D.C., from March 23-28, 2018 to experience a culturally enriching tour of our national capital including visits to museums and the Supreme Court. Students are raising money to cover the costs. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
OUT-OF-STATE  
FIELD TRIP

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Moody seconded, to **Approve the Overnight Field Trip** as presented by Mr. Fickes for the Thornwood Special Olympics Volleyball Team to compete in the Illinois State Finals in Rockford, Illinois from October 27-29, 2017. Costs in the amount of \$3,711.22 for 11 students and 3 coaches will be covered by IDEA grant funds. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
OVERNIGHT FIELD  
TRIP

Mrs. Whittington moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the Overnight Field Trip** as presented by Mr. Fickes for the Thornwood Special Olympics Flag Football Team to participate in a contest in Trenton, Illinois from October 14-15, 2017. Costs in the amount of \$4,743.16 for eleven students and 4 coaches will be covered by IDEA grant funds. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
OVERNIGHT FIELD  
TRIP

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Approve to Go Out to Bid for Pest Control Services** for all district properties as presented by Mr. Garrett in order to meet federal, state and local pest control guidelines. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL TO GO  
OUT TO BID FOR  
PEST CONTROL  
SERVICES

Mrs. Moody moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve to Go Out to Bid for Snow Removal Services** for all district properties as presented by Mr. Garrett. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL TO GO  
OUT TO BID FOR  
SNOW REMOVAL  
SERVICES

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Approve to Go Out to Bid for Student Weight Room Modifications and Upgrades** for all district schools as presented by Mr. Garrett. The current condition of the equipment does not meet requirements of the Health and Life Safety inspector of ISC4 and poses a liability threat to the District. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL TO GO  
OUT TO BID FOR  
STUDENT WEIGHT  
ROOM  
MODIFICATIONS  
AND UPGRADES

None.

SUPERINTENDENT  
REPORT

At 7:16 p.m., Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Butler 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, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

At 9:27 p.m., Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded to **Reconvene Regular Session**. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RECONVENE  
REGULAR SESSION

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Moody seconded, to **Approve the Settlement with the Faculty Association Regarding Unfair Labor Practice Case No. 2014-CA-056-C Regarding Grievance Process**. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; Mr. Banks passed; nay, none; motion passed.

ACTION  
REGARDING ULP  
CASE NO. 2014-CA-  
056-C

Mrs. Moody moved, Ms. Graham seconded, that the **Board of Education Intends to and Does Hereby Employ Technology Director, Maria Brunson, on an At-Will Basis and Not Pursuant to a One-Year Contract as Inadvertently Announced at the Board's July 2017 Meeting but not since effected**. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; Mr. Banks passed; nay, none; motion passed.

ACTION  
REGARDING  
EMPLOYMENT  
STATUS OF  
DIRECTOR

At 9:28 p.m., Mrs. Moody moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to **Adjourn the Meeting.** On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

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President

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Secretary

rp(brd.mins 10-11-17)  
**REGULAR SESSION**