

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 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 6:35 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. Jerry B. Doss, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Mr. Toriano Horton, Director of Business Operations; 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 was held on August 31, 2017. Topics discussed were the Read 180 program, Turnitin contract and the NWEA MAP initiative which are on tonight's agenda for approval.

COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE

Report from Finance Committee: Mr. Horton reported that the Finance Committee met on September 5, 2017. The items discussed are on tonight's agenda for approval. The next finance meeting will be on October 3, 2017.

Report from Policy Committee: Dr. Doss reported that the Policy Committee met on August 28, 2017 and made recommendations that will be discussed later in tonight's meeting.

Report from Discipline Committee: None.

Report from Facilities Committee: Mr. Garrett reported that the Facilities Committee met on August 31, 2017. Agenda items included capital improvement expenditure updates and the beginning phases of future capital improvement projects. The current bond expenditures for the capital projects are \$8,611,671.35 out of the total price of \$15,237,911.42. The next facilities meeting will be on September 28, 2017.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of July 12, 2017.
- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated August 10 through September 13, 2017.
- Personnel dated September 13, 2017 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations).
- Ratifications: Back to School Night Date Change
Overnight Field Trip to Special Olympics State Finals, Decatur, IL

MINUTES

BILLS

PERSONNEL

RATIFICATIONS

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

Mr. Horton explained the hearing process as required by State law. Major assumptions used to prepare the budget were as follows.

Revenues: Real estate taxes will increase approximately 1.5% based on inflation levels. General State Aid will increase with the new funding formula.

Expenses: Total salaries are projected to increase approximately 3%.

Employee benefits are projected to increase approximately 6%.

Bond payments will increase due to Series 2017 bond issues.

Major capital expenses will increase as the district begin major capital improvements.

PUBLIC HEARING
ON THE 2017-2018
DISTRICT 205
BUDGET

He presented the breakdown of the total budget by fund. The approximate beginning fund balance is \$72,309,000, including \$32,611,000 reserved for capital projects. Total budget revenues are \$116,955,000; expenses are \$131,656,000, including \$15 million from capital expenses. A surplus of \$15 million from the transportation fund will be transferred to the education and building funds to ensure all fund balances are positive at the end of the year.

PUBLIC HEARING
ON THE 2017-2018
DISTRICT 205
BUDGET, Con't.

He presented a comparison of the budget versus the prior four years. Primary changes are increase in state revenue; however, personal and corporate property tax revenues will decrease by 24% this year. Overall, the projected revenue increase is 2.6%. Total expenses will increase 4.2%. For the first time since 2014, the district will realize a surplus of approximately \$299,000 for FY18. Projected at the end of FY18, total fund balances excluding capital projects will be \$17.7 million.

There were no questions from the public.

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION

- Margaret Brown (South Holland) stated she and her son were homeless but are no longer. He was expelled and she needs assistance for him to get back into school. Mr. Arrington and Dr. Doss will address her situation.
- Felita Crayton (Dolton) asked for the cost to educate a student in District 205; 2) offered her services to increase parental involvement; 3) asked the status of the federal investigation, and 4) is there a charge for students with school ID's to attend varsity games?
- Traevon Cooley (Dolton) stated he is on the Thornridge football team and asked why students are being charged to attend games.
- Talia Johnson (Dolton) stated she is in the Thornridge IB program and more teachers with IB training are needed.
- Abbigail Avino (South Holland) stated she is in the IB program and asked for more funding to allow for more teachers.
- Jeremiah Johnson (Riverdale) stated he is in the IB program and that it is one of the district's greatest accomplishments by giving students the ability to compete internationally. The program should be advertised more and receive more funding.
- Charwana Morgan (Harvey) stated she is the parent of IB and AVID students at Thornton and that students are being deprived of afterschool programs. Mr. Fickes advised that the afterschool programs at Thornton and Thornridge will start next week. Thornwood afterschool programs began this week.

Dr. Doss reported that since the last scheduled Board meeting, there have been no Freedom of Information Act requests received.

FOIA

Mr. Arrington presented the following information:

COMMUNICATIONS

- Thornridge AVID Color Run registration is currently on the district website.
- Thornridge musicians Destin Miller and Brianna Boyd performed with the Chicago Jazz Philharmonic and Griffin Institute of Performing arts at Millennium Park.
- Former NFL champions Keith Davis and Clarence Lee met with Thornton students about overcoming personal barriers to success, made possible by Mr. Ray Banks.
- Coordinated by Senator Napoleon Harris, the Illinois Farmers and Soybean Associations visited the Urban Farm Lab at Thornton and are developing a curriculum to initiate a career pathway for urban farming.
- A ribbon cutting ceremony for the renovated Thornton football stadium took place on September 2, 2017, along with Board members and district administrators.
- Thornwood's Special Olympics Bowling Team competed in the area games on August 12, 2017 and two gold medalists advanced to the sectionals on October 15.
- Outlook Academy announced staff member of the month as Mr. Lawrence Goffer and student of the month, Deonna Ford, who plans to pursue a career in nursing.
- Outlook July 2017 graduate, Kevon Miller, sent a note of thanks to Outlook Academy for not giving up on him.

Mr. Fickes presented highlights of the IB Program which is in its second year. The program aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring students who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. District 205 is committed to continue the funding for the IB Program and train additional staff. The IB coordinators are Brad Ablin, Thornton; Andrea DeYoung, Thornwood and Jason Curl, Thornridge who shared data from the three schools including numbers of full IB diplomas including bonus credits, college credits earned, community service hours, fundraiser for safe drinking water in Kenyan villages, clothing drive for the Pacific Garden Mission; had meetings with international business representatives; and planned and performed a cultural dance program highlighting music and dance from around the world. Students have been accepted to Harvard, Yale, Howard, Hampton, Loyola and University of Illinois, just to name a few. New this year, IB parent meetings will be held twice monthly at Thornwood. The coordinators intend to recruit more students next spring. Students spoke of the rigorous challenges of the IB classes and the positive impact the program has made on their education. They were all very thankful this program was brought to the district.

INTERNATIONAL
BACCALAUREATE
(IB) PRESENTATION

Dr. Renee Simms, representing the Illinois Principals' Association South Cook Region, presented Mr. Tony Ratliff with an award for 2016-2017 Principal of the Year, as an incredible leader. Mr. Ratliff thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve the school district and community.

PRESENTATION OF
SOUTH COOK 2016-
2017 PRINCIPAL OF
THE YEAR

Dr. Ahmed Ramaha and Ms. Quiana Savage, representing Universal Dental, described services they provide to District 205 students as examination, cleaning and fluoride treatment. They work closely with nurses and staff. Come out in the spring and fall. There is no charge, and give discounts for students who need follow-up. The only requirement is that parents sign a consent form once each year which is done at registration. The only requirement of the school is to provide work space and electricity. Full, comprehensive records are kept on each student and follow-up letters are sent to parents if a child needs additional services. Universal Dental recently opened a clinic in South Holland to accommodate District 205 students and families. Last year, 300 dental hygiene kits were donated to the Women's Conference. Dr. Ramaha presented each school with a virtual reality 3-d device as a gift.

UNIVERSAL
DENTAL
PRESENTATION

Mr. Dwayne Bearden, Faculty Association President, addressed the Board regarding the challenges of the 2017-2018 school year. The contract language provides the opportunity to address many of the challenges through the district joint committees. The technology committee can ensure proper technology for students and staff to be competitive with other school districts as well as the online registration. The discipline committee has the resources necessary to be in line with SB100 and the curriculum committee is ready to provide a challenging curriculum that is in align with the state's expectations. These are just a few examples of ways to be of service to the district and in order to carry the out, we must work together with respect and professionalism.

FACULTY
ASSOCIATION

Mrs. Moody moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Approve the Voluntary Vision and Supplemental Life Insurance Plans** as presented by Dr. Doss to be provided by AXA. Information was presented at the September 5 Finance Committee meeting for these plans that could payroll deducted. Mr. Butler voted aye with the caveat of the approval by the Faculty Association. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
VOLUNTARY
VISION AND
SUPPLEMENTAL
LIFE INSURANCE
PLANS

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Ratify Met Life as the Group Dental Carrier** as presented by Dr. Doss. Information was presented at the September 5 Finance Committee meeting. Mr. Butler voted aye with the caveat of the approval by the Faculty Association. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RATIFICATION OF
MET LIFE GROUP
DENTAL CARRIER

Dr. Doss presented the **First Reading of the PRESS Recommended Updates**, amendments to the following policies: 5:220-E3 Closed Meeting Minutes; 2:260 Uniform Grievance Procedure; 6:80 Teaching About Controversial Issues; 6:180 Extended Instructional Programs; 6:210 Instructional Materials; 7:275 Orders to Forego Life Sustaining Treatment and 8:70 Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities. The Policy Committee met on August 28, 2017 and is not recommending acceptance of amendments to Policy Sections 5:220-E3 and 7:275. The Committee does recommend acceptance of Policy Sections 2:260; 6:80; 6:180, 6:210 and 8:70. The policy recommendations will be on review for thirty days and presented for approval at the next Board meeting.

FIRST READING OF
PRESS
RECOMMENDED
UPDATES

Mrs. Moody moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the Resolution to Regulate Expense Reimbursements at \$5,000.00 Per Year** as presented by Dr. Doss. On July 12, 2017 the Board approved a resolution as required by the Illinois School Code for a reimbursement cap of \$10,000.00 with a direction for the policy committee to reconsider the reimbursement amount. The recommended reduced reimbursement cap is \$5,000.00 per person annually. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
RESOLUTION TO
REGULATE
EXPENSE
REIMBURSEMENTS

Dr. Doss presented the **Amendment to Policy Section 7:100** regulating health and eye examinations, immunizations and exclusion of students. The Policy Committee met on August 28, 2017 and is recommending the exclusion date be changed from October 15 to September 15 effective July 1, 2018. The policy recommendation will be on review for thirty days and presented for approval at the next Board meeting.

AMENDMENT TO
POLICY SECTION
7:100

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Approve the Out-of-State Field Trip** as presented by Mrs. Williams for 45 band students and eight chaperones to travel to Indianapolis, Indiana to attend the Circle City Classic at Lucas Oil Field from September 23-24, 2017. The cost of the trip is \$1,326. 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, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Approve the Out-of-State Field Trip** as presented by Mrs. Williams for 45 band students and eight chaperones to travel to Wiberforce, Ohio to participate in the Central State University Homecoming Parade on October 7, 2017. The cost of the trip is \$1,326. 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, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Approve the Out-of-Country Field Trip** as presented by Mr. Willis for approximately 20-25 senior IB students and three chaperones to travel to San Juan, Puerto Rico from March 15-20, 2018 to experience international cultural awareness. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
OUT-OF-COUNTRY
FIELD TRIP

Mr. Banks moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to **Approve the 2017-2018 District 205 Budget and Resolution** as presented by Mr. Horton. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
2017-2018 DISTRICT
205 BUDGET AND
RESOLUTION

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the Johnson Controls Contract** as presented by Mr. Horton in the amount of \$17,654.00 for one year in order to be in compliance with the State Fire Code and annual testing of all fire alarm equipment. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
JOHNSON
CONTROLS
CONTRACT

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Approve the Scientific and Graphing Calculators and Luna Interactive Cameras** as presented by Mr. Fickes from School Savers Corporation in the amount of \$20,947.00. These calculators will assist students with mathematic problems and the cameras will allow teachers to display student work for class discussion and recording data. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
SCIENTIFIC
CALCULATORS
AND CAMERAS

Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the Approval of Dell Laptop Computers** purchase as presented by Mr. Fickes from Dell in the amount of \$23,022.75 for 15 laptops for students and teachers. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
DELL LAPTOP
COMPUTERS

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Moody seconded, to **Approve the Approval of Chromebooks** purchase as presented by Mr. Fickes from Dell in the amount of \$134,980.00 for 500 Chromebooks. The funding source is Title 1. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
CHROMEBOOKS

Mrs. Moody moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Approve the English and Language Composition Books** purchase as presented by Mr. Fickes from Perma-Bound in the amount of \$9,560.70 to be used in Advanced Placement courses. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
ENGLISH AND
LANGUAGE
COMPOSITION
BOOKS

Mrs. Whittington moved, Mrs. Moody seconded, to **Approve the NWEA MAP Proposal** as presented by Mr. Fickes in the amount of \$27,385.50 for the national assessment. The funding source is Title 1. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
NWEA MAP
PROPOSAL

Mrs. Moody moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Approve the Read 180 Proposal** as presented by Mr. Fickes in the amount of \$17,643.29 for this reading course software program. The funding source is Title 1. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
READ 180
PROPOSAL

Mr. Banks moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Approve the Turnitin Contract** as presented by Mr. Fickes in the amount of \$26,460.00 for software used in the IB Program. The funding source is Title 1. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
TURNITIN
CONTRACT

At 8:21 p.m., Mrs. Lawrence 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 10:51 p.m., Mrs. Moody moved, Mrs. Cruz seconded, to **Reconvene Regular Session**. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Cruz, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RECONVENE
REGULAR SESSION

Mrs. Whittington moved, Mrs. Moody seconded, to **Approve the AFSCME Grievance Resolution for Camille Robinson** whereby she will be moved to Thornton High School and given a \$1,500.00 settlement. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Cruz, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ACTION
REGARDING
AFSCME
GRIEVANCE
RESOLUTION

Mrs. Moody moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Approve the Suspension and Notice to Remedy for Curtis Martin.** On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Cruz, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ACTION
REGARDING
TEACHER
DISCIPLINE AND
NOTICE TO
REMEDY

Mrs. Moody moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to **Approve the Tuition Reimbursement for Greg Crump** for completion of the HVAC certification program. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Cruz, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ACTION
REGARDING MOA
FOR TUITION
REIMBURSEMENT

Mrs. Moody moved, Mrs. Cruz seconded, to **Approve Two (2) Sick Days and Three (3) Personal Days.** The sick and personal days are granted annually and any unused days do not carry over from year to year. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Cruz, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ACTION
REGARDING SICK
DAYS FOR
PERMANENT
SUBSTITUTES

At 10:54 p.m., Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Cruz seconded, to **Adjourn the Meeting.** On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Cruz, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

President

Secretary