

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2017** IN THE STUDENT CAFETERIA AT THORNWOOD HIGH SCHOOL, 17101 SOUTH PARK AVENUE, SOUTH HOLLAND, ILLINOIS, BEGINNING AT 6:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 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 and Moody answered. Members Banks, Cruz and Whittington were absent. Dr. Leotis D. Swopes, Superintendent; 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. Adam Dauksas, legal counsel, were also present.

ROLL  
CALL

Mrs. Moody moved, Mr. Butler seconded, in the absence of Mrs. Whittington, to **Appoint Bernadette Lawrence as Secretary Pro Tem**. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

SECRETARY *PRO*  
*TEM*

**Report from Curriculum Committee:** Mr. Fickes reported that a Curriculum Committee was held on July 19, 2017 where the new Division Leaders were introduced. Topics discussed were District 205's vision/mission/core values statements; back to school Institute Day plan; Parent Institute Day, and the PLATO and SAT renewal contracts.

COMMITTEE OF  
THE WHOLE

**Report from Finance Committee:** Mr. Horton reported that the Finance Committee met on August 1, 2017. Nineteen items were discussed and 14 will be presented for approval at tonight's meeting. The major topic was the significant improvement of the financial year-end results. The total revenues for 2017 were \$147,934,446 and exceeded the total expenditures of \$113,463,851 by \$34,470,495. The revenue amount includes approximately \$30 million in capital bonds. As a result, the district's fund balance grew from \$37,849,385 to \$72,319,980. As shown on the yearly School District Financial Profile produced by ISBE, the district operated under significant deficits in 2015 of over \$7.3 million; 2016 it was nearly \$6.5 million. Fiscal year 2017 closed with a surplus of \$964,683.

**Report from Policy Committee:** None.

**Report from Discipline Committee:** None.

**Report from Facilities Committee:** Mr. Garrett reported that the Facilities Committee met on July 27, 2017. Agenda items included the Johnson Controls contract, a capital improvement update which included the total expenditure to date of \$6,735,981.85, and emergency flooring abatement at all three schools. The floors will be ready for start of the 2017-18 school year. The next Facilities Committee meeting will be held on August 31, 2017.

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 June 14, 2017.
- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated July 13 through August 9, 2017.
- Personnel dated August 9, 2017 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations).

MINUTES

BILLS

PERSONNEL

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

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Felita Crayton (Dolton) thanked Dr. Swopes for his reply to her questions but she is still awaiting a response to her questions from the May Board meeting. She appreciated the Parent Institute Day.

Dr. Doss reported that since the last scheduled Board meeting, there have been two Freedom of Information Act requests received that will be responded to within the allotted period of time.

FOIA

Mr. Arrington presented the following information:

COMMUNICATIONS

- The family of Lily Bridges thanked the District for the expression of sympathy. Lily Bridges was the mother of Polly Swopes, Dr. Swopes's wife.
- Dolton Fire Department and staff thanked District 205 for participation in funeral services of firefighter Lawrence W. Matthews, Jr.
- Teacher Institute Day will be held on August 14, 2017. The theme is *Students First, Student Centered*.
- Preliminary data shows that IB students, particularly at Thornton, out-performed surrounding districts.
- On August 5, 2017 the Special Olympics team won over the Unified team from Boston.
- The National Public Radio Public Broadcast System visited Thornton during registration and interviewed Principal Ratliff.
- Registration at Outlook opens the 2017-18 school year with 300 students. 153 diplomas were earned in 2016-17. 100% of all graduates are employed and/or are registered in a post-secondary school.
- New this year, all parents are invited to the Parent Institute Day which will take place on August 14, 2017 at the South Holland Community Center. More information is on the district website.
- The AVID Color Run will be on September 30, 2017.

Mr. Fickes gave the background of T-Birds Take Flight as an initiative of Thornwood, originally an AVID summer enrichment program for students in grades 6-9 who were transitioning into middle school and high school. T-Birds Take Flight will provide personal growth opportunities in a safe and supportive environment. The aim is for students to acquire the personal and academic skills necessary for becoming responsible and productive influences in our world. The objective of the program is to align ISBE/CC Math, ELA, Social Emotional Learning Standards, International Baccalaureate benchmarks, School, District and Board goals. 87 selected 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders participated in the summer program. 90% of all students stated that they would return and/or recommend the program to others. They engaged in practicing effective decision-making strategies and developing positive relationships. Building leadership provided program highlights along with achievement data and the students shared some of their summer experiences including team-building activities and group projects.

T-BIRDS TAKE FLIGHT PRESENTATION

Mr. Horton stated the **2017-2018 District 205 Tentative Budget** is available for public viewing on the district website and at the District Office during office hours from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. A public hearing to review and adopt the budget will be held at the September 13, 2017 Board meeting.

PRESENTATION OF 2017-2018 TENTATIVE DISTRICT 205 BUDGET

Mrs. Moody moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to **Approve the Food Service Bid** be awarded to the lowest bidder, Sodexo, in the amount of \$1,835,120.43 for one year with the option to renew yearly not to exceed four additional one-year periods. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF FOOD SERVICE BID

Mrs. Moody moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to <b>Approve the Technology RFP</b> as presented by Mr. Horton to seek proposals to conduct a full and comprehensive assessment of the District's Information Technology operations for the period August 1, 2017 to May 31, 2018. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.	APPROVAL OF TECHNOLOGY RFP
Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to <b>Approve the Marketing and Public Relations Contract</b> as presented by Dr. Doss to Excel Marketing in the amount of \$26,000.00 per year for two years. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.	APPROVAL OF MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS CONTRACT
Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to <b>Approve the CTE (Career &amp; Technical Education) Purchase of a Brake Lathe</b> as presented by Mr. Fickes from Snap On in the amount of \$16,474.80 through the Perkins Grant for use in the Auto Shop. The existing brake lathe does not meet current industry standards. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.	APPROVAL OF CTE PURCHASE OF BRAKE LATHE
Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Moody seconded, to <b>Approve the CTE Purchase of a Laser Engraver</b> as presented by Mr. Fickes from JBH Technologies in the amount of \$33,550.00 through the Perkins Grant to help enhance students' design skills. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.	APPROVAL OF CTE PURCHASE OF LASER ENGRAVER
Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to <b>Approve the CTE Purchase of a Laser Printer</b> as presented by Mr. Fickes from JBH Technologies in the amount of \$25,704.00 through the Perkins Grant to assist engineering and design students. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.	APPROVAL OF CTE PURCHASE OF LASER PRINTER
Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Moody seconded, to <b>Approve the CTE Purchase of a Router</b> as presented by Mr. Fickes from JBH Technologies in the amount of \$21,052.00 through the Perkins Grant to assist engineering, wood class and CAD students. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.	APPROVAL OF CTE PURCHASE OF ROUTER
Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to <b>Approve the CTE Purchase of Portable Workbenches</b> as presented by Mr. Fickes from JBH Technologies in the amount of \$6,588.00 through the Perkins Grant for use in the auto shop. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.	APPROVAL OF CTE PURCHASE OF PORTABLE WORKBENCHES
Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Moody seconded, to <b>Approve the CTE Technology Purchase</b> as presented by Mr. Fickes for computers from CDW-G in the amount of \$48,480.00 through the Perkins Grant. The current computers are 5 years old, out of warranty and can no longer sustain the programs being used. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.	APPROVAL OF CTE TECHNOLOGY PURCHASE
Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to <b>Approve the University of Illinois at Chicago Contract Renewal</b> with the Metro Chicago Math Initiative as presented by Mr. Fickes in the amount of \$24,000.00 (\$8,000.00 per school) through Title 1 for the 2017-2018 school year. The contract provides valuable Professional Development for math teachers. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.	APPROVAL OF UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO CONTRACT RENEWAL
Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Moody seconded, to <b>Approve the Keynote Speaker Expenditure</b> as presented by Mr. Fickes in the amount of \$5,000.00 to Mr. Baruti Kafele to provide various Professional Development to staff and parents. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.	APPROVAL OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER EXPENDITURE

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the Edmentum (PLATO) Contract Renewal** as presented by Mr. Fickes in the amount of \$68,775.00 for online Curriculum through Title 1 for the period 9/1/17 through 8/31/18. PLATO is primarily used to remediate credit deficiencies. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
EDMENTUM  
(PLATO)  
CONTRACT  
RENEWAL

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the SAT Contract Renewal** as presented by Mr. Fickes in the amount of \$45,066.00 for the full range of SAT Suite of Assessments for students from August 31, 2017 through September 1, 2018. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF SAT  
CONTRACT  
RENEWAL

The Board asked the District to investigate and research the possibility of bringing the IB vocational program to District 205; the application process is 2 years.

BOARD COMMENT

Mrs. Moody moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to **Approve the Vision Statement, Mission Statement and Core Values** as presented by Dr. Swopes. The Administrative Retreat held in June 2017 addressed curriculum issues necessary to move the district forward. It was decided to revisit the vision, mission and core values. The five goals developed by the Board in 2015 were:

APPROVAL OF  
DISTRICT 205  
VISION  
STATEMENT,  
MISSION  
STATEMENT AND  
CORE VALUES

1. Ensure continuous learning development, growth and achievement for all students.
2. Ensure a safe, supportive, challenging and culturally sensitive learning environment.
3. Recruit, train and retain a high-quality staff that is committed to continuous improvement through teamwork, collaboration and shared leadership.
4. Engage parents, students, staff, clergy business owners and the community (stakeholders) in the District's continuous improvement effort.
5. Demonstrate and communicate effective and efficient school district operations to ensure excellent stewardship of public resources.

And

SUPERINTENDENT  
REPORT

Dr. Swopes reflected back to Mr. Horton's report regarding improvement on the budget, coming from a deficit to a surplus. We are monitoring programs and activities more closely. The advent of 15 division leaders will work to focus on instruction in the buildings. It is expected the district will see great returns from these efforts to be *Students First, Student Centered*.

**District 205 Vision:** Thornton Township High School District 205 is a high-quality district that produces major gains in student achievement and prepares all students for success in college, careers, and service in our community and global society.

**District 205 Mission:** Thornton Township High School District 205 puts students first and will provide a challenging and engaging curriculum, use evidence-based teaching practices, connect learning to life experiences and maintain a safe, nurturing, technology-rich environment that addresses social justice and partners with family and community members.

**District 205 Core Values:** Pride, Integrity, Responsiveness, High Expectations with High Support and Commitment to Excellence.

The vision, mission and core values will be posted in each building.

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

At 7:38 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 and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

At 8:50 p.m., Mrs. Cruz moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded to **Reconvene Regular Session**. On roll call, Members Butler, Cruz, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RECONVENE  
REGULAR SESSION

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Cruz seconded, to **Approve the Hiring of Judy Ocasio at Step 8 of the Teachers Salary Schedule**. On roll call, Members Butler, Cruz, Graham and Lawrence voted aye; Mrs. Moody voted nay, motion passed.

ACTION  
REGARDING  
TEACHER  
REQUEST FOR  
STEP INCREASE

At 8:52 p.m., Members Butler, Cruz, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye to **Adjourn the Meeting**.

ADJOURNMENT

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President

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Secretary *Pro Tem*