

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 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 request 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; 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; Mrs. Ebonie Williams, Thornridge 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 the next Curriculum Committee will be held on July 19, 2017 where the new Division Leaders will be welcomed. Topics to be discussed will include District 205's vision/mission/core values statements; back to school Institute Day plan; and the PLATO and SAT renewal contracts.

COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE

Report from Finance Committee: Mr. Horton reported that the July Finance Committee meeting was cancelled and the next meeting will be on August 8, 2017. Topics will include a preliminary budget review and results of the FY15 school year.

Report from Policy Committee: Mrs. Whittington reported that Dr. Doss will address a policy item under New Business at tonight's meeting.

Report from Discipline Committee: None.

Report from Facilities Committee: Mr. Garrett reported that the District has paid out \$4,378,852.91 on the 7 ongoing projects. The next Facilities Committee meeting will be held on July 29, 2017.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes of the Special Meeting and Executive Session of May 17, 2017.
- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated June 15 through July 12, 2017.
- Personnel dated July 12, 2017 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations).

MINUTES

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) stated: 1) she is offended by the public participation notice; 2) as a taxpayer she would appreciate a response to her questions asked at the last Board meeting; and 3) asked if she missed something regarding the cafeteria bid.
- Ed Crayton (Dolton) stated: 1) the front page of the district website does not indicate a Board meeting for this evening; 2) that the community should be aware of all meetings and 3) a time frame should be given to public participation individuals as to when they will receive a response.
- Teressa Moore (Dolton) announced that a Thornridge all-alumni weekend will take place July 21-22, 2017. All alumni and their families are welcome and donations are being accepted.

- Tasha Johnson (Dolton) stated her daughter is a student on the Thornridge track team. She is concerned about Coach Catron. She has talked with the principal but nothing is being done. Her daughter is in the Junior Olympics and is being recruited by colleges. Athletic.net is a website displaying student scores and should be accurate; however, her daughter's marks were removed from her profile. The only person who can do that is the coach.

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION
Con't.

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

FOIA

Mr. Arrington presented the following information:

COMMUNICATIONS

- The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile will be at Thornwood on August 3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free vaccines, school and sports physicals are offered to students age 3-18. Consent forms are required by August 1, 2017.
- A Wildcat Bash Ice Cream Social will be held on July 19 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Thornton High School.
- Thornton Wildcat DeShawnte Carraway will participate in the Double Duty Classic at Guaranteed Rate Field on July 20 at 1:00 p.m.
- Thornton Wildcat Guerillermo Antolin played for the Chicago Fire Unified Special Olympic team on June 17 in Boston.
- Thornton Girls Track team member Mya Robinson won the State championship in the 100-meter hurdle and 2nd in the 300-meter hurdle and Alexis Hutchins finished 4th in the Shot-put. The team finished 8th overall and won the SWSC Red Conference Championship for the second year in a row.
- Thornton Boys Track team qualified for 5 events at the State tournament and won the SWSC Rec Conference Championship. Paris Elbert finished 7th in the 100-meter hurdles.
- The end of summer BBQ will be held on July 13 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Thornridge.

Mr. Fickes provided background information on the **Gifted Summer STEM Program**, which was developed three years ago. The participants are incoming freshmen and 8th graders. STEM teachers and students presented program highlights to the Board. It is a rigorous Curriculum and designed to inspire confidence in math and encourage students to excel. They are given pre-exams and post-exams to determine growth and prepare them for AP courses and IB (International Baccalaureate). The students shared their experiences and the positive influence of the STEM Program. They talked about how the teachers not only educate, but teach them life skills about self-esteem, healthy relationships and managing money. The students demonstrated a robotic car that they built.

GIFTED STEM
PROGRAM
PRESENTATION

Mrs. Moody moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Approve the Cook County Department of Public Health Memorandum of Agreement** as presented by Dr. Swopes for Thornton High School to be the primary site and Thornridge as the secondary site for dispensing medication to the public in the event of a public health emergency. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
COOK COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH
MEMORANDUM OF
AGREEMENT

At 7:15 p.m., Mrs. Lawrence let the meeting.

MRS. LAWRENCE
LEFT MEETING

Mrs. Whittington moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Approve 2017-2018 SCOPE Annual Dues** as presented by Dr. Swopes in the amount of \$2,120.00. SCOPE (South Cooperative Organization for Public Education) is a lobby organization that provides guidance on various funding issues pending with the State and Professional Development opportunities. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
2017-2018 SCOPE
ANNUAL DUES

At 7:23 p.m., Mrs. Lawrence joined the meeting.

MRS. LAWRENCE
JOINED MEETING

Mrs. Moody moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the School Resource Officer Memorandum of Understanding** as presented by Dr. Swopes to continue sharing the cost with ECHO for a security guard at the PEACE Center. The district's cost is approximately \$9,000.00 per year. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
SCHOOL
RESOURCE
OFFICER MOU

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Moody seconded, to **Approve the Transportation Bid** as presented by Mr. Horton be awarded to First Student in the following amounts per day for the 2017-2018 school year: majority of regular bus routes: \$300.01; Special Ed: \$348.75; Athletic and Activities: \$274.70. In response to the Board, Mr. Horton added that there will be an anticipated savings of approximately \$1 million and First Student was the only qualified bidder. The contract term is for three years. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
TRANSPORTATION
BID

Mr. Banks moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to **Approve the GCA Services Group, Inc. Contract Extension** for custodial services for one year as presented by Mr. Horton. This will provide a savings of approximately \$220,000.00 through more efficient staffing. In response to the Board, Mr. Horton stated the contract did not go out to bid due to time constraints. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; Mr. Banks voted nay; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF GCA
SERVICES GROUP,
INC. CONTRACT
EXTENSION

Mrs. Moody moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Approve the Prudential Security, Inc. Contract Extension** for security services for one year as presented by Mr. Horton. It is intended to reduce the cost by more than \$360,000.00 through staggered scheduling to mitigate overtime costs. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; Mr. Banks voted nay; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
PRUDENTIAL
SECURITY, INC.
CONTRACT
EXTENSION

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Approve the Resolution to Regulate Expense Reimbursements** as presented by Dr. Doss to set the maximum reimbursement rate for travel at \$10,000 per year per person, as recommended by the Policy Committee on June 7, 2017. This resolution will become an exhibit to Policy No. 2:125. The law requires all public bodies to set a dollar amount; if the amount is exceeded, it must be Board approved. The Board felt the limit was too high. In order to be in compliance, this resolution is authorized subject to further review by the policy committee.

APPROVAL OF
RESOLUTION TO
REGULATE
EXPENSE
REIMBURSEMENTS

Mrs. Lawrence rescinded the motion to **Approve the Resolution to Regulate Expense Reimbursements.**

Mrs. Moody moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Approve the Resolution to Regulate Expense Reimbursements as presented to the Board by the Policy Committee with direction for the Policy Committee to reconsider the resolution with a report to the Board in September 2017.**

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

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Approve the Overnight Field Trip** as presented by Dr. Doss for members of the Student Board and Thornwood Snowball (total of 30 students) and four chaperones to travel to Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, Illinois from July 16-20, 2017 for a youth leadership camp sponsored by the Cebrin Goodman Teen Institute. Lodging and meals will be provided by the University. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
OVERNIGHT FIELD
TRIP

None.

SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT

At 7:49 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.

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

At 10:45 p.m., Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Banks seconded to **Reconvene Regular Session**. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RECONVENE
REGULAR SESSION

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the Written Decision for Grievance No. 050217**, granting the relief requested by the Faculty Association including the removal and rescission of all discipline records related to the grievance from the teacher's personnel file including the Notice to Remedy, and to make the teacher whole for any lost compensation related to the discipline, subject to the Faculty Association executing an agreement with the Board that this decision is not binding and not precedential on any other case or Association member. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
WRITTEN DECISION
FOR GRIEVANCE
NO. 050217

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Approve the Memorandum of Understanding** concerning AFSCME member Nefertiti Davis. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
AFSCME MOU

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to **Approve the Contracts for Toriano Horton and William Garrett**. These performance-based contracts are for three years as presented to the Board in Executive Session. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
CONTRACTS FOR
ADMINISTRATORS
AND EXEMPT
PERSONNEL

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the One-year Contracts for Derek Alexander, John Arrington, Tyran Cox-Bey, Brett Fickes, Jerry Doss, Patricia Fortier, Kelly Hock, Albert Holmes, Don Holmes, Jennifer Kuyper, Robert Penman, Thomas Porter, Tony Ratliff, Wanda Russell, James Thurman, Steven Valant, Thomas Walsh, Ebonie Williams, Dennis Willis, Webster Barnes, Maria Brunson, Rodney Davis, Rosaura Duran, James Durkin, Sarit Hampton, Randy Henderson, Greg Hughes, Angie James, Vincent Jones, Anthony Lewis, Kathleen Matushek, Rakyah Merriweather, Anthony Michaels, Lisa Mwesigwa, Rose Papaleo, Socorro Prado, Jesus Quinones, Vennie Raybon, Tyrone Richardson, Carl Rodgers, Laticia Wilder, Leon Willis, Anita Winters and Noel Zambrano**. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
CONTRACTS FOR
ADMINISTRATORS
AND EXEMPT
PERSONNEL

At 10:51 p.m., Mr. Butler 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

President

Secretary

rp(brd.mins 7-12-17)
REGULAR SESSION