

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 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. 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 a Curriculum Committee meeting was held on June 8, 2017. Topics discussed were: District Improvement Plan; NWEA Map testing pilot for reading and math; summer school update—the number of students having access to programs and opportunities has doubled since last summer, and an update on the career and technical education programs. The next meeting will take place sometime during the summer and will be posted on the District website.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**Report from Finance Committee:** Mr. Horton reported that a Finance Committee meeting was held on June 6, 2017. The minutes will be posted on the District website. Six action items were approved and will be presented at tonight's meeting.

**Report from Policy Committee:** None.

**Report from Discipline Committee:** None.

**Report from Facilities Committee:** Mr. Garrett reported that the last Facilities Committee meeting was cancelled due to lack of agenda items. The next meeting is scheduled for June 29, 2017. Current district-wide projects include stadium upgrades including demolition and replacement of bleachers and other site upgrades; district-wide tuck pointing; new water main and field house roof repairs at Thornton; ongoing at Thornridge is tuck pointing only because of summer school; Thornwood bathroom upgrades; asbestos removal and roof repairs on the pool and field house.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes: Regular and Executive Session of April 12, 2017.

MINUTES

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

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

- Minutes: Special and Executive Session of May 1, 2017.
- Minutes: Regular and Executive Session of May 10, 2017.
- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated May 11 through June 14, 2017.
- Personnel dated June 14, 2017 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations).
- Ratifications:
  - Overnight Field Trip to Special Olympics State Finals in Bloomington, IL – Thornton students
  - Overnight Field Trip to Special Olympics State Finals in Bloomington, IL – Thornridge and Thornwood students
  - Overnight Field Trip to IHSA Boys Track State Finals in Charleston, IL – Thornton students
  - Overnight Field Trip to IHSA Girls Track State Finals in Charleston, IL – Thornton students

MINUTES

BILLS

PERSONNEL

RATIFICATIONS

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) asked 1) what is administration doing to bring District 205 back to a student-focused district; 2) will AIL pay be increased if they become division leaders; 3) what is the status of the Chromebook program for students, and 4) she feels that the community has been forgotten and asked for more parental involvement. Dr. Swopes will respond to her concerns.

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

FOIA

Mr. Arrington presented the following information:

COMMUNICATIONS

- A Thornton parent thanked the district for the meaningful STEM summer program at the Chicago State University.
- Thornridge track stars Wynda Wormack and Chante Johnson advanced to the state track final and finished inside the top 12.
- The AVID Color Run for College 1027 at Thornridge will take place on Saturday, September 30, 2017. Last year's event provided 2 scholarships to Thornridge seniors.
- 100% of Thornton's graduates were accepted into college or a post-secondary institution. Scholarships totaled \$9.2 million and financial aid was \$19 million.
- Several members of Thornton's Special Olympics Track and Field team placed at the state competition with 7 out of 9 gold medals.
- Thornwood's Special Olympics Track and Field team had 6 athletes participate at the state competition and took home 3 gold, 1 bronze and 4th place medals.
- Thornwood's Victoria Traylor won the gold medal in Rhythmic Gymnastics and Jessica Armstead came in 5<sup>th</sup> place in the ribbon routine in the state competition.
- Meg Jackson of Thornwood's Bocce team finished with a bronze medal and the double's team, Joshua Coe and Joshua Hubbard, finished fourth at State.
- Thornwood's Girls Track Team finished 5<sup>th</sup> overall in the state competition.

Mr. Fickes introduced Mrs. Michelle Liberio whose students have autism and other challenges. By creating a conducive learning environment students are able to contribute to the community. They planted flowers at Holland Home that were purchased from the annual Thornwood Autism plant and vegetable sale. The students contributed to the Children's Hunger Fund by packing 2075 water bottles and 475 pounds of beans to the 2010 earthquake victims in Haiti. They planted hostas and daylilies at a home being renovated by Restoration Ministries and at the Harvey Community garden. They also plant and maintain the vegetables from Thornwood's garden. The harvest is donated to Restoration Ministries. While completing these tasks, students are engaged and learning academic, social and life skills. Each student is taught how to complete a task by watching the teacher model it. Several students spoke about their activities and are proud of their accomplishments.

COMMUNITY  
BEAUTIFICATION  
PRESENTATION

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Approve the District Improvement Plan** for the 2017-2018 school year as presented by Mr. Fickes and presented at the June 8th Curriculum Committee meeting. This process is done every year in June to remain in compliance with ISBE and TITLE I expectations and ensure District Improvement Plan is in alignment with all 5 Board Goals. This was developed collaboratively with the Illinois Center for School Improvement. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
DISTRICT  
IMPROVEMENT  
PLAN

Mrs. Moody moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the PTAB Resolution for 2016 Assessment Appeals** as presented by Mr. Horton for Scariano, Himes & Petrarca to represent the District in such PTAB cases. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
PTAB RESOLUTION  
FOR 2016  
ASSESSMENT  
APPEALS

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the Baker Tilly Engagement Letter** as presented by Mr. Horton for auditing services for the year ending June 30, 2017 in the amount of \$47,750.00. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
BAKER TILLY  
ENGAGEMENT  
LETTER

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the 2017-2018 Prevailing Wage Act Resolution** as presented by Mr. Horton. The resolution is an annual activity required of all public bodies in Illinois. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
2017-2018  
PREVAILING WAGE  
ACT RESOLUTION

Mrs. Moody moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Approve the 2017-2018 Student Fees** as presented by Mr. Horton. The fees are the same as for the 2016-2017 school year. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
2017-2018  
STUDENT FEES

Mrs. Whittington moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve to Go Out to Bid for Physical Education Uniforms** as presented by Mr. Horton. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL TO GO  
OUT TO BID FOR  
PHYSICAL  
EDUCATION  
UNIFORMS

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to **Approve the Replacement of Drivers Ed Simulators** as presented by Mr. Horton be awarded to Doron in the amount of \$310,000.00. The simulators are 43 years old and in need of replacement. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
REPLACEMENT OF  
DRIVERS ED  
SIMULATORS

Dr. Swopes provided the Board with labor management meeting materials and asked for any requests for additional information on specific topics in preparation for a future meeting with the Board. Also to be discussed with the Board is the school improvement plan and how the Curriculum audit might impact district policy.

SUPERINTENDENT  
REPORT

A vendor will be selected to provide dental services to students for the upcoming school year. The Board commented that the district is moving forward to make the district student centered.

The reauthorization of Title I contains implications for schools as it relates to foster children. There will be a district administrator assigned to be the contact person for the state and follow through on the components of the program.

At 7:40 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.

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

At 10:19 p.m., Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Moody 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. Moody moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Approve the Written Decision Regarding Grievance Nos. 02-1617-TW-CR and 03-1617-TW-CR.** On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Cruz, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

GRIEVANCE NOS.  
02-1617-TW-CR  
AND 03-1617-TW-  
CR

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

ADJOURNMENT

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President

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Secretary