

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2017** IN THE AUDITORIUM AT THORNTON HIGH SCHOOL, 15001 BROADWAY AVENUE, HARVEY, ILLINOIS, BEGINNING AT 6:30 P.M.

Mrs. Lawrence offered a moment of silence for Mr. Asa Cole, Thornwood alumnus, who passed away this past weekend.

MOMENT OF
SILENCE

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. President Lawrence 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 Whittington answered. Members Banks, Gibbs and Williams 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; 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 was held on March 16, 2017. The topic of discussion was the Division Leader proposal. The next meeting will be late May or June 2017.

COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE

At 6:37 p.m., Mr. Banks joined the meeting.

MR. BANKS JOINED
MEETING

Report from Finance Committee: Mr. Horton reported that a Finance Committee meeting was held on April 6, 2017. The minutes are posted on the District website. Action items were approved and will be discussed at tonight's meeting. The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on May 9, 2017.

COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE, Con't.

Report from Policy Committee: None.

Report from Discipline Committee: None.

Report from Facilities Committee: None.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of January 11, 2017.
- Minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of February 8, 2017.
- Minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of March 8, 2017.
- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated March 9 through April 12, 2017.
- Personnel dated April 12, 2017 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations).
- Ratifications:
 - Overnight Field Trip to Special Olympics Girls Basketball State Tournament in Bloomington, IL (Thornton students)
 - Overnight Field Trip to Special Olympics Boys Basketball State Tournament in Peoria, IL (Thornton students)
 - Overnight Field Trip to Jackie Joyner Kersee Invitational in East St. Louis, MO (Thornton students)

MINUTES

BILLS

PERSONNEL

RATIFICATION

- Overnight Field Trip to Special Olympics Girls and Boys Basketball State Tournament in Bloomington, IL (Thornridge students)
- Overnight Field Trip to FCCLA State Competition in Springfield, IL (Thornridge students)
- Overnight field Trip to IHSA State Drama Competition in Springfield, IL (Thornridge students)
- Overnight Field Trip to Special Olympics Basketball State Tournament in Bloomington, IL (Thornwood students)

CONSENT AGENDA,
Con't.

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

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION

- Veronica Mosley-Raggs (Thornwood) invited the Board and Administrators to the Women's Empowerment Conference on April 22, 2017 at Thornwood High School. The keynote speaker will be Kim Foxx, Cook County State's Attorney. A proposal for funding has been submitted.
- Felita Crayton (Dolton) 1) asked for a moment of silence for Ramona Shelton, member of the Parent Advisory Committee 2) what is the cost of the safe passage 3) when will the details of the safe passage be shared with the community
- Dennis Willis (Thornwood Principal) acknowledged the passing of Ms. Shelton and Asa Cole, Thornwood graduate and student activist.
- Ricca Louissaint (South Holland) substitute teacher in the district, spoke about cell phone usage in the classroom and its distraction from learning. She suggested the Board members substitute for one day in the schools to witness the daily challenges.
- Manny Coleman and Nathaniel Small (Thornton students) spoke about a music video they are producing.

Dr. Doss reported that since the last scheduled Board meeting, there have been two Freedom of Information Act requests received. One has been responded to within the allotted period of time and the other response is in the process.

FOIA

Mr. Arrington presented the following information:

COMMUNICATIONS

- Family Reading Night and Poetry Slam will be held on April 20, 2017 at Thornton High School from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- The Jefferson Awards Ceremony will take place on April 23, 2017 at Thornton High School at 5:00 p.m.
- The District 205 app can be downloaded for quick reference to district updates.
- The Thornridge maintenance staff has not been late for work or left early for over 7 months.
- The Thornridge Robotics Team brought 2nd place and 3rd place trophies for accomplishments in the Southworks Engineering and Robotics Olympics.
- The Thornridge Girls Track Team won 1st place in the Battle of the Borders invite.
- The Thornridge FCCLA students competed in the state competition April 6-8 in Springfield.
- Thornridge French teacher Stephanie Hortsman was selected by the Illinois Education Association as its 2017 Teacher of the Year.
- Thornton's basketball player Alonzo Verge was named the 2017 Chicago Sun-Times Player of the Year.
- The 2017 Thornton class has exceeded the goal of \$8 million in scholarships.
- At the tournament on March 17, Thornton Boys Unified basketball team earned 1st place; Girls Olympic basketball team earned 3rd place and Liz Morales, individual skills athlete, earned 1st place.
- Ramona Shelton, Thornwood Parent Advisory Board President, and Mr. Asa Cole, Thornwood alumni and community member, were recognized in a moment of silence.

- Thornwood's Special Olympic Bocce Team competed at the Dyer Soccer Dome on April 8.
- Jamiah Shepard, Thornwood Special Olympics star, took the bronze medal at the Special Olympics World Games in Austria in the 100 meter showshoe race.
- Thornwood Special Olympics Gold Basketball Team won the State Championship for the fourth year in a row.
- Thornwood Special Olympics Soccer Teams are off to a great start, winning two games.
- PEACE Center administrator, Mr. Tyran Cox-Bey, was presented with the Excellence in Education Award from the Illinois Coalition for Educating At-Risk Youth.
- Twenty-two students graduated from Outlook Academy this past March.
- Outlook Academy faculty and staff were honored by Youth Ministries and received the "You Make a Difference" award.

COMMUNICATIONS.
Con't.

Mr. Fickes introduced Danielle Jania, Special Education Department Chairperson, and Thornwood student, Jamiah Shepard, who traveled to Austria to participate in the Special Olympic World Winter Games. Jamiah took home two bronze and one silver medal in the snowshoe competition. She was one of six athletes from Illinois, and one of two snowshoe athletes to advance to these games. Jamiah was featured on ESPN for the "Girl Power" segment. She was the only female competitor in the 4x10 meter race and was named the Inspirational Athlete of the Year for the State of Illinois. Jamiah spoke about her experience at the Winter Games and how Special Olympics helped her become the person she is today.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS
PRESENTATION

Mr. Dwayne Bearden, Faculty Association President, provided survey results from faculty members to the Board. He stressed the importance of Board meeting minutes being posted on the website in a timely manner. The Division Leaders Program will add more administrators—the district is more adult-centered rather student-centered. Other positions could be added to assist students as there are currently 400 students assigned to one dean, 400 students to one counselor and 800 students to one social worker per building. There is no data to prove this program's effectiveness and perhaps it could be run on a trial basis. There are too many initiatives in the district.

FACULTY
ASSOCIATION

Mr. Fickes reported on the wide variety of programs and initiatives offered this summer. Mrs. Fortier, Summer School Coordinator, stated there are 16 different programs running this summer. Dr. Holmes, State & Federal Grants Coordinator, stated that increased accountability will be in place and provided the summer school student handbook and the Enrichment & Remedial Programs booklet to the Board. Building administrators at all 3 schools have been diligently working on summer programs. Thornton is focusing on 3 programs this summer for incoming freshmen: 1) pre-algebra to strengthen math skills for those with low PSAT scores; 2) Wildcat Roar, a referral program with feeder schools who recommend students with attendance and discipline issues so their transition to Thornton will be more successful, and 3) Wildcat Prep Camp for instruction and first steps into college & career planning which is more of an enrichment program. Thornwood offers T-Birds Take Flight, a social-emotional program including English Language Arts and Math. Athletic days and field trips are also offered. For the first time, a SAT Summer Camp, focusing on test-taking strategies, is offered for sophomores and juniors. Thornridge camps include AVID strategies, a leadership program and College & Career camps in addition to the traditional Boost program. There will also be a safe zone for after summer school from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Thornridge.

SUMMER SCHOOL
PROGRAMS

Ms. Graham moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the Out-of-State Field Trip** as presented by Mr. Ratliff for 73 AVID students to visit Indiana-Purdue University in Indianapolis, Indiana on April 18, 2017. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
OUT-OF-STATE
FIELD TRIP

Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the 2017-2018 IHSA Membership** as presented by Dr. Swopes. IHSA regulates competition in most interscholastic sports. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
2017-2018 IHSA
MEMBERSHIP

Ms. Graham moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the Resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed \$30,000,000 General Obligation Limited Tax School Bonds, Series 2017C, of the District, for the purpose of paying claims against said School District, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax to pay the principal and interest on said bonds and authorizing the sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof** as presented by Mr. Horton. The purpose of the bond issuance is to complete major building renovations and repairs at all three schools. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
RESOLUTION FOR
THE ISSUE OF NOT
TO EXCEED \$30
MILLION GENERAL
OBLIGATION
LIMITED TAX
SCHOOL BONDS

Mrs. Whittington moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve to Go Out to Bid for Bathroom Renovations** at all three schools as presented by Mr. Horton. Water quality and ADA compliance will be addressed. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL TO GO
OUT TO BID FOR
BATHROOM
RENOVATIONS

Ms. Graham moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Approve the Roofing Bid** as presented by Mr. Horton to Coleman Roofing, Inc. in the amount of \$1,099,196.00. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
ROOFING BID

Mr. Butler moved, Ms. Graham seconded, to **Approve to Go Out to Bid for Fieldhouse Renovations** as presented by Mr. Horton to address life safety concerns at Thornwood and Thornton. The estimated cost of the project is approximately \$4.6 million. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL TO GO
OUT TO BID FOR
FIELDHOUSE
RENOVATIONS

Dr. Swopes congratulated the Board members on the April 4, 2017 election. He complimented the two students who spoke at tonight's meeting regarding a video that expresses the thinking of students and respects their efforts to do something positive.

SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT

An executive summary of the Curriculum audit which will guide the district to enhance Curriculum was provided to the Board by Dr. Swopes. Five standards to be adhered to are governance, expectations for learning, the implementation phase, assessment and feedback, and the last standard works with the results of the 4 standards. This will guide the division leaders and school improvement process.

At 7:49 p.m., Mr. Butler 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 and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

At 10:07 p.m., Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Butler seconded to **Reconvene Regular Session.** On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RECONVENE
REGULAR SESSION

Ms. Graham moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Ratify the Board Decision of February 8, 2017 for Student Case No. 01-2018-1617-1** to approve the discipline hearing abeyance agreement for the student to attend RISE through December 31, 2017. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT CASE
NO. 01-2018-1617-1

Mr. Butler moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Adopt the Board's Written Decision to Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance** in Student Case No. 17-20-1617-60 for placement at RISE through June 2017. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT CASE
NO. 17-20-1617-60

Mr. Butler moved, Ms. Graham seconded, to **Adopt the Board's Written Decision to Uphold the Expulsion** in Student Case No. 13-2018-1617-30 through June 2018. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT CASE
NO. 13-2018-1617-30

Mr. Butler moved, Ms. Graham seconded, to **Adopt the Board's Written Decision to Uphold the Expulsion** in Student Case No. 4-2019-1617-31 through June 2018. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT CASE
NO. 4-2019-1617-31

Mr. Butler moved, Ms. Graham seconded, to **Adopt the Board's Written Decision to Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance** in Student Case No. 11-2020-1617-32 for placement at RISE through June 2018. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT CASE
NO. 11-2020-1617-32

Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Adopt the Board's Written Decision to Uphold the Expulsion** in Student Case No. 06-2019-1617-34 through June 2018. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT CASE
NO. 06-2019-1617-34

Dr. Swopes informed the Board that ISC#4 is preparing the Safe Schools Application for the 2017-18 school year and as required each year, he has signed the administrative agreement with R.I.S.E., which does not require Board action.

DR. SWOPES
STATEMENT

At 10:13 p.m., Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Adjourn the Meeting.** On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

President

Secretary