

MINUTES OF A **SPECIAL MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2017**, IN THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES, 465 EAST 170<sup>TH</sup> STREET, SOUTH HOLLAND, ILLINOIS, BEGINNING AT 5:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m. President Lawrence made the following announcement: Any person may record or broadcast an open Board meeting. Recording meetings shall not distract or disturb Board members, other meeting participants, or members. 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 and Whittington answered. Members Gibbs and Williams were absent. Dr. Leotis D. Swopes, Superintendent; Jerry Doss, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Mr. Toriano Horton, Director of Business Operations were also present.

ROLL  
CALL

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION

- Catherine Bendel (Dolton) presented the Board with petitions of 400 signatures against the \$30 million bond issue and for it to be placed on a referendum on the March 20, 2018 ballot. She stated the community should have input.
- Marilyn Russell (Riverdale) stated she and others had no knowledge of the upcoming the bond issue. She asked how it will affect residents' taxes? Mr. Horton explained the taxes will be reduced because of the manner in which the bonds are financed.
- Felita Crayton (Dolton) (1) stated that more clarity was needed but that prior Board meetings did address the upcoming \$30 million bond issue; (2) asked if there will be a band camp for Thornridge this summer; (3) why prom tickets went up from \$125 to \$175; (4) is it Board policy that students cannot attend prom if they have outstanding fines and (5) asked who is the division leadership appearing on today's agenda. Dr. Doss responded: (2) there will be a band camp.
- Edward Crayton (Dolton) thanked and commended the Board members for what they have done over the past two years for the children and communities which they serve. Perhaps a reminder for Board meetings would increase attendance.

At 5:30 p.m., Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington 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.

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

At 6:12 p.m., **Regular Session Reconvened.** On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington answered.

RECONVENE  
REGULAR SESSION

Mr. Fickes provided information regarding the Reduction-in-Force of Teachers and Division Leadership Reorganization, stating that he and the Principals have met extensively and recommend to eliminate the current Area Instructional Leaders including the math, reading and data coaching positions. They favor the Division Leader model which includes hiring five 12-month administrators for each building (15 total). These will not be Faculty Association employees, but administrators who can conduct teacher evaluations. They are confident this change will lead to increased student performance as there will be more instructional monitoring and teacher accountability. The division leaders will be in their respective building the entire day to provide direct support to the teachers, rather than travel between the three schools as provided by the current AIL structure.

REDUCTION-IN-  
FORCE OF  
TEACHERS AND  
DIVISION  
LEADERSHIP  
REORGANIZATION

Mr. Butler moved, Ms. Graham seconded, to **Approve the Resolution Authorizing the Reduction-in-Force of Teachers** as presented by Mr. Fickes; namely, James Drake, Bret Fickes, Jennifer Honeycutt, Barbara James, Katherine Metro-Craig, Cynthia Morris, Veronica Mosley-Raggs, Alfonzo Pearson, Ronald Peterson, Michael Sanders, Michael Skawinski, Jerry Styrsky and Laura Willis-Moss. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
RESOLUTION  
AUTHORIZING  
REDUCTION-IN-  
FORCE OF  
TEACHERS

At 6:15 p.m., Dr. Swopes left the meeting.

DR. SWOPES LEFT  
MEETING

Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the Division Leadership Reorganization** as presented by Mr. Fickes. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
DIVISION  
LEADERSHIP  
REORGANIZATION

At 6:20 p.m., Ms. Graham moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to **Adjourn the Meeting**. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

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President

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Secretary