

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2017** IN THE AUDITORIUM AT THORNTON HIGH SCHOOL, 15001 BROADWAY AVENUE, HARVEY, ILLINOIS, BEGINNING AT 6:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 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, other participants or members of the public. The Board president may designate a location for recording equipment. 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 the next Curriculum Committee meeting will be held on March 16, 2017.

COMMITTEE OF  
THE WHOLE

**Report from Finance Committee:** Mr. Horton reported that a Finance Committee meeting was held on February 28, 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 April 4, 2017.

**Report from Policy Committee:** Dr. Doss reported that the new Board Policy Manual will be presented for approval at tonight's meeting.

**Report from Discipline Committee:** None.

**Report from Facilities Committee:** Mr. Garrett reported that the last Facilities Committee meeting was condensed into the Finance Committee meeting. The next meeting will be held on March 30, 2017 where the capital improvement projects will be discussed in full.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of December 14, 2016.
- Minutes of the Special Meeting and Executive Session of January 5, 2017.
- Minutes of the Special Meeting and Executive Session of January 28, 2017.
- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated February 9 through March 8, 2017.
- Personnel dated March 8, 2017 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations).
- Ratifications:
  - Overnight Field Trip for IHSA Swim Meet at New Trier High School (Thornton students)
  - Overnight Field Trip for IHSA Speech State Finals at Peoria Civic Center (Thornton students)
  - Overnight Field Trip for IHSA Wrestling Tournament at Champaign-Urbana (Thornton students)
  - Overnight Field Trip for IHSA Speech Finals at Peoria Civic Center (Thornridge students)

MINUTES

BILLS

PERSONNEL

RATIFICATION

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

CONSENT AGENDA,  
Con't.

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION

- Felita Crayton (Dolton) 1) asked for the Board Policy regarding denial of a prom ticket if the student has outstanding fees; asked why the price for prom tickets at Thornridge was raised to \$175, and 3) if not a policy, who approved it. She requested a response in writing.
- Edward Crayton (Dolton) asked if there is an investigation in District 205 and if so, asked for the status. The Board responded that it cannot speak in public about any investigations.
- Umar Bey spoke regarding his student. He was invited to address the Board during Executive Session.

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

FOIA

Mr. Arrington presented the following information:

COMMUNICATIONS

- A moment of silence was offered for Yvonne Nesbitt, Fine Arts teacher at Thornridge High School.
- On March 23, 2017 all three bands will perform at the Kindig Performing Arts Center at South Suburban College.
- The celebration of the 1971 and 1972 Thornridge Boys Basketball Team, considered the greatest high school basketball team in Illinois history, was held at Thornridge.
- Thornridge Band was awarded superior and excellent ratings at the IHSA Solo and Ensemble Contest on March 4.
- Thornridge's Speech team had victories at the Eisenhower Regional Tournament.
- Thornridge's Chess team won against Stagg High School.
- Thornridge's Bagpipe newspaper earned three 1<sup>st</sup> place wins in the SWSC Journalism Conference.
- Thornridge Family Career & Community Leaders of America team qualified for state.
- Thornton Boys Basketball team won the regional title against Bloom High School.
- Thornton Girls Basketball Team was named the Chicago Sky High School Team of the Week.
- Mr. Robert Powell was nominated for the 2017 IEA Education Support Professional of the Year Award.
- Guillermo Antolin from Thornton's Wildcats Unified Soccer team was selected to play on the Chicago Fire's All-star team in June at Foxbrough Stadium.
- Thornton Sophisticats finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the IDTA 2AA Hip Hop Division for the state championship in Springfield.
- Thornton Speech team competed at the IHSA state competition. Ira McDowell and Ira Wright are the 2017 IHSA state champs in Humorous Duet Acting.
- Wildcat Band received a Division 1 Superior rating at the IHSA Solo Ensemble Music at Hillcrest High School.
- Thornwood's Special Olympics Rhythmic Gymnastics team received gold medals in the ribbon routine at the regional tournament and will compete at the State competition in June.
- Thornwood's Special Olympics Snowshoe team competed in the Winter Games in Galena and received several medals.
- The District 205 Pre-Pharmacy Program is actively recruiting students for the 2017-18 school year.
- District 205 parents will join the Superintendents Commission of the Study of Demographics & Diversity on March 29 at the Tinley Park Convention Center. Scholarships will be given out at the March 31<sup>st</sup> banquet.
- Jefferson Awards will be held on March 26 at 4:00 p.m. in the Thornton Auditorium.

Mr. Fickes reported that the AVID Program (Advancement Via Individual Determination) began 5 years ago in District 205, and now includes over 250 students and 50 teachers. A video of District 205 AVID students to promote the program was shown and is used when our students visit feeder schools. The AVID Coordinators and students from the three high schools shared their AVID experiences. Students learn, through career-based field trips and valuable strategies throughout all curriculum, the determination to succeed in life beyond high school. AVID students outperform their peers in every academic area. 100% of seniors are on track to graduate and most have already been accepted into a 4-year university, receiving scholarships ranging from \$4,000 to \$40,000.

AVID  
PRESENTATION

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Table the Safety Planning Update** until the April 2017 Board meeting. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

SAFETY PLANNING  
UPDATE

Ms. Graham moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the Security Plan for Safe Passage and Anonymous Safety Tip Line** as presented by Mr. Horton for a safe passage plan and safety tip line using anonymous web text messaging to curb violence and gang activity. The contract term is with Prudential Security for the remainder of the current school year in the amount \$20,000.00 On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
SECURITY PLAN  
FOR SAFE  
PASSAGE AND  
ANONYMOUS  
SAFETY TIP LINE

Mrs. Whittington moved, Ms. Graham seconded, to **Approve the 2017 Summer School Calendar** as presented by Mr. Fickes. Summer School will be held at Thornridge and graduation will be July 18, 2017. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF 2017  
SUMMER SCHOOL  
CALENDAR

Mrs. Whittington moved, Ms. Graham seconded, to **Approve the 2017-2018 School Calendar** as presented by Dr. Doss. First day of school for students is August 16, 2017 graduation is May 20, 2018 and the last day of school is May 25, 2018. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
2017-2018 SCHOOL  
CALENDAR

Mrs. Whittington moved, Ms. Graham seconded, to **Approve the District 205 Board Policy Manual** as presented by Dr. Doss. The policy committee has met over the last 18 months to update the policy consistent with current mandates of the Illinois legislature and the Illinois State Board of Education. Input was received from administration and community, and a public hearing was held. The manual has been on display at the district office since December 2016. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
DISTRICT 205  
BOARD POLICY  
MANUAL

President Lawrence opened the **Public Hearing**, stating the reason to sell \$30 million in funding bonds is to pay outstanding claims against the district, specifically, the alternate revenue bond Series 2017B, which were issued for the purposes of improving the sites of and altering, repairing or equipping school buildings and facilities of the district. Dr. Robert Grossi stated the method of issuing the \$30 million in bonds is common in school districts. He asked for any questions from the Board. There were none. He then asked for any questions from the public, which were as follows:

PUBLIC HEARING  
CONCERNING  
INTENT TO SELL  
\$30,000,00  
FUNDING BONDS

- *When will the \$30,000,000 be paid back?*  
Response: The bonds will be paid back within 7-10 years.
- *What is the impact to taxpayers?*  
Response: The final bond structure has yet to be determined, but it is estimated that taxpayers' annual payments will be lowered from \$9 million to approximately \$7 million.

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Close the Public Hearing Concerning the Intent of the Board of Education of Township High School District 205, Cook County, Illinois, to sell \$30,000,000 Funding Bonds.** On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

Mr. Butler moved, Ms. Graham seconded, to **Approve the Resolution setting forth and describing in detail claims heretofore authorized and allowed for proper school purposes which are presently outstanding and unpaid, declaring the intention to issue \$30,000,000 bonds for the purpose of paying claims against Township High School District Number 205, Cook County, Illinois, and directing that notice of such intention be published as provided by law** as presented by Mr. Horton. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
RESOLUTION  
DECLARING  
INTENT TO ISSUE  
\$30,000,000 BONDS

Mr. Butler moved, Ms. Graham seconded, to **Approve the Resolution authorizing the conditional call of \$30,000,000 of General Obligation School Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2017B of the District, and directing that notice of such call be timely provided to the holders of said bonds** as presented by Mr. Horton for capital projects. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
RESOLUTION  
AUTHORIZING THE  
CONDNTIONAL  
CALL OF THE  
GENERAL  
OBLIGATION  
SCHOOL BONDS

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Approve the Lead Paint Mitigation and Asbestos Abatement Bid** as presented by Mr. Horton be awarded to NES in the amount of \$63,000.00. On roll call, On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
LEAD PAINT  
MITIGATION AND  
ASBESTOS  
ABATEMENT

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Approve to the Stadium Upgrades Phase 1 – Bid Alternate Pricing** as presented by Mr. Horton be awarded to CMM in the amount of \$3,600,170.00. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
STADIUM  
UPGRADES PHASE  
1 – BID ALTERNATE  
PRICING

Dr. Swopes introduced Mr. Noah Riley as a doctoral student under his supervision for the remainder of the school year in the area of Professional Development for principals.

SUPERINTENDENT  
REPORT

The IT Department is working with Dell to enable parents and students to purchase Dell computers at a discount.

Links will be posted on the district website regarding the book *The Perfect Season in Black and White*, which is about the 1971-72 Thornridge championship basketball team.

ISBE has identified Thornwood to administer a Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Students and parents may participate in the survey anonymously.

At 7:53 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;
- 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 Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

At 10:02 p.m., **Regular Session Reconvened.** On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RECONVENE  
REGULAR SESSION

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Authorize Issuance of the Board's Written Decision for Student Case No. 02-19-1617-22** for placement at RISE through December 2017. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT CASE  
NO. 02-19-1617-22

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Authorize Issuance of the Board's Written Decision for Student Case No. 02-19-1617-23** 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. 02-19-1617-23

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Authorize Issuance of the Board's Written Decision for Student Case No. 02-17-1617-25** for placement at Academy for Learning through December 2017. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT CASE  
NO. 02-17-1617-25

Mrs. Whittington moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to **Authorize Issuance of the Board's Written Decision for Student Case No. 05-19-1617-44** for placement at RISE through December 2017. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT CASE  
NO. 05-19-1617-44

Mrs. Whittington moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to **Authorize Issuance of the Board's Written Decision for Student Case No. 15-17-1617-46** for Expulsion through June 2018. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT CASE  
NO. 15-17-1617-46

Mrs. Whittington moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to **Authorize Issuance of the Board's Written Decision for Student Case No. 11-20-1617-47** for placement at RISE through December 2017. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT CASE  
NO. 11-20-1617-47

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Authorize Issuance of the Board's Written Decision for Student Case No. 16-19-1617-48** 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. 16-19-1617-48

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Authorize Issuance of the Board's Written Decision for Student Case No. 12-20-1617-49** 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. 12-20-1617-49

Ms. Graham moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Authorize Issuance of the Board's Written Decision for Student Case No. 13-20-1617-50** for placement at RISE through December 2017. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT CASE  
NO. 13-20-1617-50

Mr. Butler moved, Ms. Graham seconded, to **Authorize Issuance of the Board's Written Decision for Student Case No. 14-19-1617-51** for placement at RISE through December 2017. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT CASE  
NO. 14-19-1617-51

Mr. Butler moved, Ms. Graham seconded, to **Authorize Issuance of the Board's Written Decision for Student Case No. 18-19-1617-53** for placement at RISE through December 2017. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT CASE  
NO. 18-19-1617-53

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Authorize Issuance of the Board's Written Decision for Student Case No. 19-19-1617-54** for placement at RISE through December 2017. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT CASE  
NO. 19-19-1617-54

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Authorize Issuance of the Board's Written Decision for Student Case No. 20-19-1617-55** 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. 20-19-1617-55

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Authorize Issuance of the Board's Written Decision for Student Case No. 14-20-1617-56** for placement at RISE through December 2017. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT CASE  
NO. 14-20-1617-56

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Approve the Resolution Authorizing Non-Reemployment of First, Second and Third Year Probationary Teachers:** Jennifer Faro, Joseph Faron, Gi Han, Afnan Jada, Phillip Kimbrough, Franklyn Magidson, Letitia Muhammad, Theodore Owen, Katina Pearson, Louella Plaxico, Tameika Randle, Ashley Richardson, Tawana Robinson, Erin Rogers, Josh Shaffer, Nicholas Southall and Arlene Stephens. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
RESOLUTION  
AUTHORIZING  
NON-  
REEMPLOYMENT  
OF FIRST, SECOND  
AND THIRD YEAR  
TEACHERS

At 10:13 p.m., Mr. Butler 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

---

President

---

Secretary