

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 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 6:33 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, 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 Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington answered. Members 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. Thomas Walsh, Thornwood Assistant 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 in January where the topics of the SAT exam, proposal for a partnership with Chinese exchange program. The agenda for the March meeting will be forthcoming.

COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE

Report from Finance Committee: Mr. Horton reported that a Finance Committee meeting was held on January 31, 2017. The minutes are posted on the District website. The action items were approved and will be discussed at tonight's meeting. The next Finance Committee will be held on February 28, 2017.

Report from Policy Committee: None.

Report from Discipline Committee: None.

Report from Facilities Committee: Mr. Horton reported that the January 26, 2017 Facilities Committee meeting was cancelled.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes of the Special Meeting and Executive Session of October 4, 2016.
- Minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of November 9, 2016.
- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated January 11 through February 8, 2017.
- Personnel dated February 8, 2017 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations).
- Ratification: Overnight Field Trip for Thornton Dance Team to Bloomington, Illinois

MINUTES

BILLS

PERSONNEL

RATIFICATION

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

- Felita Crayton (Dolton)1) presented a FOIA request for active sponsors and activities at all three schools; enrollments and budgets for Academy for Learning and PEACE Center; 2) asked about the food service bid; 3) asked why the price for prom tickets has escalated, and 4) asked for an explanation for the SRO Memorandum of Understanding.

- Myrtis Brown (South Holland Education Commission) stated that in 2012 the commission was established to provide information and advocate for academic excellence for South Holland schools. There is a voters' forum on March 18, 2017 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the South Holland Community Center for residents to meet the school board candidates running for office on April 4.
- Derrick Conner (Dixmoor) representing Dixmoor Diamondbacks Baseball requested use of the Thornton baseball field from May through August 2017.

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION,
Con't.

Dr. Doss reported that since the last scheduled Board meeting, there have been no Freedom of Information Act requests received.

FOIA

Mr. Arrington presented the following information:

COMMUNICATIONS

- Parent Teacher Conferences will take place on February 16 and 17, 2017.
- Celebrating 50 Years of Diversity and the Jersey Retirement Ceremony from the 1971 and 1972 Thornridge Basketball Teams will be held on February 23.
- Teacher Institute Day on January 30th featured a student-focused agenda, including ACEs and SB100 trainings.
- Thornridge tenor saxophone player Destin Miller was a featured player for the Illinois Music Educators Association All State Honors Orchestra and Ricardo Heard was selected as the alto clarinet player in the ILMEA All State Concert Band.
- Olukayode Adebogun won first place in the Science Fair.
- Francina Urbide won "Best of School" at the South Suburban College Art Student Exhibit.
- Elizabeth Morales qualified to compete at ISU in March for winning 1st place in basketball shooting and passing at Thornwood.
- Thornton's Spin Cats Flag team won 1st place in the AA Tall Flags Category at the Illinois Drill Team Association.
- The Wildcat Speech Team took 2nd place in the Performance in the Round at the Eisenhower Regional Tournament on February 4, including many individual awards.
- Thornwood's Kameesha Smith received a full scholarship to Southern Illinois University.
- The Thornwood Speech Team competed in the Performance in the Round at the Eisenhower Regional Tournament on February 4 and Audrey Mayes and Jada Johnson advanced to the Sectional Tournament.
- Thornwood Thunderbirds Gold Special Olympics Team took the gold medal at the Area Tournament in Evergreen Park High School in January. The team will advance to the state tournament in March.
- Thornwood's Jamiah Shepard is heading to Austria in March as a member of Team USA (Snowshoe) to compete in the Special Olympics Winter World Games.
- Outlook Academy students participate in art class, game design, karate, radio/tv, etc.
- Thornwood science teacher, Mr. Andrew Chidester, spoke about the program and the pre-pharmacy students presented a book, *The Lit Lessons of Life*, to the Board. The book is a product of the 2016 pre-pharmacy summer program at Chicago State University by junior and senior students from District 205.

Mr. Dwayne Bearden, Faculty Association President expressed concerns regarding the safety in the schools, including threats, increasing gang activity and cyber bullying. There is no place for racism in the district. Some issues can and should be handled at the building level based on Board policy and rules in the handbook. Everyone needs to be held accountable for the safety of our students.

FACULTY
ASSOCIATION

Mr. Brett Fickes presented an update on the IB Program. The first District 205 IB class will take assessments this spring. Mr. Bradley Ablin, the IB Coordinator from Thornton High School, introduced the students who talked about their IB experiences. They also presented a video, featuring the advantages of being an IB student. Mr. Ablin presented the IB vision and the benefits of the program. Students have the opportunity to take more advanced classes and possibly obtain college credit; many colleges give preference to students with an IB background. Over \$8 million in college scholarships have been offered to IB students.

INTERNATIONAL
BACCALAUREATE
PROGRAM
PRESENTATION

Mr. Butler moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Approve the School Resource Officer Memorandum of Understanding** as presented by Mr. Fickes for a School Resource Officer shared position between District 205 and ECHO at the PEACE Center to provide immediate response to discipline issues. District 205 will be responsible for \$23.00 per hour, which is one-half of the hourly cost. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
SCHOOL
RESOURCE
OFFICER
MEMORANDUM OF
UNDERSTANDING

Ms. Graham moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the Overnight Field Trip** as presented by Mr. Ratliff for ten Thornton students and two coaches to attend the IHSA chess competition in Peoria, Illinois from February 9-11, 2017. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
OVERNIGHT FIELD
TRIP

Mrs. Whittington moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the Overnight Field Trip** as presented by Mr. Ratliff for 11 Thornton students, two coaches and one parent chaperone to attend the state dance competition in Springfield, Illinois from February 10-12, 2017. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
OVERNIGHT FIELD
TRIP

Mr. Butler moved, Ms. Graham seconded, to **Approve the Issuance Working Cash Bond Resolution (Consideration of a Resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed of \$3.4 Million of working cash fund bonds of the District, providing for the levy of taxes to pay the bonds and authorizing the sale of the bonds to the purchaser thereof)** as presented by Mr. Horton to offset the projected budget deficit. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
ISSUANCE OF
WORKING CASH
BOND RESOLUTION

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Approve the Issuance of Parameters Resolution for Capital Bonds not to exceed \$30,000,000 of general obligation school bonds of the District for the purpose of building and equipping an addition to altering, repairing and equipping school buildings and facilities and improving school sites, providing for the pledge of certain revenues to the payment of the bonds and the levy of taxes to pay the bonds if the pledged revenues are insufficient to make such payment and authorizing the sale of the bonds to the purchaser thereof** as presented by Mr. Horton for completion of much needed capital projects. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
ISSUANCE OF
PARAMETERS
RESOLUTION FOR
CAPITAL BONDS

Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the Certiport Software Purchase** as presented by Mr. Horton for the purchase of the Microsoft Office package for each school for students' use for one year in the amount of \$21,180.00, funded through the Perkins grant. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
CERTIPORT
SOFTWARE
PURCHASE

Ms. Graham moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the Stadium Upgrade Phase 1 Bid** as presented by Mr. Horton be awarded to CMM Group, Inc. in the base bid amount of \$3,443,170.00 which includes replacement of existing bleachers and press boxes at all three schools. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
STADIUM
UPGRADE PHASE 1
BID

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

APPROVAL TO GO
OUT TO BID FOR
FOOD SERVICES

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

APPROVAL TO GO
OUT TO BID FOR
TRANSPORTATION
SERVICES

Ms. Graham moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the Blue Island TIF 2 Extension** for an additional 12 years as presented by Mr. Horton for the purpose of continued economic development. Blue Island will declare an annual surplus of \$150,000.00 of which District 205 will receive approximately \$45,000.00 annually. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
BLUE ISLAND TIF 2
EXTENSION

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Approve the Audit Finding for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015** in the amount of \$38,850.00 as presented by Dr. Swopes, resulting from a Career & Technical Education audit not matching the expenditures with grant revenues. A process is in place to avoid this happening in the future. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; Mr. Banks voted nay; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
AUDIT FINDING
FOR YEARS FY14
AND FY15

Dr. Swopes reported on the School Safety and Security Plan, stating that while there are great things happening in District 205, a safety plan must be put into place to correct behavior of students who do not value their education. A protective environment that is conducive to learning is necessary for all students of the schools. He presented the comprehensive safety plan of Thornridge High School. The Dolton Police Department will support the safe passage of students. There will be greater surveillance before and after school and the support of a resource officer in the school. This plan would be implemented in all three schools and will serve as a model for the future.

SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT

Board Goal #2 is to ensure a safe, supportive, challenging and culturally sensitive learning environment. To support this goal:

- School plans have been developed by administration, law enforcement and others.
- The district has talked to the Faculty Association regarding the building plans being submitted to the District Discipline Committee for additional input.
- Administration has met with our current security company, Prudential, who provided a security presentation to the Board.
- School buildings are working with community and parent groups to ensure safe passage.
- Additional security has been added as a stop gap until our municipal partners can meet our personnel requests.
- Police have increased their patrol parameter around the schools.
- Teachers have been directed to be ever present during passing periods.
- Security guards will be more active on their posts and frequently monitored.
- High activity events, such as athletics, have developed schedules to ensure a higher level of security.
- Detection of cyber bullying and cyber threats are being reviewed.
- Technology capabilities, specifically cameras, will be utilized to the fullest.

Future concerns:

- Provide an assessment and analyze the data of school safety.
- Address the school's procedures for complying with existing policies and procedures related to school safety and the law. For example, Senate Bill 100 which was effective September 2016, requires intervention and not just discipline.
- The comprehensive school safety plan was reviewed regarding attendance rates; suspension/expulsion data; Illinois healthy kids survey; school improvement plan; local law enforcement juvenile crime data, property damage data, etc.
- The safety plan must include high expectations for teachers and students; training and use of common sense by adults; determine the effective use of mental health professionals, community interventions and school resource officers.
- The plan must be evaluated annually.
- Schools must include clear guidelines for personnel.

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Approve the School Safety Plan** as presented by Dr. Swopes. The plan will be updated as needed. The Board suggested a town hall meeting to address the safety of our schools. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
SCHOOL SAFETY
PLAN

At 8:10 p.m., Ms. Graham 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, Whittington and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

At 11:02 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, Ms. Graham seconded, for a **Student to Attend Rise** at the request of the mother. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Adopt the Superintendent's Decision** regarding Clerical Grievance dated Oct. 12, 2016. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

CLERICAL
GRIEVANCE

Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the AFSCME Clerical Employees Collective Bargaining Agreement** for four years to include a 2.25% annual raise. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
AFSCME CLERICAL
EMPLOYEES
AGREEMENT

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Adopt the Board's Written Decision to Deny Grievance No. 112916.** On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Whittington and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

GRIEVANCE NO.
112916

At 11:06 p.m., Ms. Graham moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Adjourn the Meeting.** On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

President

Secretary