

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 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 recording 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. Jerry B. Doss, Assistant Superintendent; 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; Mrs. Maria Brunson, Director of Information Technology; Mr. Tony Ratliff, Thornton Principal; Mrs. Ebonie Williams, Thornridge Principal; Mr. Dennis Willis, Thornwood Principal and Mr. James Petrunaro, legal counsel, were also present.

ROLL
CALL

Report from Curriculum Committee: Mr. Fickes reported that a Curriculum Committee meeting was held on January 9, 2017. Agenda topics included Thornton Township continuing the partnership with D205 to improve student learning; mid-year reports from AVID and IB; last year's improvement on ACT test scores; Outlook Academy and PEACE Center updates; first semester highlights from content area highlights and a discussion regarding 2017 Summer School. International Dynamics presented information for a student/staff partnership with China.

COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE

Report from Finance Committee: Mr. Horton reported that a Finance Committee meeting was held on January 11, 2017. The main topic of discussion was the framework for the deficit reduction plan along with 4 items that are on tonight's agenda for approval. The next Finance Committee meeting will be on January 31, 2017 at District Office.

Report from Policy Committee: Dr. Doss reported that the Policy Committee has not met since the last Board meeting; however, several procedural changes have been made to the draft Board Policy Manual. Changes to Section 7:30 will be presented at tonight's meeting for approval.

Report from Discipline Committee: None.

Report from Facilities Committee: Mr. Garrett reported that at the Facilities Committee held on January 4, 2017. Discussion topics included the indoor air quality reports required annually; vestibules; phase 1 of the stadium upgrades; tuck pointing and roofing going out to bid and bathroom upgrades. The next meeting will be held on January 26, 2017.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of October 12, 2016.
- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated December 15, 2016 through January 10, 2017.
- Personnel dated January 11, 2017 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations).

MINUTES

BILLS

PERSONNEL

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

At 6:42 p.m., Ms. Graham and Ms. Williams joined the meeting.

MS. GRAHAM, MS.
WILLIAMS JOINED
MEETING

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION

- Vanessa Patrick (Dolton) stated that an individual from the Jazz Lincoln Center in New York was not paid in a proper time. Charm Cleaners in South Holland will no longer clean the band uniforms due to non-payment of invoices. She asked why the Thornridge band was denied the opportunity for an HBCU to visit our school for auditions for potential scholarships; yet, the Thornwood gospel choir was allowed to appear on television that same week. Thornridge students deserve the same opportunities. Mrs. Lawrence stated that Principal Williams will follow up with her.

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

FOIA

Mr. Arrington presented the following information:

COMMUNICATIONS

- Teachers' Institute Day is January 30, 2017.
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration will take place at South Suburban College on January 16, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.
- Thornridge students have earned over \$1.5 million in scholarships thus far.
- Thornridge Senior Demetri Woods set a basketball record and was featured in the Daily Southtown.
- The Thornton 2016-17 Stream Team is currently on TheCube.com., broadcasting and streaming live events to the school channel.
- Thornton Boys' Varsity Basketball took 2nd place at the Big Dipper Holiday Tournament at Rich South High School.
- Thornton's Sophomore Boys' Basketball team won 1st place at the Joliet Holiday Tournament.
- Thornwood Basketball team won the State Farm Holiday Classic.
- Mr. Uriel, thanked District 205 for Outlook Academy. Upon graduating, he is now in the armed forces.
- Makiyah Muhammad, Student Board Vice President, received an \$80,000 scholarship to Missouri University.
- Rachel and Rebekah Sanders, Thornton IB students, were accepted to Loyola University with \$88,000 scholarships.
- Twenty-three Thornwood IB Program students have received over \$5.1 million in scholarships.
- Several Outlook Academy students received ACT scores in the mid-20's.
- IB students averaged 22 on ACT tests.
- Twenty-three students participated in the National We Day initiative.
- Twenty-five students raised over \$1000 in the coffee sale to provide food and water for 50 Kenyan families for a month.

Kaylynn Arrington, Public Relations Chairperson, presented the Mid-Year Report of the Student Board. Student Board activities included participation in the 2016 March Against Violence; Harvey Park District and State Rep Will Davis Community Health Fair; volunteered at the Taste of Thornton and Catholic Charities Food Drive; participated in the Village of So. Holland Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, and visited the Art Institute of Chicago to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. She further reported that all seniors on the Student Board applied to at least five colleges by October 1, which is a Student Board requirement. The Curriculum committee did a survey regarding new classes desired and ensured SAT prep for students. The Cafeteria Committee completed one cafeteria check for all three high schools. The Election Committee elected a new representative at large on July 11, 2016 and the PR Committee published an article in the Thornwood newspaper and updated pictures on the district website.

STUDENT BOARD
PRESENTATION

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Approve the Amendment to Policy Section 7:30** as presented by Dr. Doss and recommended by the Policy Committee which provides authority to the Superintendent to approve the placement of students to the PEACE Center program. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Whittington and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
AMENDMENT TO
POLICY SECTION
7:30

Mr. Butler moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Approve the Framework for the Deficit Reduction Plan** as presented by Dr. Rob Grossi to align the district's revenues and expenses to reach a balanced budget within the next two years. For the past 3 years, the district has incurred expenses over revenues of approximately \$6 million in 2015; \$2 million in 2016 and \$4 million in 2017. The declining enrollment has had a huge impact on state revenues. District 205 receives \$106 million per year and spends \$110 per year. He cited the major financial threats to the district: 1) adverse legislation that could become law; 2) State of Illinois financial crisis, 3) possible creation of a charter school and 4) major capital projects that need to be addressed. The goal is to stabilize the fund balances while improving and preserving the quality of education. This will be achieved by analyzing all areas of operations; ensuring expenditures support the District's vision and creating a team who shares the same vision. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Whittington and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
FRAMEWORK FOR
DEFICIT
REDUCTION PLAN

Mrs. Whittington moved, Ms. Graham seconded, to **Approve the Chromebooks Title I Technology Purchase** as presented by Dr. Holmes for the purchase of Chromebooks (14 for Thornton; 13 for Thornridge and 13 for Thornwood) in the amount of \$18,080 funded from Title I for students enrolled in Twilight and Credit Recovery programs. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Whittington and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
CHROMEBOOKS
TITLE I
TECHNOLOGY
PURCHASE

Mrs. Whittington moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the Outlook Academy CTE Technology Purchase** as presented by Mr. Horton for 29 Dell laptops, a charging cart and software in the amount of \$21,810.00. Funds are sourced from the Perkins Grant. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Whittington and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
OUTLOOK
ACADEMY CTE
TECHNOLOGY
PURCHASE

Mr. Butler moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Approve the PowerSchool/Info-Snap Contract Renewal** as presented by Mrs. Brunson for the period December 1, 2016 through November 2017 in the amount of \$17,400.00. This program allows online registration for parents. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Whittington and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
POWER SCHOOL /
INFO-SNAP
CONTRACT
RENEWAL

Mrs. Whittington moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the Infinite Connections, Inc. Contract Renewal** as presented by Mrs. Brunson for the period 2016-2018 in the amount of \$14,500.00 annually. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Whittington and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF E-
RATE CONTRACT
EXTENSION

Mrs. Lawrence stated that Dr. Swopes will return soon from medical leave.

SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT

At 7:15 p.m., Mrs. Whittington 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 9:48 p.m., Ms. Williams moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to **Return to Regular Session.** On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Whittington and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RECONVENE
REGULAR SESSION

Mrs. Whittington moved, Ms. Graham seconded, to **Uphold the Expulsion for Student Case No. 05-2018-1617-12** through June 30, 2017 pursuant to the Board's written decision. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Whittington and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
NO. 05-2018-1617-12

Ms. Graham moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance for Student Case No. 07-20-1617-30** for placement at RISE through December 31, 2017 pursuant to the Board's written decision. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Whittington and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
NO. 07-20-1617-30

Mr. Butler moved, Ms. Williams seconded, to **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance for Student Case No. 10-20-1617-34** for placement at RISE through December 31, 2017 pursuant to the Board's written decision. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Whittington and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
NO. 10-20-1617-34

Mrs. Whittington moved, Ms. Graham seconded, to **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance for Student Case No. 11-19-1617-35** for placement at RISE through December 31, 2017 pursuant to the Board's written decision. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Whittington and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
NO. 11-19-1617-35

Mr. Butler moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Uphold the Expulsion for Student Case No. 10-18-1617-36** through December 31, 2017 pursuant to the Board's written decision. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Whittington and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
NO. 10-18-1617-36

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Uphold the Expulsion for Student Case No. 11-18-1617-37** through December 31, 2017 pursuant to the Board's written decision. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Whittington and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
NO. 11-18-1617-37

Ms. Graham moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Adopt the Board's Written Decision to Deny Grievance No. 091916.** On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Whittington and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

GRIEVANCE NO.
091916

At 9:53 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