

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2016** IN THE AUDITORIUM AT THORNRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL, 15000 SOUTH COTTAGE AVENUE, DOLTON, 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. Recording meetings shall not distract or disturb 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; 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 Petrungaro, legal counsel, were also present.

ROLL
CALL

Report from Curriculum Committee: Mr. Fickes reported that a Curriculum Committee meeting will be held on January 9, 2017. The agenda included mid-year reports from AVID, IB and ACT data.

COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE

Report from Finance Committee: Mr. Horton reported that a Finance Committee meeting was held on December 6, 2016. An update was given on the audit status of the 2009 bond issue and related capital improvement projects. Plans for future capital projects were also discussed. The minutes will be posted on the district website. The next meeting will be January 6, 2017 when a presentation of the district's deficit reduction plan will be given.

Report from Policy Committee: Dr. Doss reported that the administration and Mrs. Whittington met with IASB policy consultant, Mr. Zumpf, to finalize the Board Policy Manual.

Report from Discipline Committee: None.

Report from Facilities Committee: Mr. Garrett reported that the next Facilities Committee will be December 29, 2016. Bleacher bid specs will be discussed.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of August 10, 2016
- Minutes of the Special Meeting and Executive Session of September 7, 2016
- Minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of September 14, 2016
- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated November 10 through December 14, 2016.
- Personnel dated December 14, 2016 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations).
- Overnight Field Trip (Special Olympics State Bowling Finals in Peoria, Illinois)

MINUTES

BILLS

PERSONNEL

RATIFICATION

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

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION

- Darren Robinson stated he and other alumni had concerns about renaming the gym at Thornridge to the Quinn Buckner.
- Edward Crayton (Dolton) asked if it is policy for a student to be denied purchasing a prom ticket if there are outstanding fees. The Board advised him to contact the Thornridge principal.
- Felita Crayton (Dolton) stated it is not Board policy to withhold prom tickets if a student has outstanding fees. She asked for a breakdown of the cost of the prom ticket, as the cost has risen. The Board is supposed to represent the taxpayers. She asked why the band concert cannot be a fundraiser as in the past.
- Natasha McCall spoke on behalf of her brother regarding his expulsion. The Board invited her to address the Board during Executive Session.

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

FOIA

At 6:49 p.m., Mr. Banks joined the meeting.

MR. BANKS JOINED
MEETING

Mr. Arrington presented the following information:

COMMUNICATIONS

- Thornridge Boys Bowling team finished in 2nd place at the ICCP Invite.
- Thornridge Band students Destin Miller and Ricardo Heard participated in the Illinois Music Educators State Conference in Peoria.
- Eleven Thornton students have been named 2016 Illinois State Scholars.
- Thornton's Big Brother Big Sister Organization held the Annual Haunted Hallways in November and the Wildcat Winter Wonderland in December.
- Mr. Ratliff and the Thornton Parent Advisory enjoyed a holiday luncheon in the Thornton cafeteria.
- Thornton Sophisticats dance team placed 1st in the 2AA Hip Hop Division for IDTA dance competition. They qualified for the state championship being held in February.
- Thornwood Special Olympics basketball team took first place at the Thornton High School Invitational.
- The Hispanic Outreach Leadership Association celebrated its first Kermes Program Fair with hundreds of parents and various stakeholders.
- Outlook Academy will graduate 28 students in December and continues to register new students, with a waiting list of 300.

Mr. Butler moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Open the Public Hearing Concerning the Intent of the Board to sell not to Exceed \$3,400,000 of Working Cash Fund Bonds of the District.** On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARING
CONCERNING
INTENT TO SELL
NOT TO EXCEED
\$3,400,000 OF
WORKING CASH
FUND BONDS

Dr. Rob Grossi stated that the \$3,400,000 working cash fund bonds will be used to help close the anticipated deficit gap for this year, partially due to a delay in state revenues. No grant money has been received this fiscal year. This will be short-term borrowing and will retain fund balance reserves so the District is positioned well pending the outcome in Springfield.

Mrs. Lawrence opened the hearing for questions. Mr. Butler stated that as discussed at the Finance Committee meeting, interest rates are expected to increase and the district needs to move forward with the issuance of the bonds.

There were no questions from the public.

At 7:00 p.m., Ms. Williams joined the meeting.

MS. WILLIAMS
JOINED MEETING

Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Close the Public Hearing Concerning the Intent of the Board to sell not to Exceed \$3,400,000 of Working Cash Fund Bonds of the District.** On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Whittington and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARING,
Con't.

Mr. Butler moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Approve a Resolution of Intent to Issue not to Exceed \$3,400,000 of Working Cash Fund Bonds of the District** as presented by Dr. Grossi. The final action to approve the sale will be in February 2017. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Whittington and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
RESOLUTION OF
INTENT TO ISSUE
NOT TO EXCEED
\$3,400,000 OF
WORKING CASH
FUND BONDS

Mrs. Whittington moved, Ms. Graham seconded, to **Approve the 2016 Tax Levy** as presented by Mr. Horton in the amount of \$70,682,000. The increase rate is .7 of 1%. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Whittington and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF 2016
TAX LEVY

Mrs. Whittington moved, Ms. Williams seconded, to **Table the Renaming of the Thornridge Gym to Quinn Buckner Arena, Retirement of 1971 and 1972 Thornridge Basketball Jerseys, Renaming of Thornwood Baseball Field to Gary Lagesse Field and Renaming of Thornwood Softball Field to John Dunlop Field.** The Student Board President, Comfort Abuwa, presented information on this student-led project, stating a hearing was held and although the resolutions were approved, the Student Board referred the matter to the Board of Education. At the July and August 2016 Board meetings, the Board was presented with over 1,000 petition signatures for the renamings. Board policy will be developed regarding criteria for renaming of facilities. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Whittington and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
RENAMING OF
THORNRIDGE GYM,
THORNWOOD
BASEBALL AND
SOFTBALL FIELDS
AND RETIREMENT
OF JERSEYS

Ms. Williams moved, Ms. Graham seconded, to **Approve the Out-of-State Field Trip** as presented by Mr. Ratliff for 15 varsity basketball players and 4 chaperones to attend a "shootout" in St. Louis, Missouri from December 16–18, 2016. The only cost to the district is for meals in the amount of \$1102. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Whittington and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
OUT-OF-STATE
FIELD TRIP

At 7:15 p.m., Ms. Williams left the meeting.

MS. WILLIAMS LEFT
MEETING

Dr. Swopes reported that students need to come to school and return home safely and stressed the need for a comprehensive safety plan, which will require budgetary planning.

SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT

Prudential Security gave a presentation on the anti-gang and violence initiative and provided a video clip of how the system works. Prudential will ensure the following:

A **Command Center** will be in place.

Social media: a digital analyst will monitor Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, Kik and YouTube to prevent violence, gang activity and student endangerment.

Anonymous tip-text line: Students can text message anonymous tips to alert the administration to help prevent bullying, drug use and other dangerous behavior.

Concealed weapon detection: Latest technology in weapons detection that locates and visually indicates threat objects

Safe passage: Route maps for each school will be created to give students a safe route home and officers will monitor routes to and from school.

Town hall meetings: Meetings with community and local law enforcement to share information and create better communication between parents and the school administration. Prudential will lead and coordinate with local law enforcement.

At 7:28 p.m., Mr. Banks 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 and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

At 11:09 p.m., **Regular Session Reconvened.** On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington answered.

RECONVENE
REGULAR SESSION

Mr. Butler moved, Ms. Graham seconded, to **Approve the Resolution Rescinding Reduction-in-Force for Certain Teachers** in Special Education Department, Dena Ousley. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
RESCINDING
REDUCTION-IN-
FORCE FOR
CERTAIN
TEACHERS

At 11:11 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