

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2016** 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 6:32 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 you may be taped.

ANNOUNCEMENT
BY BOARD
PRESIDENT

On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham and Lawrence. Members Gibbs, Whittington and Williams were absent. Dr. Leotis D. Swopes, Interim Superintendent; Dr. Jerry Doss, Director of 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; Mrs. Maria Brunson, Director of Information Technology; Mr. Tony Ratliff, Thornton Principal; Mr. James Walton, Thornridge Principal; Mr. Dennis Willis, Thornwood Principal and Mr. James Petrungaro, legal counsel, were also present.

ROLL
CALL

In the absence of the secretary, Mrs. Lawrence appointed Ms. Nina Graham to act as Secretary Pro Tem.

SECRETARY PRO
TEM

Mrs. Lawrence announced that the first responsibility of the Board is to ensure a safe and secure learning environment. If any parent wishes to address the Board concerning the recent firework incident at Thornwood High School, they may do so.

BOARD PRESIDENT
COMMENTS

Report from Curriculum Committee: Mr. Fickes reported that a Curriculum meeting was held on January 28, 2016. The agenda included reports from the AVID Program; the IB Program which included two students' learning experience; the ACT exam on April 9; the State's possible move to the SAT exam for next year; update on credit retrieval program; PLATO contract extension, Family Reading Night to be held on April 21 at Thornridge and the proposed metal shop program to be housed at Thornton.

COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE

Report from Finance Committee: Mr. Butler reported a Finance Committee meeting was held on February 2, 2016. The approval of a financial advisor; underwriter/placement agency, bond resolution, internal auditor and the snow removal bid were reviewed and are on tonight's agenda. Discussions took place about the preliminaries of the Machine Tool Technology Program costs and the PLATO renewal.

Report from Policy Committee: Mr. Banks stated that several State mandated changes will be made to Board policy regarding discipline.

Report from Discipline Committee: No report.

Report from Facilities Committee: No report.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes of the Special Meeting and Executive Session of November 17, 2015.
- Minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of December 9, 2015.
- Minutes of the Special Meeting and Executive Session of December 28, 2015.
- Minutes of the Special Meeting and Executive Session of January 19, 2016.
- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated January 15, January 22, January 29 and February 5, 2016.
- Personnel dated February 10, 2016 (Resignations, Leave of Absence and Employment) including:
 - Certified employment
 - Elizabeth Iwema, Health Teacher
 - Vince Kasley, PE Teacher
 - Joseph Radecki, Special Ed Teacher

MINUTES

BILLS

PERSONNEL

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

CONSENT AGENDA,
Con't.

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION

- Nick Reid (South Holland) stated his son was one who was suspended at Thornwood. His son called him on Monday. He did not receive a call from the school. He contacted the school, no one called him back. He felt the 10-day suspension was excessive. He asked what steps are being taken in the investigation. Mr. Arrington obtained the parent's information.
- James Petrungaro, legal counsel, reminded the public they have the right to student confidentiality and to discuss the issue with the building principal before bringing it to an open Board meeting.
- Darryl Phillips (South Holland) asked if the Board is familiar with the investigation process used regarding expulsions and suspensions. He was referred to Mr. Arrington.
- Felita Crayton (Dolton) asked: 1) regarding Item C, if there is a plan in place if the district does not meet the enrollment numbers; 2) for an explanation of Item D; and 3) if the policy and discipline committee meetings are open to the public. The Board responded some policies are state law and must be reflected in district policy and student handbooks.
- Robin Glover (Dolton) commented that a better line of communication regarding follow-up is needed with the community and the principal.
- Anthony Williams (Dolton) talked about the water crisis and his recent trip to Flint, Michigan. Legal counsel reminded Mr. Williams that any discussion about an employee should be addressed during executive session.
- Terry Long (Hazel Crest) stated the situation at Thornwood was not handled properly. Her granddaughter should not be suspended for two weeks and it should be cleared from her record. She received no response to her phone calls.

Mr. Doss reported that since the last scheduled Board meeting, there have been two Freedom of Information Act requests completed with none pending. All requests were responded to within the allotted period of time.

FOIA

Mr. Arrington presented the following information:

COMMUNICATIONS

- Parent/teacher conferences will be held on February 11 at Thornridge and Thornton from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. and at Thornwood from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Hours for February 12 will be from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at all three schools.
- SWSC Journalism Conference Results: Fernando Hernandez took 1st place for Layout and Design for the 4 sports page and DeLaura Jordan took 1st place for her feature Sparkle's Review.
- S.A.V.E. volunteers donated toys and cooked dinner at the Ronald McDonald House in Oak Lawn, IL on January 13, 2016.
- Thornridge student, Avonte Lillard, received a check for \$125,000 for enlisting in the U.S. Army.
- Venita Moses was named Thornridge's security officer of the year.
- Baby Beaks Preschool applications are being accepted for the spring semester which begins on February 23, 2016. The cost is \$10.00 per week.
- Thornton teacher, Kevin Martin, was awarded the 2016 Living the Dream award for his outstanding performance as a leading advocate in the areas of education.
- The Thornton Wildcat Spirit Store will open on February 5, 2016.
- 2nd Quarter honor rolls were achieved by 465 students at Thornton.
- Thornton hosted an assembly on behalf of the NFL celebrating the players and their high school communities that positively impacted their game. Guest speakers for Thornton were Senator Napoleon Harris, Antwaan Randle El and Jack Golden.
- Thornton's James Render IV was nominated by Congresswoman Kelly for admission in the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado.

- The Thornton Spin Cats flag team took 1st place in the 2A Tall Flags division for the Illinois Drill Team Association Regional Competition. Deja Cook received the Rising Star award for her performance and will be highlighted on the Association's website.
- The Special Olympics Snowshoe team traveled to Galena to compete in the state winter games, where the athletes took 1st and 2nd place in the events.
- On January 30, 2016 Thornwood hosted the Area 7 Special Olympics Basketball event. The National Honor Society and A Few Good Men students volunteered to assist with the events and athletes.

COMMUNICATIONS,
Con't.

Mr. Butler moved, Ms. Graham seconded to **Approve the Financial Advisor, Crystal Financial**, as presented by Dr. Grossi for school districts to distinguish the roles of a financial advisor and an underwriter in a bond transaction as ruled by the Securities Exchange Commission in July 2014. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham and Lawrence voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
FINANCIAL
ADVISOR

Ms. Graham moved, Mr. Butler seconded to **Approve the Underwriter/Placement Agent, Mesirow Financial**, as presented by Dr. Grossi for school districts to distinguish the roles of a financial advisor and an underwriter in a bond transaction as ruled by the Securities Exchange Commission in July 2014. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham and Lawrence voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
UNDERWRITER/
PLACEMENT
AGENT

Mr. Butler moved, Mr. Banks seconded to **Approve the Resolution for the Issue of Not to Exceed \$2,380,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds, the Levy of Taxes to Pay the Bonds and the Sale of the Bonds to the Purchaser Thereof** as presented by Dr. Grossi. These proceeds will be received in early March 2016 and used for capital projects within the budget, thus freeing up funds to pay for operating expenses and to alleviate the stress within the budget for one year. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham and Lawrence voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
RESOLUTION OF
WORKING CASH
FUND BONDS, ETC.

Mr. Butler moved, Ms. Graham seconded to **Approve the Internal Auditor, Adriane McCoy**, as presented by Mr. Horton to support the new business operations team regarding internal controls as suggested by the district's auditor, Baker Tilly, in the 2015 Annual Financial Report. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham and Lawrence voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
INTERNAL
AUDITOR

Ms. Graham moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Approve the Snow Removal Bid** as presented by Mr. Horton and discussed by the Finance Committee to Rainbow Farms subject to contract preparation. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham and Lawrence voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
SNOW REMOVAL
BID

Mr. Butler moved, Mr. Banks seconded to **Approve the PLATO Contract Renewal** as presented by Mr. Fickes for the period March through July 2016 and discussed at the recent Curriculum and Finance Committee meetings, for a total cost of \$26,999.00. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham and Lawrence voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
PLATO CONTRACT
RENEWAL

Mr. Butler moved, Mr. Banks seconded to **Approve the 2016 Summer School Calendar** as presented by Dr. Doss. First semester will be from June 1 – June 21; second semester will be held from June 22 – July 14. There is no summer school on Fridays. Summer School graduation will be on July 14, 2016. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham and Lawrence voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF 2016
SUMMER SCHOOL
CALENDAR

Ms. Graham moved, Mr. Butler seconded to **Approve the 2016-2017 School Calendar** as presented by Dr. Doss. The first day of school will be August 17, 2016; the last day will be May 26, 2017. Institute Days will be August 15, August 16, October 28, 2016 and January 30, 2017. Parent Teacher conferences will be held October 6 and 7, 2016 and February 16 and 17, 2017. Winter Break will be December 21 to January 3. Spring Break will be March 27 to March 31, 2017. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham and Lawrence voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
2016-2017 SCHOOL
CALENDAR

Mr. Butler moved, Ms. Graham seconded to **Approve the Overnight Field Trip** as presented by Mr. Porter for 5 students and 3 coaches from the Thornwood Special Olympics Team to travel to Palatine High School to compete in the Rhythmic Gymnastics Competition from March 5 to March 6, 2016. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham and Lawrence voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
OVERNIGHT FIELD
TRIP

Ms. Graham moved, Mr. Banks seconded to **Approve the Overnight Field Trip** as presented by Mr. Porter for 14 students and 4 coaches to travel to Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois to participate in the Special Olympics Basketball State Tournament from March 10 through March 13, 2016. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham and Lawrence voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
OVERNIGHT FIELD
TRIP

None.

SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT

At 7:21 p.m., Mr. Butler moved, Mr. Banks seconded to go into **Executive Session** pursuant to Section 2C of the Illinois Open Meetings Act to consider:

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

- Student discipline, 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;
- Collective negotiating matters, and
- Litigation, when an action against the District, 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 and Lawrence voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

At 10:50 p.m., **Regular Session Reconvened.** On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington answered.

RECONVENE
REGULAR SESSION

Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Butler seconded to **Rescind the Morrow Settlement** that was approved by the Board on November 17, 2016. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RESCIND
APPROVAL OF
MORROW
SETTLEMENT

Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Butler seconded to **Approve the Morrow Settlement Agreement** which authorizes the insurance carrier to pay Sixty Thousand (\$60,000) Dollars. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
MORROW
SETTLEMENT

At 10:54 p.m., Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Adjourn the Meeting.** On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

President

Secretary Pro Tem