

MINUTES OF A **SPECIAL MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2015** IN THE IN THE AUDITORIUM AT THORNTON HIGH SCHOOL, 15001 S. BROADWAY AVENUE, HARVEY, ILLINOIS, BEGINNING AT 12:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 p.m. President Lawrence made the following announcement: Any person may record or broadcast an open Board meeting. Special requests to facilitate recording or broadcasting an open board meeting such as seating, writing surfaces, lighting and access to electrical power shall be directed to the Superintendent at least 24 hours before the meeting. Recording meetings shall not distract or disturb Board members, other meeting participants, or members of the public. The Board President may designate a location for recording equipment, may restrict the movement of individuals using recording equipment or may take such other steps as are deemed necessary to preserve decorum and facilitate the meeting. 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 Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington answered. Members Banks, Gibbs and Williams were absent. Mr. Brett Fickes, Director of Curriculum; Mr. Thomas Porter, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; Mr. Jerry Doss, Director of Public Relations; Mr. John Arrington, Director of College and Career Partnerships; Mr. Tony Ratliff, Principal of Thornton High School and Mr. James Petrungaro, Legal Counsel, were also present.

ROLL  
CALL

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION

- LaMarr Miller (Phoenix) stated the Finance Committee made the recommendation regarding the custodial bid and the Board solely cannot make the decision. There could be a cost savings to have district custodial employees rather than outside firms.
- Chlikh Leye (FYI worker) stated since RJB left, the schools are not properly cleaned. Meetings concerning discrimination and sexual harassment were held monthly under RJB and although FYI said meetings would be held, there has not been one meeting.
- Jerrold Alston (Harvey) FYI custodian, stated there are many custodial workers who are loyal and hopes that the new company considers their salaries including health care. They are a part of the Thornton family, want to stay there and be treated fairly. He stated the current contract says the associates would get a raise. This has not happened. Some workers have been at Thornton for over 10 years.

At 12:21 p.m., Ms. Williams joined the meeting.

KIERRA WILLIAMS  
JOINED MEETING

- Felita Crayton (Dolton) asked for the Board's commitment on their election platforms. She has over 200 signatures on petitions asking that all contracts be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder in accordance with State law. She asked the District to be fiscally sound. She asked the Board to move forward with the recommendation of the finance committee.
- Larry Sevier (South Holland) works at Thornridge as a custodian. He stated he will not work for less and in fact needs to make more. The workers have no health insurance and no pay increase in 2 years. The lowest bid is not necessarily the right bid for the people who work in the district.
- Joel Watson (FYI President) spoke on behalf of his company. His company has saved the district over \$800,000 in the last 2 years. FYI has provided the same quality of service as the previous vendor. No one ever complained about FYI's service. FYI provided many services to their employees. He asked the Board to reconsider the bid process.
- Angela Shumpert (Dolton) from RJB Properties. There is no prevailing wage in the State of Illinois for custodians. RJB submitted a responsible bid and pays their workers above minimum wage and includes health benefits. RJB is familiar with the schools and has provided good service over the years.

PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION,  
Con't.

At 12:34 p.m., Mr. Banks joined the meeting.

RAY BANKS JOINED  
MEETING

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Butler seconded to Amend the Agenda to Move the Approval of the Custodial Bid to this time. Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Whittington and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

MOTION TO AMEND  
AGENDA

Ms. Graham moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded to **Approve the Custodial Bid to GCA Education Services, Inc.** Mr. Banks asked who the lowest responsible bidder was. Mr. Charnot responded that he was instructed at the July Board meeting to further investigate the bid for custodial services. After conducting such investigation, he is recommending the bid be awarded to GCA, which is the lowest responsible bidder. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Whittington voted aye; Members Banks and Williams passed; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
CUSTODIAL BID

At 12:36 p.m., Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded to go into **Executive Session**. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Whittington and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

At 1:23 p.m., **Regular Session Reconvened.**

RECONVENE  
REGULAR SESSION

Mr. Butler moved, Mr. Banks seconded to **Approve the Legal Fees Settlement to Tressler LLP** in the amount of \$75,000.00. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Whittington voted aye; Member Williams voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
LEGAL FEES  
SETTLEMENT

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Butler seconded to **Table the Approval of Administrators' Benefits** to the August 12, 2015 Board meeting. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Whittington and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
ADMINISTRATORS  
BENEFITS

Mrs. Whittington moved, Mr. Banks seconded to **Approve the Information Technology Director Contract Agreement for Maria Brunson.** On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Whittington and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF IT  
DIRECTOR  
CONTRACT  
AGREEMENT

Mrs. Whittington moved, Mr. Butler seconded to **Table the Approval of Director of Human Resources & Community Relations Contract Agreement for Jerry Doss.** On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Whittington and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF HR  
DIRECTOR  
CONTRACT  
AGREEMENT

Member Williams asked why her request to advertise for free haircuts in Dolton on the District 205 website was denied because it had been allowed in the past. President Lawrence responded that the District 205 website is not to be used as a form of advertising for businesses. If one business is allowed to advertise, all businesses would have to be allowed the same opportunity.

BOARD MEMBER  
COMMENT

At 1:28 p.m., Mr. Butler moved, Ms. Graham seconded, to **Adjourn the Meeting.** On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Whittington and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

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President

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Secretary