

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2013** IN THE AUDITORIUM AT THORNBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL, 15000 SOUTH COTTAGE GROVE AVENUE, DOLTON, ILLINOIS, BEGINNING AT 6:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Vice President Robinson 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 may be taped.

ANNOUNCEMENT  
BY BOARD VICE  
PRESIDENT

On roll call, Members Crayton, Gibbs, Green, Lawrence, Robinson, and Williams answered. Dr. Stacey D. McJunkins, Interim Superintendent; Mr. Brett Fickes, Director of Curriculum; Mr. Thomas Porter, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; Mr. Tony Ratliff Principal of Thornton High School; Mr. James M. Walton, Jr., Principal of Thornridge High School; Mr. Dennis Willis, Principal of Thornwood High School; Mr. Ken Wendorff, Faculty Association President; Mrs. Debbie Scaletta, Faculty Association Executive Director, Mrs. Susan Glover, District 205 Legal Counsel, and Mr. Rob Grossi of Crystal Financial Consultants, were also present.

ROLL  
CALL

Mrs. Lawrence announced that Dr. Vanessa Kinder, Executive Director of South Cook Intermediate Service Center #4, informed Dr. McJunkins in writing that the 45-day time period for the Board to fill the vacancy created on October 23, 2013 has expired and the vacancy must be filled by Dr. Kinder as the regional superintendent of schools. Therefore, any interviews by the Board for the vacant seat will not take place as stated on tonight's agenda.

BOARD MEMBER  
STATEMENT

Report from Curriculum Committee: Mrs. Williams reported that a Curriculum meeting was held on November 18, 2013 where CEC consultant Mark Van Clay provided a summary report on the needs assessment. The report will be available on the District website. Also reporting at the meeting was Dr. Robert Libka of Attitudinal Dynamics International who described the scope of his academic support audit. The next Curriculum Committee meeting will be scheduled after the holidays.

COMMITTEE OF  
THE WHOLE

Report from Finance Committee: Mr. Robinson reported that there are items on the agenda to be approved this evening.

Report from Policy Committee: A Policy Committee meeting will be scheduled for January 2014.

Report from Discipline Committee: None.

Mr. Crayton requested to sever the November bills from the Consent Agenda and move to New Business.

CONSENT AGENDA:  
REMOVAL OF BILLS  
AND PERSONNEL

Mrs. Lawrence requested to remove Personnel: Approval of Resignations, Leave of Absence and Employment dated December 11, 2013 from the Consent Agenda.

Mrs. Williams moved, Mrs. Gibbs seconded, to **Establish the Consent Agenda** to include the following:

- See Director of Human Resources.
- See Director of Human Resources.

RESPONSE TO  
GRIEVANCE NO.  
101013

RESPONSE TO  
GRIEVANCE NO.  
101513

- See Director of Human Resources.

RESPONSE TO  
GRIEVANCE NO.  
102113

- The minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of October 9, 2013.
- The minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of November 13, 2013.

MINUTES:  
OCTOBER 9, 2013

MINUTES:  
NOVEMBER 13, 2013

Mrs. Williams moved, Mrs. Gibbs seconded, to **Approve the Consent Agenda as Amended.** On roll call, Members Crayton, Gibbs, Green, Lawrence, Robinson, and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

Mr. Robinson stated your name will not be called if you do not list a topic; the topic is not on the current Board agenda or if Public Participation has begun. The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION

- Trayshawn Mitchell (Thornton student): as the President of the Student Board of Education expressed gratitude for the support of the Board of Education, District administration and faculty. He presented the Board with a Student Board portfolio as a token of appreciation.
- Carolyn Eloby-Render (Harvey), President of the Band Booster Club, expressed concern over the suspension any activity of the booster clubs in the District. The Band Booster does more than raise funds; they help the students in practices, parades, etc. She is unclear why the booster clubs were suspended in the first place. Mrs. Williams responded that the booster clubs were not suspended.
- Lynette Mayberry (Dolton) stated that community members have carried on activities as well as parents and that the community members are needed to keep parents and others involved.
- Ercel Mayes (South Holland) stated she applied to become a Board member and asked why she is not being interviewed. Mrs. Lawrence apologized and explained that because the 45-day period had expired, the Board could not interview the candidates for the vacant board seat. Mr. Robinson stated that the Board attempted to hold a special board meeting to interview the candidates but could not obtain a quorum. Mrs. Williams added that there was not cooperation from Board members to interview candidates and that may have been intentional in order to exceed the 45 days.
- Felita Crayton (Dolton) stated that she submitted her letter of interest for the vacant Board seat and received information after the deadline. She stated community members are needed and asked: 1) what is being audited regarding parent coordinators and what is the status, and 2) why is the janitorial service, F.Y.I., using a district van when it was not in the specs? She has asked this question for three months and would appreciate an answer.
- Jeanita Eaves (Harvey) stated that the parent coordinator at Thornton High School works out very well and participation is up. One particular situation should not affect or include all three schools.

Mr. Doss reported that since the last scheduled Board meeting, twelve (12) Freedom of Information Act requests were received and responded to within the allotted time.

FOIA

Mrs. Gibbs moved, Mrs. Williams seconded to **Approve the Minutes of September 11, 2013.** On roll call, Members Crayton, Gibbs, Green, Lawrence, Robinson, and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES:  
SEPTEMBER 11,  
2013

Mrs. Gibbs moved, Mrs. Williams seconded to **Approve the Minutes of August 26, 2013 and September 18, 2013.** On roll call, Members Crayton, Gibbs, Green, Lawrence, Robinson, and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES:  
AUGUST 26, 2013 &  
SEPTEMBER 18,  
2013

Mrs. Williams moved, Mrs. Gibbs seconded to **Approve the District 205 Bills for October 2013.** On roll call, Members Gibbs, Robinson, and Williams voted aye; Members Crayton, Green and Lawrence voted nay, none; motion failed.

APPROVAL OF  
DISTRICT 205 BILLS  
FOR OCTOBER  
2013

Mrs. Williams moved, Mrs. Gibbs seconded to **Approve Personnel: Resignations, Leave of Absence and Employment dated November 13, 2013.** On roll call, Members Gibbs, Robinson, and Williams voted aye; Members Crayton, Green and Lawrence voted nay, none; motion failed.

APPROVAL OF  
PERSONNEL:  
NOVEMBER 13,  
2013

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Gibbs seconded to **Approve the Out-of-State Field Trip** as presented by Mr. Willis for two Thornwood students to travel to Washington, D.C. from November 21-22, 2013 to meet the President of the United States after winning the NFTE (National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship) competition in New York. One student has graduated from Thornwood. This trip was paid for by NFTE at no cost to the district. On roll call, Members Crayton, Gibbs, Green, Lawrence, Robinson, and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
OUT-OF-STATE  
FIELD TRIP

Mr. Rob Grossi presented the 2013 Tax Levy in the amount of \$63,870,000. The tentative tax levy was presented at the November 13<sup>th</sup> Board meeting and has been on display for more than 20 days. It must be filed with Cook County before the end of December. The education, transportation and building funds make up the majority of the tax levy. He presented a breakdown of the total levy amount.

APPROVAL OF 2013  
TAX LEVY AND  
RESOLUTION

The estimated impact to the District is: the tax extension for non-bond and interest funds will increase \$1,150,000 and the tax extension for the bond fund will be unchanged; therefore, the total tax increase is estimated to be approximately \$1,150,000 (approximately 1.6% tax increase). The reason we are asking for a higher amount is due to the uncertainty in our final equalized assessed valuation and new property figures, which will not be known until the summer of 2014. It is estimated that this tax levy will provide an annual increase in taxes of approximately \$15 for a home in District 205 with an \$80,000 market value. In 2011 the District received \$52,000,000 in state and federal revenues; for 2014 it will be about \$38,000,000. The District has decreased expenses by \$8.9 million to offset this decrease. Threats to the District include the shifting of pension obligations from the State to the District, limiting real estate tax growth to 0% when property values decline; decrease in general state aid and the possibility of a charter school coming to the District. If an amount lower than what the District is entitled to is approved, that amount becomes the base for the lifetime of the District.

Mr. Crayton moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded to **Approve the 2013 Tax Levy and Resolution** in the amount of \$63,870,000 as presented by Mr. Grossi, the guideline of which is followed by most school districts. On roll call, Members Crayton, Green and Lawrence, voted aye; Members Gibbs, Robinson, and Williams voted nay, motion failed.

At that time, Mr. Charnot urged the Board to reconsider this critical issue, stating that by this decision, District 205 will lose its funding for the next school year. In response to the Board, he stated a lower rate could be approved but that rate would remain in effect for the life of the school district.

Mr. Grossi was called upon to answer questions. He began by stating that if the tax levy is not approved, District 205 will not last for two years. The District has much financial vulnerability, in particular from the state and federal government. By approving this tax levy, it will raise the probability to maintain the financial and academic stability of the District. The reality is that the government has cut back over \$10 million in funding and soon the District will be deficit spending. The future of school funding has never been bleaker than it is now. Revenue growth throughout the state is near zero.

The vulnerabilities are things such as Special Education and health insurance expenses growing and funding declining. Cuts will need to be made. Increased class sizes will have to occur and there will not be money to put into technology to align with the curriculum. This decreases the probability of students succeeding. The resources for students to get quality education are less than other districts. Unfortunately, the education is on the back of the taxpayers. This is the only option we have. All school districts are losing money.

APPROVAL OF 2013  
TAX LEVY AND  
RESOLUTION, Con't.

Dr. McJunkins stated that there are inequities in the state and federal funding. District 205 is currently seeking other funds through grants. We are relying upon tax dollars. The City of Harvey and District 148 has levied for more than District 205. Mr. Crayton added that drastic cuts will occur now if the levy is not approved. In order to improve the communities, the school district must be strong. Mrs. Williams requested more tax levy options in the future.

Mrs. Gibbs moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded to **Reconsider the Approval of the 2013 Tax Levy and Resolution.** On roll call, Members Crayton, Gibbs, Green, Lawrence, Robinson and Williams voted aye; motion passed.

MOTION TO  
RECONSIDER  
APPROVAL OF 2013  
TAX LEVY AND  
RESOLUTION

Mrs. Gibbs moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded to **Approval of the 2013 Tax Levy and Resolution.** On roll call, Members Crayton, Gibbs, Green, Lawrence, Robinson and Williams voted aye; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF 2013  
TAX LEVY AND  
RESOLUTION

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Green seconded to **Approve the Snow Removal contract Extension** with Sila Maintenance as presented by Mr. Charlot. Mr. Crayton asked for clarification regarding the item going out to bid. Mr. Charlot explained that the extension clause in the current contract will be honored because it is too late to go out to bid for snow removal services. On roll call, Members Crayton, Gibbs, Green, Lawrence, Robinson and Williams voted aye; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
SNOW REMOVAL  
CONTRACT  
EXTENSION

Mrs. Gibbs moved, Mrs. Williams seconded to **Approve the District 205 Bills for November 2013.** On roll call, Members Gibbs, Robinson, and Williams voted aye; Members Crayton, Green and Lawrence voted nay, none; motion failed.

APPROVAL OF  
DISTRICT 205 BILLS  
FOR NOVEMBER  
2013

Mrs. Williams moved, Mrs. Gibbs seconded to **Approve Personnel: Resignations, Leave of Absence and Employment dated December 11, 2013.** On roll call, Members Gibbs, Robinson, and Williams voted aye; Members Crayton, Green and Lawrence voted nay, none; motion failed.

APPROVAL OF  
PERSONNEL:  
DECEMBER 11,  
2013

Mr. Fickes spoke about of the sense of loss on the passing of Nelson Mandela, whose accomplishments were remarkable. He spent a lifetime trying to end apartheid and racial discrimination in South Africa, even enduring 27 years in prison in an unjust system. He is credited with uniting the South African people and their country. Mandela was devoted to education and knew that collective education for all children had the power to end old hatreds and that our children are the hope for the future. District 205 is constantly working to provide our students with the knowledge, skills and resources not only to realize individual success, but to understand their role in shaping our future society and world.

SUPERINTENDENT  
REPORT

Dr. Michael Sanders, English, Reading and Library Sciences Area Instructional Leader, gave a presentation on the English department. He acknowledged the Literary Coaches, Laurel Ransom at Thornton, Michael Skawinski at Thornridge and Jennifer Honeycutt at Thornwood.

The following courses are required by all students.

English I - Writing intensive – revamped to align with common core  
English II - Reading intensive – revamped to align with common core  
English III - PSAE intensive  
English IV - Research intensive

SUPERINTENDENT  
REPORT, Con't.

All seniors take Advanced Composition and Research the first semester and choose from the following for second semester: British Literature; World Humanities; Multicultural Literature; Shakespeare, and Creative Writing. Shakespeare continues to be very popular. The major difference between the PSAE and PARCC exam is that PARCC is a very writing intensive exam. The PSAE is objective in nature.

He provided the ECRA writing assessment which showed substantial growth in all three schools. While this is acceptable, the growth actually needs to be accelerated. All District 205 freshmen take Reading which is broken down into three courses for different grade equivalents. READ 180 services 135 sophomores across the District; there has been enormous growth in this program. He reviewed the Literacy Professional Development Plan and the top five strategies implemented. Writing support is available to students for all classes. He will have more information at the next curriculum meeting.

At 7:54 p.m., Mrs. Gibbs moved, Mrs. Williams seconded to go into **Executive Session** pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act to consider student disciplinary matters; the appointment of employment, compensation, discipline or dismissal of specific employees of the public body and litigation. On roll call, Members Gibbs, Robinson and Williams voted aye; Members Crayton, Green and Lawrence voted nay, none; motion failed.

EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

Mrs. Williams moved, Mrs. Gibbs seconded to **Table the Student Discipline Case No. 05-TT-1314-01.** On roll call, Members Crayton, Gibbs, Green, Lawrence, Robinson and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

MOTION TO TABLE  
STUDENT  
DISCIPLINE CASE  
NO. 05-TT-1314-01

At 7:56 p.m., Mrs. Gibbs moved, Mrs. Williams seconded, to **Adjourn the Meeting.** On roll call, Members Crayton, Gibbs, Green, Lawrence, Robinson and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

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President

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Secretary