

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 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. President Williams 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
PRESIDENT

On roll call, Members Gibbs, Green, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams answered. Member Crayton was absent. Mr. John Arrington, Acting Superintendent; Mr. Brett Fickes, Director of Curriculum; Mr. Thomas Porter, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; Mrs. Maria Brunson, Director of Information Technology; 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 and Mr. Frank Garrett, District 205 Legal Counsel, were also present.

ROLL
CALL

At 6:40 p.m., Mr. Crayton joined the meeting.

MR. CRAYTON
JOINED MEETING

Mr. Grossi opened the **2013-2014 District 205 Budget Public Hearing** by stating the District is operating within a balanced budget and provided a recap of the tentative budget presented at last month's Board meeting. The budget has been on display for more than thirty (30) days as required by law, since the August 14, 2013 Board meeting. Revenues will continue to decrease annually. Fifty-eight percent of revenue comes from real estate taxes; 24% from general state aid; 6% from restricted state funding; 6% from restricted federal funding and 6% from other local funding. The District continues to decrease expenditures, anticipating decreasing revenues (over \$7 million over the past three years). Budgeted revenues are \$106,467,000; budgeted expenses are \$106,408,000. Three major threats facing the District's future budgets are shifting of teacher pension costs from the state to the District, the state changing the transportation reimbursement formula and the creation of a charter school.

2013-2014 DISTRICT
205 BUDGET
PUBLIC HEARING

The Public Hearing was then opened for questions. Questions from the audience were answered by Mr. Grossi:

Jacqueline Franklin (South Holland) asked for clarification of the total budget amount. The total budget of \$106,467,000 does not include \$10 million for construction projects that were funded by a \$50 million bond issue in 2008.

Felita Crayton (Dolton) asked what changed from the tentative budget? Estimated revenues from the state changed; additional needs for special education. Where is the \$5 million shown that the District would lose from a grant? In 2011 the District received \$4.5 million in federal grants; \$3.6 million in 2012, a little amount in 2013 and nothing for this year. These were one-time grant amounts from President Obama's stimulus plan for school Districts. Does the tentative budget show the number of students reported? District has roughly 5000 students; spends a little more than \$20,000 per student. Special Ed is significantly more. \$11 million is spent for Out-of-District Special Ed services.

Shantee Hall (Harvey) is pleased the District has a balanced budget and requested a copy of Mr. Grossi's presentation. Mr. Arrington obliged to her request.

John Arrington (Acting Superintendent) asked if the state is cutting the regular transportation reimbursement to school Districts. Mr. Grossi responded that this year it will remain the same. Next year it may be cut.

Bernadette Lawrence (Board member) asked for clarification about the non-recurring federal grants. Most of the funds are from Title I; the stimulus grants included a job stimulus program to preserve jobs within school Districts.

Mrs. Gibbs moved, Mr. Robinson seconded, to close the **Public Hearing of the 2013-2014 District 205 Budget**. On roll call, Members Crayton, Gibbs, Green, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

Mrs. Williams moved, Mr. Robinson seconded to **Approve the 2013-2014 District 205 Budget and Resolution** as presented by Mr. Grossi.

APPROVAL OF
2013-2014 DISTRICT
205 BUDGET AND
RESOLUTION

Mr. Robinson moved, Mrs. Williams seconded to **Table the Approval of the 2013-2014 District 205 Budget and Resolution**. On roll call, Members Gibbs, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; Members Crayton and Green voted nay; Member Lawrence passed; motion passed.

MOTION TO TABLE
2013-2014 BUDGET
AND RESOLUTION

Mr. Williams stated that a Special Board meeting will be scheduled to pass the budget after it has been reviewed by the Finance Committee.

At 6:51 p.m., Mrs. Gibbs moved, Mr. Robinson 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 Crayton, Gibbs, Green, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

At 9:45 p.m., the meeting **Reconvened to Regular Session**. On roll call, Members Crayton, Gibbs, Green, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams answered.

RECONVENE
REGULAR SESSION

Report from Curriculum Committee: Mrs. Williams stated that a meeting will be held in the near future.

COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE

Report from Finance Committee: Mr. Robinson stated a Finance Committee meeting was held and an item was put on the agenda.

Report from Policy Committee: None.

Report from Discipline Committee: None.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- The minutes of the Special Meeting and Executive Session of August 14, 2013.
- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated August 16, August 23, August 30 and September 5, 2013.
- Resignations: See Director of Human Resources.
- Leave of Absence: See Director of Human Resources.
- Employment: See Director of Human Resources.
- Agreement for Employment Matter No. 2013-1 and related Unfair Labor Practice Charge filed by the IEA.
- AFSCME Local 3335 Memorandum of Agreement.

MINUTES:
AUGUST 14, 2013

BILLS

RESIGNATIONS

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

EMPLOYMENT

PERSONNEL

PERSONNEL

On roll call, Members Crayton, Gibbs, Green, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA,
Con't.

Mr. Fickes reported that since the last scheduled Board meeting, three (3) Freedom of Information Act requests were received and responded to within the allotted time.

FOIA

Mr. Fickes presented the following information:

COMMUNICATIONS

- Four Thornridge students received the PSAE award for exceeding the Illinois Learning Standards in reading; 22 students exceeded or met scores in all categories; 48 students met the standard in reading; 11 met the standard in science and 41 met the standard in mathematics.
- Thornridge Falcon Football team stats made the Southtown Star sports page.
- Thornridge FCCLA will host a pledge to never text and drive on September 19 during lunch periods.
- Thornridge Student Council will host the Back to School Gym Jam on September 13.
- Thornton Alumnae International artist Charles Jean-Pierre and radio/tv personality Quentin "DJ Que Eleven" Wright, returned to Wildcat Country on August 30 and spoke with students and former teachers.
- C-SPAN Tour Bus visited Thornton on September 5 for students and staff.
- Thornton Wildcat Marching Band will participate in the Harvey Back to School Parade on September 14.
- WGCI Radio will host their Friday Night Football School spirit event at Thornton on September 13.
- Thornwood Girls Varsity Cross Country were champions at the Hillcrest Invite; Boys team placed second. In all, Thornwood brought home 11 medals and 8 ribbons.
- Thornwood Varsity Football defeated Rich South with a score of 28-12.
- Thornwood Girls Varsity Volleyball defeated Eisenhower on September 4.
- Thornwood Girls Varsity and Sophomore Volleyball defeated Southland College Prep.
- On September 5, 44 teachers and administrators received initial training in the International Baccalaureate Program.

Upcoming Events:

Sept. 18	Late Start
Sept. 19-25	CEC Site Visits
Sept. 25	South Suburban College, College & Career Expo
Sept. 26	Parent Teacher Conferences
Sept. 27	Parent Teacher Conferences
Oct. 7	Finance Committee Meeting
Oct. 8	Student Board of Education Meeting
Oct. 9	Late Start
Oct. 9	Board of Education Meeting

Mr. Robinson moved, Mrs. Williams seconded to **Approve the Deletion of the Current Nepotism Policy** as presented by Mr. Arrington. On roll call, Members Crayton, Gibbs, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; Member Green voted nay; Member Lawrence passed; motion passed.

DELETION OF
NEPOTISM POLICY

Mrs. Gibbs moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to **Approve the 2013-2014 Application for Recognition of Schools** as presented by Mr. Arrington. Every year, school Districts must submit a Board-approved application to be recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education based on compliance with staffing, school improvement planning and instructional programming. On roll call, Members Crayton, Gibbs, Green, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
2013-2014
APPLICATION FOR
RECOGNITION OF
SCHOOLS

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Williams seconded, to **Approve the Appointment of the IMRF (Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund) Agent** as presented by Mr. Arrington due to the vacancy in the Director of Business Operations position. Mr. Arrington shall serve in the capacity as IMRF Agent until a permanent Director of Business Operations is selected. On roll call, Members Crayton, Green, Lawrence, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; Members Gibbs and Robinson voted nay; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
IRMF AGENT

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Williams seconded to **Adopt a Resolution to Deny the Urban Prep Academy Proposal.** On roll call, Members Crayton, Gibbs, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; Member Green passed; motion passed.

RESOLUTION TO
DENY URBAN PREP
ACADEMY
PROPOSAL

Mr. Ken Wendorff, Faculty Association President addressed the Board. He stated that the District needs to prioritize solutions to move forward. Concerns include staff members being paid incorrectly, hiring of teachers and other important positions being delayed; crucial planning for the start of school not occurring and costly litigation against the District. The Board of Education needs to hire the most qualified professionals for the key positions. The deletion of the nepotism policy sends the wrong message to the community. For the third consecutive year, the budget was presented by Mr. Grossi, a consultant, because the District does not have a business manager. He asked the Board to do what is right for the students.

FACULTY
ASSOCIATION

Mr. Williams stated that for the last 5 years the District has not met AYP. The Faculty Association should not be concerned about what the Board of Education is doing but rather what is going on in their classrooms. The Board in its discretion has the right to delete policies. The District must employ the best qualified individuals. He spoke as a parent and commended teachers for the education his daughter has received at Thornton. He asked that Mr. Wendorff assist the Faculty Association and reminded him that it should be about the students. Mr. Wendorff took objection to Mr. Williams' comments and stated he will address the Board at a future date with his rebuttal.

BOARD PRESIDENT
COMMENTS

Mr. Arrington informed the Board their packet included information regarding Phase One of the Curriculum Audit for their review.

SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT

Mr. Williams 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

- Felita Crayton (Dolton) appreciated the Board changing the nepotism policy. She passed out invitations to the Induction Ceremony for parents and community members next Thursday. She asked: 1) Was the contract for FYI maintenance services approved by the Board? Mr. Arrington responded yes. She stated there were serious issues over the past weekend concerning FYI and charged the Board to take a close look at who the District is doing business with; 2) Did everyone employed at the security company get an increase under the prevailing wage act? and 3) Do we have an audit advisor or a Curriculum advisor? Mr. Williams directed Mr. Arrington to provide her with the requested information.

Mrs. Williams moved, Mr. Robinson seconded to Approve the Recession of the Previous Termination Action and Acceptance of the Voluntary Resignation of Administrator A as discussed in Executive Session. On roll call, Members Crayton, Gibbs, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted nay; Member Green passed; motion failed.

APPROVAL OF
RECESSION OF
PREVIOUS
TERMINATION
ACTION, ETC.

Mrs. Williams moved, Mr. Robinson seconded to **Approve the Agreement and Release between Administrator A** and the Board of Education as discussed in Executive Session.

APPROVAL OF
AGREEMENT AND
RELEASE

At 9:53 p.m., Mrs. Green moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to **Adjourn the Meeting.** On roll call, Members Crayton, Gibbs, Green, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

President

Secretary