

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2013** IN THE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER AT THORNWOOD HIGH SCHOOL, 17101 SOUTH PARK AVENUE, SOUTH HOLLAND, 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 Crayton, Green, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams answered. Members Gibbs 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 6:34 p.m., Mrs. Gibbs joined the meeting.

MRS. GIBBS
JOINED MEETING

Report from Curriculum Committee: None.

COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE

Report from Finance Committee: Mr. Robinson reported that the Finance Committee met and there are items on today's agenda to be approved.

Report from Policy Committee: Mrs. Williams reported that a Policy Committee meeting was held on August 9, 2013. The topics discussed were student discipline policy; discipline guidelines/suspensions; nepotism policy; athletic eligibility proposal; community relations; booster club/parent organizations; capitalization policy, and an upcoming compliance visit conducted by ISC#4. The next Policy Committee meeting will take place sometime in September.

Report from Discipline Committee: Mrs. Green reported that the Discipline Committee met and discussed suspensions, expulsion hearings and Restorative Justice and hopefully to make it policy in the near future.

Mrs. Williams moved, Mr. Robinson seconded, to **Approve the Consent Agenda**. Mr. Williams requested the Approval of Rescind Retirement of August 14, 2013 be moved to the New Business section of this agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

- The minutes of the Special Meeting and Executive Session of May 11, 2013.
- The minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of a Special Workshop of May 28, 2013.
- The minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of July 11, 2013.
- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated July 11, July 25, July 31 and August 8, 2013.
- Resignations: See Director of Human Resources.

MINUTES:
MAY 11, 2013

MINUTES:
MAY 28, 2013

MINUTES:
JULY 11, 2013

BILLS

RESIGNATIONS

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

CONSENT AGENDA,
Con't.

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

- Dominique Thomas-Green and three representatives from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, a State Financial Aid Agency, offered services for students seeking post-secondary education in the District 205 schools.
- Ken Wendorff (Faculty Member) stated that District 205 has been challenged within the last few years to provide quality education to students. The school board is now deleting a long-standing policy which provides truth, trust and transparency in school district operations to the community and staff. This policy is designed to protect against insider hiring and is important in instilling trust. At a time when community trust is so important, he urged the Board to direct their attention toward issues that instill trust such as quality education initiatives, upgraded facilities to special education students and enhanced Professional Development to strengthen the faculty. If the Board focused on unity and trust to move the district forward, it would be doing a great service to all.
- Felita Crayton (Dolton) shared with the Board a book ordered by the parent advisory which promotes community involvement to help students succeed. She asked: 1) what is the status of the capital improvements, specifically bathrooms, 2) where is the money being allotted to from recent budget cuts of 5 or 6%? The Board will get back to her.
- Kimberly Brown (Dolton) asked the Board to be mindful of their decisions that affect taxpayers' money and to allow individuals the Board hires to complete their term to avoid an unnecessary expense.
- Vivienne Williams (Dolton) asked about Booster Club rules, specifically that items for sale should be housed at the school and not at a personal residence. Money collected has not been turned in and this should be investigated.

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

- A public meeting will be held regarding a proposal for Urban Prep Charter School to enter the District 205 boundaries on August 19, 2013 at 7:00 p.m., Thornridge High School.
- August 16, 2013 is Teacher Institute Day at Thornridge.
- Summer School Graduation included 66 students participating in the ceremony. Guest speaker Senator Napoleon Harris addressed the graduates.
- Thornridge students participated in the FCCLA (Family Career & Community Leaders of America) National Competition in July in Nashville. Two Thornridge students received awards.
- Thornton High School Marching Band participated in the Bud Billiken Back to School Parade.
- Thornton High School conducted a Summer Motivation Camp for 30 academically and socially struggling males transitioning to their sophomore year.
- Thornton High School held its annual Wildcat Bash Ice Cream Social with a great turnout.

- Thornwood graduate Robert Blissit earned a preferred walk-on position for the University of Cincinnati's baseball team. He is Thornwood's first Division I baseball player in many years.
- At Thornwood, the Civil Air Patrol will be class embedded in 2013-2014.
- Thornwood held a Summer Fest on July 24. Vendors, universities, banks and others contributed to the success of the event.
- Academy of Truck & Diesel Technology Summer Interns who completed their second year in the program gained 80 hours of hands-on work experience by partnering with several companies.
- Eight District 205 Culinary Arts students traveled to Italy for 8 days with the Culinary Arts teachers to learn about Italian cuisine and culture.

COMMUNICATIONS,
Con't.

Upcoming Events:

August 16	Teacher Institute Day
August 19	First Day of School, Freshmen only
August 20	First day of School, All students
August 29	Back to School Night for all schools
Sept. 10	Student Board of Education Meeting
Sept. 11	Board of Education Meeting

Mr. Robinson moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded to **Approve the Rescind Retirement Requests (2)**. On roll call, Members Crayton, Green and Lawrence voted aye; Members Gibbs, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted nay, motion failed.

APPROVAL OF
RESCIND
RETIREMENTS

Mr. Robinson moved, Mrs. Gibbs seconded to **Approve the Rescind Retirement Request (1)** of August 14, 2013. On roll call, Members Crayton, Green and Lawrence voted aye; Members Gibbs, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted nay, motion failed.

APPROVAL OF
RESCIND
RETIREMENT

Mr. Grossi presented a summary of the District's financial operations (excluding capital projects) from fiscal year 2011 through 2014. The projected budgeted amounts for 2013-14 are:

PRESENTATION OF
TENTATIVE 2013-
2014 BUDGET

- Budgeted revenues \$106,467,000
- Budgeted expenses \$106,408,000

Total revenues have decreased significantly from 2011 through 2014, from nearly \$119 million to \$106 million for 2013-14. The decline in general state aid and declining enrollment are major factors. Currently, nearly 30% of the District's funds come from the State. The tentative budget is projected at a slight surplus, but is subject to change. Financial threats include the shifting of teacher pension costs from the state to the district (estimated impact is \$1.7 million per year); the state changing the transportation reimbursement formula (estimated impact is \$1.1 million per year) and the creation of a charter school (estimated impact is \$4.4 million per year). The Board discussed the current student registration status of each building and the impact of a charter school.

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Williams seconded, to **Approve the CEC Phase 1 Agreement** as presented by Mr. Fickes. An extensive overview of the work CEC (Consortium for Educational Change) will provide was presented at the July Curriculum meeting. A representative from CEC responded to questions from the Board. The partnership requested is for a one-year period. On roll call, Members Crayton, Green, Gibbs, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF CEC
PHASE 1
AGREEMENT

Mr. Robertson moved, Mrs. Gibbs seconded to **Approve the Thornridge Lighting Project** as presented by Mr. Arrington to go out to bid, the estimated cost being approximately \$125,000.00. On roll call, Members Crayton, Green, Gibbs, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
THORNRIDGE
LIGHTING PROJECT

Mr. Fickes presented **Changes to the Athletic Eligibility Requirement** as discussed at the August 9th Policy Committee meeting which was supported by the Area Instructional Leader for Athletics/Physical Education and the Athletic Directors. The policy will sit for thirty (30) days for review and will be presented at the next Board meeting.

APPROVAL OF
CHANGES TO
ATHLETIC
ELIGIBILITY
REQUIREMENT

Mr. Arrington stated that the current **Nepotism Policy** will sit for thirty (30) days for review and will be presented at the next Board meeting.

APPROVAL OF
DELETION OF
CURRENT
NEPOTISM POLICY

Mrs. Gibbs moved, Mr. Robinson seconded to **Approve the Rescission of the Security Bid Award** by American Heritage as presented by Mr. Arrington. On roll call, Members Crayton, Green, Gibbs, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL TO
RESCIND AWARD
OF SECURITY BID

Mr. Robinson moved, Mrs. Williams seconded to **Approve the Release of the Bid Bond** of American Heritage as presented by Mr. Arrington. On roll call, Members Crayton, Green, Gibbs, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
RELEASE OF BID
BOND

Mrs. Gibbs moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded to **Approve the Security Services Bid to U.S. Security Services, Inc.** as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. On roll call, Members Crayton, Green, Gibbs, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
SECURITY
SERVICES BID

None.

SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT

At 7:38 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 Crayton, Gibbs, Green, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

At 9:46 p.m., Mrs. Gibbs moved, Mrs. Williams seconded to **Reconvene to Regular Session.** On roll call, Members Crayton, Gibbs, Green, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RECONVENE
REGULAR SESSION

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