

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 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 Green, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams answered. Members Crayton and Gibbs were absent. Mr. John F. Thomas, Superintendent; Mr. Brett Fickes, Director of Curriculum; Mr. Thomas Porter, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; Mr. Jerry Doss, Director of Public Relations; Mrs. Maria Brunson, Director of Information Technology; Mr. Tony Ratliff, Principal of Thornton Township 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

Report from Curriculum Committee: No report.

COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE

Report from Finance Committee: Mr. Williams reported that Finance Committee meeting agenda items will be presented for approval at this meeting.

Report from Policy Committee: No report.

Report from Discipline Committee: No report.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- The minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of April 10, 2013.
- The minutes of the Special Meeting and Executive Session of May 7, 2013.
- The minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 7, 2013.
- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated March 15, March 22, March 29, April 5, April 12, April 19, April 26, May 2, May 9, May 17, May 24, May 30 and June 6, 2013.
- Resignations: See Director of Human Resources.
- Retirement: See Director of Human Resources.
- Leave of Absence: See Director of Human Resources.
- Employment: See Director of Human Resources.

MINUTES:
APRIL 10, 2013

MAY 7, 2013

MAY 8, 2013

BILLS

RESIGNATIONS

RETIREMENT

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

EMPLOYMENT

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

None.

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION

Mr. Doss reported that since the last scheduled Board meeting, seven (7) Freedom of Information Act requests were received and responded to within the allotted time.

FOIA

Mr. Doss presented the following information:

COMMUNICATIONS

- Thornwood Business Team will compete in New York in the National Business Competition this fall.
- Congratulations to the second graduating class of the Thornton Township Academy of Truck & Diesel Technology. The graduation rate is above 98%.
- Congresswoman Robin Kelly visited Thornton Township High School on May 24, 2013. She also was the keynote speaker for Thornton's 2013 graduation.

Mr. Robinson moved, Mrs. Williams seconded to **Approve the Neopost Contract** as presented by Mr. Thomas for the bulk mailing machine for a three-year period in the amount of \$15,588.00. On roll call, Members Green, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
NEOPOST
CONTRACT

The Faculty Association will present the scholarship at the July Board meeting.

RAY PRICE
MEMORIAL
SCHOLARSHIP

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Williams seconded to **Ratify the Overnight Field Trip** as presented by Mr. Ratliff for 10 students and five chaperones to travel to Eastern Illinois University to participate in the 2013 Boys' State Track Tournament from May 23-25, 2013. On roll call, Members Green, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RATIFICATION OF
OVERNIGHT FIELD
TRIP

Mr. Robinson moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded to **Ratify the Overnight Field Trip** as presented by Mr. Walton for 11 students and three chaperones to travel to Eastern Illinois University to participate in the 2013 Boys' State Track Tournament from May 23-25, 2013. On roll call, Members Green, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RATIFICATION OF
OVERNIGHT FIELD
TRIP

Mr. Robinson moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded to **Approve the Out-of-State Field Trip** as presented by Mr. Walton for Thornridge Senior Phillip Thompson to compete in the New Balance Outdoor Track National Competition on June 14-16, 2013 at North Carolina A&T University in Greensboro, North Carolina. One teammate and two coaches will accompany Phillip, who was the State Champion in the Triple Jump at the IHSA State Outdoor Track Meet. On roll call, Members Green, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
OUT-OF-STATE
FIELD TRIP

Mr. Robinson moved, Mrs. Green seconded to **Approve the Overnight Field Trip** as presented by Mr. Doss for 14 Student Board members and two chaperones to travel to Eastern Illinois University to participate in an Illinois Teen Institute experience that prepares students for the rigors of service on the Student Board. The trip will be from July 21-25, 2013. On roll call, Members Green, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
OVERNIGHT FIELD
TRIP

At 6:45 p.m., Mr s. Gibbs joined the meeting.

MRS. GIBBS
JOINED MEETING

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Green seconded to Approve the **Life Safety Amendment** as presented by Mr. Doss which will improve the District's chance to obtain the \$50,000 School maintenance Grant. On roll call, Members Gibbs, Green, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF LIFE
SAFETY
AMENDMENT

Mrs. Gibbs moved, Mr. Robinson seconded to **Approve the Special Olympics State Finals Competition** as presented by Mr. Porter for 26 special education students and 16 adults to attend the state competition to be held at Illinois State University from June 14-16, 2013. On roll call, Members Gibbs, Green, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
SPECIAL OLYMPICS
STATE FINALS
COMPETITION

Mr. Robinson moved, Mrs. Williams seconded to **Approve the Auditing Firm Agreement of Legacy Professionals** as presented by Mr. Thomas to audit the financial statements and annual financial report for the year ending June 30, 2013. The fee proposal provides for the same amount as last year, which was \$45,000.00. The Finance Committee recommends approval of this Agreement. On roll call, Members Gibbs, Green, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
AUDITING FIRM
AGREEMENT

Mr. Robinson moved, Mrs. Williams seconded to **Approve the Property Tax Appeal Board (PTAB) Resolution** as presented by Mr. Thomas to allow Robbins, Schwartz, Nicholas, Lifton & Taylor, Ltd. to intervene in the District's PTAB cases. Legal counsel will represent the District in appeal proceedings regarding assessed values of properties located within District 205 boundaries. The Finance Committee recommends approval of this Resolution. On roll call, Members Gibbs, Green, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
PROPERTY TAX
APPEAL BOARD
RESOLUTION

Mr. Robinson moved, Mrs. Williams seconded, to **Approve the 2013-2014 Prevailing Wage Act Resolution** as presented by Mr. Thomas. The resolution is an annual activity required of all public bodies in Illinois. The Finance Committee recommends approval of this Resolution. On roll call, Members Gibbs, Green, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
PREVAILING WAGE
ACT RESOLUTION

Mrs. Gibbs moved, Mr. Robinson seconded to **Go Out to Bid For Security Services** as a result of the June 3, 2013 Finance Committee meeting.

APPROVAL TO GO
OUT TO BID FOR
SECURITY
SERVICES

Mrs. Lawrence moved to **Table the Security Services Bid**. There was no second.

On roll call, Members Gibbs, Green, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; Member Lawrence voted nay; motion passed.

Mr. Robinson moved, Mrs. Williams seconded to **Go Out to Bid For Custodial Services** as a result of the June 3, 2013 Finance Committee meeting.

APPROVAL TO GO
OUT TO BID FOR
CUSTODIAL
SERVICES

Mrs. Lawrence moved to **Table the Custodial Services Bid**. There was no second.

On roll call, Members Gibbs, Green, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; Member Lawrence voted nay; motion passed.

Jennifer Lavigne, Faculty Association Representative, arrived at the meeting late due to weather conditions and presented the Ray Price Memorial Scholarship to three graduates who will enter college to become teachers. They are: Tawana Brown from Thornridge; Shifa Vhora from Thornton and a Student Board Member and De'ja William from Thornwood. All three graduates aspire to become math teachers. The Board congratulated the recipients.

RAY PRICE
MEMORIAL
SCHOLARSHIP
PRESENTATION

Mr. Thomas presented a review of the 2012-2013 school year. Some of the highlighted District-wide results are:

SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT

Attendance is 91.2%; graduation rate is 69%; mobility rate is 17.4%; dropout rate is 2.1%. The suspension rate has decreased by 29%. The declining enrollment is an issue that needs to be addressed. Forty-three percent of freshmen entered below grade level and the District has not made AYP. Of significance is the fact that just recently Thornton School District 154 requested a detachment from District 205 to send their high school students to Homewood Flossmoor District 233. If granted, District 205 will lose \$2.9 million in tax revenue. Mr. Thomas will visit to District 154 to address the issue.

Mr. Thomas reviewed the EPAS, Explore and Preliminary ACT scores. It appears that the composite for the ACT will be 17, which it has not been in 8 years. He reviewed the strategic plan to accomplish the District goals. There are approximately 25 strategies for each of the four goals. He explained the seven District Focus categories which are: instruction; instruction delivery; instructional assessment; remediation and accelerated learning; professional development for teacher continuous improvement, leadership and resources to support implementation. All departments have developed missions and strategies to meet the goals aligned with the Board goals.

SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT, Con't.

Accomplishments of the Curriculum department include the Joint Institute Day with the feeder schools; implementation of the evaluation cycle; total revision of the Curriculum handbook; new programs with South Suburban College and Chicago State University; parent and community academy, Latino awareness committee and others. Innovative programs include AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) and College and Career Pathways.

Other topics were focus walk-throughs for the Student Board; parent community training, keeping up with technology (online registration) and Professional Development for staff and administration. The Google Chrome Book is an initiative for incoming freshman which would eliminate textbooks. Online research can be done for Career Cruising to allow students to do research to plan for college and careers. The Public Relations Department has created a bill board to garner the thought process for students to enter District 205 schools.

Mr. Thomas gave a summary of the financial picture of the District and responded to questions from the Board. General State Aid and transportation funding will decrease. The declining enrollment and real estate taxes affect the future revenues dramatically.

At 7:40 p.m., Mr. Robinson moved, Mrs. Williams seconded to go into **Executive Session** for the purpose of discussing student discipline, employment, compensation discipline or dismissal of specific employees and personnel. On roll call, Members Gibbs, Green, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

At 10:33 p.m., Mr. Robinson moved, Mrs. Green seconded to **Return to Regular Session**. On roll call, Members Gibbs, Green, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RECONVENE
REGULAR SESSION

Mrs. Green moved, Mrs. Gibbs seconded to **Table the Student Discipline Case Nos. 3B-1213-08 and 3H-1213-09** until further review. On roll call, Members Gibbs, Green, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE

Mrs. Gibbs moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded to Approve the Recommended Action on Administrator A as discussed in Executive Session. On roll call, Members Gibbs, Green, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADMINISTRATOR A
ACTION

Mr. Robinson moved, Mrs. Williams seconded to Approve the Recommended Action on Administrator B as discussed in Executive Session. On roll call, Members Gibbs, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; Member Lawrence voted nay; Member Green passed; motion passed.

ADMINISTRATOR B
ACTION

At 10:37 p.m., Mrs. Gibbs moved, Mr. Robinson seconded, to **Adjourn the Meeting**. On roll call, Members Gibbs, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; Member Lawrence voted nay; Member Green passed; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

President

Secretary