

MINUTES OF A **SPECIAL MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2013** AT THORNWOOD HIGH SCHOOL, 17101 SOUTH PARK AVENUE, SOUTH HOLLAND, ILLINOIS, BEGINNING AT 12:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. On roll call, Members Crayton, Gibbs, Green, Lawrence, K. Williams and T. Williams answered. Member Robinson was absent. Mr. John F. Thomas, Superintendent, was also present.

ROLL
CALL

Mr. Crayton apologized to the public for the calling of this Board meeting, stating it was a non-emergency meeting. Public Participation was moved to occur after agenda action items were voted on and the Board had previously agreed to place Public Participation before voting took place. The public has a right to be heard and the agenda should not be changed which could stifle the public's comment.

STATEMENT BY
BOARD MEMBER
CRAYTON

Mr. Crayton moved, Mrs. Green seconded that Public Participation Item 7 be advanced to Item 4 on today's agenda. On roll call, Members Crayton, Green and Lawrence voted aye; Members Gibbs, K. Williams and T. Williams voted nay; motion failed.

Mrs. Gibbs moved, Mrs. Williams 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.

MINUTES:
APRIL 10, 2013

The setting of regular Board meeting dates on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at rotating school locations, through June 15, 2015.

REGULAR BOARD
MEETING DATES

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

At approximately 12:15 p.m., Mr. Robinson joined the meeting

MR. ROBINSON
JOINED MEETING

Mrs. Gibbs moved, Mrs. Williams seconded, to **Terminate Legal Services of Grasso-Bass PC, Tressler LLP and Formeller & Formeller** with specific directives read by the Board President. The Board requested information on the subject in order to make an educated vote.

TERMINATION OF
LEGAL COUNSEL

Mrs. Green moved, Mr. Crayton seconded to **Table the Termination of the Legal Services of Grasso-Bass PC, Tressler LLP and Formeller & Formeller** until the June regular Board meeting in order for the Board to receive and review information regarding the selection of new legal counsel. The Board has not discussed the replacement of the current legal counsel and should not proceed with this vote until all Board members have reviewed information to make an educated vote. On roll call, Members Crayton, Green and Lawrence voted aye; Members Gibbs, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted nay; motion failed.

MOTION TO TABLE

Mr. Crayton repeated that there was no Board discussion regarding the appointment of new legal counsel and cautioned the Board that to appoint new legal counsel today is in violation of Board Policy, the Illinois School Code and the Oath of Office all Board members took when they were sworn in after the election. Money should be spent on the education of the students in this community, not legal fees and contractual obligations for dismissed employees.

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

The assignment of committees by the Board President was made as follows:

BOARD
COMMITTEE
ASSIGNMENTS

Curriculum & Technology	Mrs. Gibbs and Mrs. Williams
Discipline	Mrs. Green and Mr. Robinson
Finance & Facilities (Bldgs & Grounds)	Mr. Williams and Mr. Robinson
Public Relations/Board Goals & Policies	Mrs. Gibbs and Mrs. Williams
Negotiations	Mr. Williams, Mr. Robinson and Mrs. Gibbs

SCOPE (2 meetings per year)	Mr. Crayton and Mrs. Lawrence
IASB (2 meetings & one convention)	Mrs. Green and Mrs. Williams
Student Board	Mrs. Williams and Mr. Robinson

BOARD
COMMITTEE
ASSIGNMENTS,
Con't.

Mrs. Lawrence stated that she requested to be on the Curriculum Committee, which request was not honored.

At 12:25 p.m., Mr. Robinson moved, Mrs. Gibbs seconded to go into **Executive Session**. On roll call, Members Gibbs, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; Members Crayton, Green and Lawrence voted nay, motion passed.

At 2:28 p.m., Mrs. Williams moved, Mrs. Gibbs seconded to **Return to Regular Session**. On roll call, Members Crayton, Gibbs, Green, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RETURN TO
REGULAR SESSION

At 2:35 p.m., Mrs. Williams moved, Mrs. Gibbs seconded to Reconvene 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

Mrs. Williams moved, Mrs. Gibbs seconded to **Appoint Attorneys Andrew Finko, P.C., Robbins Schwartz, Kyra Payne and Brandon Loggins** to represent District 205. Member Crayton stated that three of the four law firms recommended have represented Mr. and Mrs. Williams in personal litigation. Mrs. Green repeated that she needs more information to make an informed vote. Mrs. Lawrence requested more attorneys to choose from who are experienced in school law. The District 205 Board should not be divided and should work together for the community. On roll call, Members Gibbs, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; Members Crayton, Green and Lawrence voted nay; motion passed.

APPOINTMENT OF
ATTORNEYS

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

- Lena O'Lidge (Dolton) 1) asked why there is a rush to appoint new attorneys, and 2) stated she hopes the Board's commitment is to the children and community, not their personal agenda. Mr. Williams responded: 1) it is due to the reorganization of the Board.
- Felita Crayton (Dolton) 1) asked for a letter of apology from Mr. Williams concerning the presence of security at the meeting; 2) stressed that the Board consists of 7 members; 3) personal attorneys' fees should not be paid by District funds, and 4) intimidation is out of order and the public will hold him accountable.
- Don Peelman (Glenwood) spoke about a \$10 million project with 100 jobs for a major grocery store to be built at 147th & Dixie Highway in Harvey. The developer is requesting a 12-year TIF extension.
- Rev. Donald Luster (Dixmoor) asked the District for a letter of support for the TIF extension.

At 3:04 p.m., Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Green 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