

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2012** IN THE STUDENT CAFETERIA 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 Banks, Burton, Crayton, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams answered. Mr. John F. Thomas, Superintendent; Mr. John Arrington, Director of Human Resources; 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; Mrs. Debbie Scaletta, Faculty Association Executive Director and Mr. Anthony Bass, District 205 Legal Counsel, were also present.

ROLL
CALL

Report from Curriculum Committee: No report.

COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE

Report from Finance Committee: Mr. Robinson stated there is one item on the agenda for this meeting.

Report from Policy Committee: No report.

Report from Discipline Committee: No report.

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

MR. BANKS JOINED
MEETING

Mr. Crayton moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Approve the Consent Agenda** excluding Personnel: Employment dated July 11, September 12, October 10, November 9 and December 6, 2012, which includes:

CONSENT AGENDA

- Regular Meeting of October 10, 2012.
- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated October 11, October 18, October 26, November 1, November 8, November 15, November 21, November 30 and December 6, 2012.
- Personnel: Resignations and Leave of Absence dated July 11, September 12, October 10, November 9 and December 6, 2012.

MINUTES:
OCTOBER 10, 2012

BILLS

On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

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

- Joyce Miller (South Holland) 1) asked for documentation supporting specific line items within the budget; 2) stated a full audit needs to be performed for 2011 and/or 2012, and 3) asked what process is in place to check student residency issues. Mr. Thomas responded: 1) Mr. Doss will arrange an appointment with her to review the budget items; 2) An annual financial review is being done at the present time and 3) truancy officers are in place to check student residency.

- Rev. Landry (South Holland) spoke about college advancement. Free practice ACT testing will be available in January 2013 at the South Holland Public Library. He proposed a mandatory application to South Suburban College for all District 205 seniors in order to understand and deal with student loans.
- Felita Crayton (Dolton) asked: 1) when Curriculum and Safe and Secure Committee meetings will take place; 2) stated there are still complaints about the food service; 3) asked if the student handbook is on the website; 4) what is the status of restorative justice in the 3 buildings, and 5) stated the graduation rate for students entering South Suburban College should be looked at (in light of Rev. Landry's proposal). Mrs. Williams responded: 1) Curriculum and Policy meetings will be scheduled for January; Mr. Thomas responded: 3) the idea will be addressed, and 4) restorative justice is successful at Thornton and several proposals have been made to the Board which will be taken to the Finance Committee.
- Lena O'Lidge (Dolton) asked how the Athletic Director of Thornridge was chosen. Mr. Williams directed her to speak to the Principal of Thornridge.

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION,
Con't.

Mr. Doss reported that since the last Board meeting, fourteen (14) Freedom of Information Act requests were received and responded to within the allotted time.

FOIA

Mr. Burton moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Approve the Out-of-State Field Trip** as presented by Mr. Ratliff for 28 cheerleaders to participate in the Champion Spirit Group Nationals in the Wisconsin Dells from January 25-27, 2013. The cost of the trip is \$228 per person which will be paid through fundraisers and a donation from the Academic Enrichment Foundation of \$1500. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
OUT-OF-STATE
FIELD TRIP

Mr. Burton moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Approve the 2012 Tax Levy** as presented by Mr. Grossi in the amount of \$63,001,000.00, representing a 4.9% increase. The tax levy was presented at the November Board meeting and has been on display for more than 30 days. There have been no changes and no inquiries on the levy presented. Although the request is for a 4.9% increase, the District will not receive more than a 3% increase. This is the standard procedure for all school districts to ensure the 3% increase is received. The levy will decrease \$1.5 million relative to the bond interest fund. The total tax increase is estimated at \$300,000.00 or .5%. The increase to the average taxpayer/homeowner is approximately \$7.00.

APPROVAL OF 2012
TAX LEVY AND
RESOLUTION

At the request of the Board, Mr. Grossi also presented a 1% tax levy increase. As a financial advisor to District 205, his goal has been to put the District in the best possible financial position in order to survive the state-wide financial crisis facing all school districts. The district has reduced expenses by more than \$10 million over the past 3 years and increased fund balances while many surrounding districts have decreased fund balances. He talked about the decrease of future funding from grants and general state aid due to the District's declining enrollment. School Boards and school districts must position themselves to survive financial threats with the least possible impact to the students. He talked about pending legislation regarding shifting pension burdens to school districts; the possibility of a charter school entering the district which would be a devastating cost the district of \$7 million and that the district must operate with \$14 million less than in 2012 and continue to rely on local resources to balance the budget. It is challenging to be able to provide quality education and keep all three buildings open. Mr. Grossi recommends approving the levy that will allow the maximum. School districts need a solid plan and vision to navigate through an extended fiscal crisis to ensure that the community will always have quality teachers, programs and facilities for their children. Passing the 1% levy will reduce funds to the District by \$1.2 million. The impact to the average homeowner would be \$15.00; \$12.00 for senior citizens.

Mr. Crayton moved, Mr. Banks seconded, for **Leave of the Body to go to the Public** for questions concerning the tax levy. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

MOTION FOR
LEAVE OF THE
BODY

Question: If we do not accept the levy of 3%, would the District have to cut programs?

Response: The District would be more vulnerable. A 3% increase would be \$7 per homeowner; \$5 or \$6 for seniors. A 1% would be a \$8 savings (\$15 difference and \$12 difference for seniors).

MOTION FOR
LEAVE OF THE
BODY, Con't.

Statement: People will move because of the taxes and that an audit is in order. Some school programs could be adjusted.

Question: Is the difference \$15.00 per year?

Response: Yes.

Mr. Burton moved, Mr. Banks seconded to Close the Public portion of the meeting. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

MOTION TO CLOSE
PUBLIC PORTION
OF THE MEETING

On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Robinson, T. Williams and K. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF 2012
TAX LEVY AND
RESOLUTION, Con't.

Mr. Burton moved, Mr. Banks seconded to **Approve the Appointment of the IMRF (Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund) Agent.** Mr. John Thomas will become the IMRF Agent representing District 205. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL FOR
APPOINTMENT OF
IMRF AGENT

Mr. Burton moved, Mr. Banks seconded to **Approve the Corporate Authorization Resolution** as presented by Mr. Thomas. The resolution is required by MB Financial Bank to change the signatory authority to Mr. Thomas and Ms. Heather Buller, Coordinator of Business Services. The bank is currently acting in good faith in the absence of a business manager, who is typically a signatory. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton and Crayton voted aye; Members Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted nay; motion failed.

APPROVAL OF
CORPORATE
AUTHORIZATION
RESOLUTION

Mr. Crayton moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Approve the Snow Removal Bid.** On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
SNOW REMOVAL
BID

Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Burton seconded to **Approve the District Improvement Plan Process and School Improvement Plans Process as Combined Agenda Items F & G** as presented by Mr. Fickes. The plans are mandated by the State of Illinois. The plans were received Board approval last year and approval is again required for the 2012-13 school year; said approval merely acknowledges that the District is working with Rising Star consultants. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
DISTRICT
IMPROVEMENT
PLAN PROCESS &
SCHOOL IMPROVE-
MENT PLANS
PROCESS

At 7:35 p.m., Mr. Crayton moved, Mr. Burton seconded to go into **Executive Session** for the purpose of discussing student discipline, employment grievances and personnel. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

At 11:46 p.m., Mr. Williams moved, Mr. Banks seconded to **Return to Regular Session.** On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RETURN TO
REGULAR SESSION

Mr. Burton moved, Mr. Robinson seconded to **Approve the Student Discipline Case Nos. 1AC-1213-01; 1HHS-1213-02; 1HHS-1213-03; 3HHS-1213-03 and 3AC-1213-05** as recommended by the Hearing Officers. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE

Mr. Burton moved, Mr. Banks seconded to **Deny Grievance No. 091012** as presented by the Faculty Association. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

EMPLOYEE
GRIEVANCE
No. 091012

Mr. Burton moved, Mr. Banks seconded to **Partially Deny and Partially Affirm Grievance No. 091712** as presented by the Faculty Association. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

EMPLOYEE
GRIEVANCE
No. 091712

Mr. Burton moved, Mrs. Williams seconded to **Continue Grievance No. 101812** to the January 2013 Board meeting. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

EMPLOYEE
GRIEVANCE
No. 101812

Mr. Williams stated **Grievance No. 101912-1** was withdrawn from the agenda due to the union filing to take the matter to arbitration.

EMPLOYEE
GRIEVANCE
No. 101912-1

Mr. Williams stated **Grievance No. 101912-2** was withdrawn from the agenda due to the union filing to take the matter to arbitration.

EMPLOYEE
GRIEVANCE
No. 101912-2

At 11:56 p.m., Mrs. Williams moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Adjourn the Meeting**. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

President/Presiding Member

Secretary/Recording Secretary