

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2013** IN THE AUDITORIUM AT THORNTON HIGH SCHOOL, 15001 BROADWAY AVENUE, HARVEY, ILLINOIS, BEGINNING AT 6:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Vice President Crayton 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 VICE
PRESIDENT

On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton and Robinson answered. Member K. Williams and T. Williams were absent. Mr. John F. Thomas, Superintendent; 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. 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. Crayton reported that two items will be presented for approval at this meeting.

Report from Policy Committee: No report.

Report from Discipline Committee: No report.

At 6:33 p.m., Mr. Robinson left the meeting.

MR. ROBINSON
LEFT MEETING

Mr. Burton moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Approve the Consent Agenda**. At that time, a quorum no longer existed.

CONSENT AGENDA

At 6:35 p.m., Mr. Williams joined the meeting

MR. WILLIAMS
JOINED MEETING

Mr. Williams requested the Personnel portion of the Consent Agenda be removed.

CONSENT AGENDA,
Con't.

At 6:37 p.m., Mr. Williams left the meeting.

MR. WILLIAMS LEFT
MEETING

At 6:38 p.m., Mr. Robinson joined the meeting.

MR. ROBINSON
JOINED MEETING

On roll call, Members Banks, Burton and Crayton voted aye; Member Robinson voted nay, motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA,
Con't.

Mr. Crayton 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

- Nina Graham (South Holland) requested a meeting with Mr. Thomas and Mr. Willis regarding the firing of the assistant coach for the varsity football team and the unprofessional behavior of the principal of Thornwood. Mr. Thomas agreed to advise the Board when the meeting is scheduled.

At 6:41p.m., Mr. Williams joined the meeting.

MR. WILLIAMS
JOINED MEETING

- Richard Gilbert (Dolton) requested to meet with the Board. He agreed to schedule a meeting with the Superintendent.
- Lena O'Lidge (Dolton) asked Mr. Williams if the Board is practicing as a democracy because her question as to how the current athletic director was chosen remains unanswered. Mr. Williams responded he could not answer the question because she has a lawsuit pending against him. She directed her question to the rest of the Board. The Board instructed her to speak to the Superintendent in view of the litigation or request to speak to the Board during Executive Session as it is a personnel matter.

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION,
Con't.

At 6:44 p.m., Mrs. Williams joined the meeting.

MRS. WILLIAMS
JOINED MEETING

- Felita Crayton (Dolton) 1) asked the Board how the Thornridge Athletic Director was chosen over what the 9-person panel had selected and demanded the Board appoint the individual chosen by the panel; 2) stated petitions have been signed for Sodexo not to be considered for their food service contract extension and requested a meeting to address the issue; 3) reminded the Board that the 7 members represent 13 communities. Mr. Thomas agreed to a meeting with the student board regarding their food service complaints.

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION,
Con't.

Mr. Doss reported that since the last scheduled Board meeting, one (1) Freedom of Information Act request was received and responded to within the allotted time.

FOIA

Mr. Doss presented the following information:

COMMUNICATIONS

- Thornridge Speech Team placed in the top three at the Speech Sectional Tournament on February 9 and will compete in the state competition in Peoria on February 15-16, 2013.
- Thornridge Family, Community and Career Leaders of America placed in the top three at the FCCLA regionals on February 6 and will compete in the state competition in Springfield on April 18-20, 2013.
- Thornridge school spirit week included a performance by the Jesse White Tumblers and a visit from Jesse White.
- Principal Ratliff congratulated Thornton sophomore Kris Williams who won his second consecutive State Wrestling Championship. He is the first Thornton wrestler to achieve this accomplishment in 54 years.
- Thornton Speech Team placed 3rd overall in the Sectional Competition and advanced to the IHSA State Finals.
- Thornton Community Service: New General of Men participated in the "Blessings in a Backpack" at Washington Elementary School in Harvey where they filled backpacks with food and read to the students. The Junior Achievement students read to students at Sandburg Elementary School in Harvey.
- Thornwood Brandon Sapp will compete in the IHSA State Speech Finals in Poetry Reading in Peoria on February 7-8, 2013.
- Superintendent John F. Thomas will hold a community forum on the District 205 strategic planning and goals at the Phoenix Village Hall on March 19, 2013.
- Thornwood Booster Club will host a flea market and craft show on March 23.
- Black History Month Program will be held at Thornton on March 24.
- Spring Break begins on March 29 through April 5, 2013.
- Student Board of Education Meeting is April 9 at Thornton High School.
- Board of Education Meeting is April 20 at Thornton High School.

Mr. Burton moved, Mr. Banks seconded to **Approve the Employment dated July 11, September 12, October 10, November 9 and December 6, 2012, and January 9, 2013.** On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton voted aye, Members Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted nay, motion failed.

APPROVAL OF
EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Robinson moved, Mr. Banks seconded to Approve the Ratification of the following field trips that have already occurred:

RATIFICATION OF
FIELD TRIPS

Overnight Field Trip – Thornridge Speech Team
Overnight Field Trip – Thornwood Speech Team
Overnight Field Trip – Thornton Speech Team
Overnight Field Trip – Thornton Chess Team
Overnight Field Trip – Thornton Cheerleaders
Out-of-State Field Trip – Thornton College Tour
Overnight Field Trip – Thornton Wrestling Team

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

Mr. Burton moved, Mr. Robinson seconded to **Approve the Youth Government Day Field Trip** as presented by Mr. Doss for 13 students and three chaperones to travel to Springfield, IL to attend Youth Government Day 2013 on April 13. There is no cost to the District for this trip. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
YOUTH
GOVERNMENT DAY
FIELD TRIP

Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Williams seconded to **Open the Public Hearing of the 2013-2014 School Calendar Waiver**. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARING
OF THE 2013-14
SCHOOL
CALENDAR WAIVER

Mr. Tom Porter presented the following: The State of Illinois designates Abraham Lincoln's birthday on February 12 as a school holiday. In order to celebrate Presidents' Day instead of Lincoln's Birthday, a public hearing must be held. The hearing was then opened for questions.

Question: What was done last year?

Response: Presidents' Day was observed as a school holiday.

Question: What days do the dates fall on for the upcoming year?

Response: February 12, 2014 is a Wednesday.

Question: There is concern of the amount of holidays during February.

Response: Many working parents are off on Presidents' Day and not Lincoln's Birthday. Most corporations and government offices throughout the country do not celebrate Lincoln's Birthday; it is an Illinois holiday.

Question: Would both holidays be celebrated?

Response: No. Presidents' Day would be celebrated on Monday, February 17. On February 12, curriculum items relative to Lincoln's Birthday must be provided to students.

Question: Was Presidents' Day created to celebrate both Washington and Lincoln's Birthdays?

Response: Yes.

Mr. Williams moved, Mr. Burton seconded to **Close the Public Hearing of the 2013-2014 School Calendar Waiver**. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

Mr. Williams moved, Mr. Burton seconded to **Approve the 2013-2014 School Calendar** as presented by Mr. Porter. The first day of school will be August 16, 2013; the last day will be June 3, 2014. Easter is April 20, 2014. PSAT testing occurs April 23 and 24, which would normally be during Spring Break. Mr. Porter explained that a waiver would be required to change the PSAT testing dates. Administration recommends and the Faculty Association supports holding Spring Break the last week of March. The Board directed administration to attempt to collaborate with feeder schools to hold Spring Break simultaneously. Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Robinson seconded to **Table the Approval of the 2013-2014 School Calendar** to the April 10, 2013 Board meeting. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF THE
2013-2014 SCHOOL
CALENDAR

Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Burton seconded to **Approve the 2013 Summer School Calendar** as presented by Mr. Porter. The first semester of Summer School would begin on Monday, June 10 and end on June 27, 2014; second semester would begin on July 8 and end on July 25, 2014. Summer school will not meet on Fridays except for the first Friday. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF 2013
SUMMER SCHOOL
CALENDAR

Mr. Burton moved, Mr. Crayton seconded to **Approve the 2013 Spring and Summer Asbestos Removal Bid** as presented by Mr. Thomas. The Finance Committee recommends the bid be awarded to the lowest bidder, Safe, in the amount of \$417,201.00. Tria Architecture representative Mr. Tom Szurgot responded to questions from the Board regarding the particulars of the asbestos removal. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF 2013
SPRING AND
SUMMER
ASBESTOS
REMOVAL BID

Mr. Burton moved, Mr. Williams seconded to **Approve the Thornton Band Uniform Bid** as presented by Mr. Thomas. The Finance Committee recommends the bid be awarded to the sole bidder DeMoulin Brothers and Company in the amount of \$49,794.00. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
THORNTON BAND
UNIFORM BID

Mr. Ken Wendorff, Faculty Association President addressed the Board regarding the state of the District and school improvement. He stated that the school board needs to stop tabling agenda items, and that their number one priority should be to move the students forward. He emphasized the need for a full-time Business Manager and Human Resources Director. He questioned the effectiveness of the Pearson Group and stated the entire faculty should be involved in school improvement. What worked in the past is no longer working. There are currently 60 initiatives throughout the district. That number should be reduced in order to increase focus and effectiveness. Better collaboration and plan implementation could be better achieved by bringing back departments within the buildings. He urged the Board to recognize the work of the faculty and their willingness to take different approaches.

FACULTY
ASSOCIATION

1:10:00

At 7:44 p.m., Mr. Burton moved, Mr. Williams 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 9:38 p.m., Mr. Williams moved, Mrs. Williams 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.

RECONVENE
REGULAR SESSION

Mr. Williams moved, Mr. Burton seconded to **Approve the Student Discipline Case No. 1F-1213-01** for reinstatement with time served to Thornton High School. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
NO. 1F-1213-01

Mr. Burton moved, Mr. Williams seconded to **Approve the Student Discipline Case No. 2H-1213-01** for reinstatement with time served to Thornridge High School. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
NO. 2H-1213-01

Mr. Burton moved, Mr. Williams seconded to **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance for Student Case No. 2H-1213-07** for the remainder of the 2012-2013 school year and the 2013-2014 school year and recommended placement in R.I.S.E. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
NO. 2H-1213-07

Mr. Williams moved, Mr. Burton seconded to **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance for Student Case No. 2H-1213-08** for the remainder of the 2012-2013 school year and the 2013-2014 school year and recommended placement in the Academy for Learning. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
NO. 2H-1213-08

Mr. Williams moved, Mr. Banks seconded to approve the following grievance actions:

GRIEVANCES

Grievance Case No. 101812: Deny the grievance.

Grievance Case No. 121012: Deny the grievance.

Grievance Case No. 121212: Deny the grievance.

Grievance Case No. 122112: Deny the grievance.

Grievance Case No. 122012: Deny the grievance.

Grievance Case No. 120412: Deny the grievance.

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

Mr. Burton moved, Mr. Williams seconded to **Approve the Resolution Authorizing Non-Reemployment of First, Second and Third Year Probationary Teachers**. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

PERSONNEL:
NON-RENEWALS

At 9:46 p.m., Mr. 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