

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 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 Burton, Crayton, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams answered. Member Banks was absent. 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. Crayton stated that a Finance Committee meeting was held on September 27, 2012 and one item will be recommended for approval this evening.

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, which includes:

CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES:

JULY 11, 2012

▪ Regular Meeting and Executive Session of July 11, 2012

JULY 24, 2012

▪ Special Meeting and Executive Session of July 24, 2012

JULY 26, 2012

▪ Special Meeting and Executive Session of July 26, 2012

AUGUST 2

▪ Special Meeting and Executive Session of August 2, 2012

AUGUST 8, 2012

▪ Regular Meeting and Executive Session of August 8, 2012

AUGUST 11, 2012

▪ Special Meeting of August 11, 2012

SEPTEMBER 12, 2012

▪ Regular Meeting and Executive Session of September 12, 2012

BILLS

▪ The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated August 9, August 17, August 24, August 30, September 6, September 13, September 20, September 28 and October 5, 2012

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

- Keith Williams (Dolton) requested to speak to the Superintendent concerning an employment matter. He was instructed to make an appointment for next week.
- Tarnia Lake (Dolton) asked: 1) for the definition of the Thornridge Booster Club and Athletic Department; 2) who approved the handbook for the pre-k program at Thornridge and 3) who approved the change to the concession stand process. Mr. Thomas responded: 1) the Booster Club is a separate parent/community organization; 2) Mr. Fickes will respond to her, and 3) Mr. Thomas issued the directive for those procedures.
- Lena O'Lidge (Dolton) asked how the Thornridge Athletic Director was chosen. Mr. Williams responded that it could not be discussed because it is a personnel issue.
- Lawrence Crayton (Dolton) has heard that there have been requests for Mrs. Crayton to be removed from Thornridge and asked what she has done wrong. She has given hours of service time to the community and the school over the past 20 years.
- LaChelle Sanders (Chicago) stated she is appalled at the discussion to remove Mrs. Crayton from Thornridge as the students need dedicated people like her who have their best interests at heart. It is time for the Board to do what they were elected to do. She stated that the hiring process for the Thornridge Athletic Director should be public information.
- Alice Curry (Thornridge parent) supports Mrs. Crayton, stating that she is needed at Thornridge because she cares about all the children. Teachers do not have enough time for one-on-one with the students.
- Alicia Ngubane (Thornridge Student Board member) is disturbed about rumors concerning Mrs. Crayton. She is influential to the Thornridge students.
- Felita Crayton (Dolton) stated that she attended a recent strategic planning meeting. She doesn't understand why the Districts states it needs community and parental involvement. As the parent coordinator of Thornridge, she wants the Board to understand that everyone is a stakeholder. The parent academies have grown in size because of her involvement. The interview panel for the Thornridge Athletic Director position was not told why their selection was not chosen.
- Marilyn Willis (Thornridge parent) supports Mrs. Crayton and her endeavors to help the students. She appreciates the work she performed to keep Thornridge a four-year high school. Students appreciate her and she should be commended.
- Lache Crayton (Dolton) spoke about complaints filed by employees seeking the removal of Mrs. Crayton from Thornridge and their subsequent apologies. Adults also bully and harass people. Time should not be taken away from students to focus on a community volunteer. Teachers at Thornridge are intimidating.
- LaChar Crayton (Dolton) supports Mrs. Crayton who does nothing wrong. Someone should stand up to the malicious people who want her out of the building. She asked how the Athletic Director was appointed.
- Opral Henry (Dolton) stated that as a freshman at Thornridge she was influenced by Mrs. Crayton to better herself. Mrs. Crayton helps the students and is needed.
- Darlette Willis is a parent advocate who works with Mr. and Mrs. Crayton. She was appalled at the disrespect shown to Mr. Crayton at the Thornridge homecoming game. The agenda for this evening's meeting was altered. The mission statement of the District needs to be followed.
- Ronda Russell (Dolton) worked with community agencies in the Chicago area and supports Mrs. Crayton in her efforts to serve the community. There should be no power struggle.
- Michelle Berry (Matteson) asked for an explanation of the injunction filed upon the District on September 14, 2012. Legal counsel responded any meetings held that did not contain public participation based upon the law constitutes an illegal meeting; anything conducted at that meeting is subject to review by the court. He suggested the Board post the lawsuit on the website. The Board President stated anything that is public record is allowable on the district website.

- Judith Gibbs (South Holland) asked: 1) legal counsel's representation regarding Case No. 12CH34908; 2) how much will it cost; 3) was legal counsel present and did legal counsel advise the board of any violation, and 4) Is the district following common core standards; how is it being implemented. Bass responded: 1) He represents the Board; 2) cost is based on an hourly rate; her appointment is at issue because there was a lack of public participation at the meeting; 3) Yes, he was present. Mr. Thomas responded: 4) yes, it is being implemented at the Freshman level first. More explanation will be forthcoming this evening in the Superintendent's Report.
- Vivienne Williams (Dolton) stated that due to violations of the IASB Code of Conduct, parents are calling for the resignation of Superintendent John Thomas and Vice President Edward Crayton for breach of contract relative to the lack of respect displayed to Thornridge administration at the largest fundraiser of the season, the homecoming game. The group demands the ban of Mrs. Crayton from District 205 property in addition to being relieved of all duties. She is waiting for a response to her FOIA request.

PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION,  
Con't.

Mr. Doss reported that since the last Board meeting, twenty (20) Freedom of Information Act requests were received and responded to within the allotted time.

FOIA

Toni Williams asked legal counsel if Judith Gibbs is a Board member, to which Mr. Bass responded the judge will make that decision. Mrs. Williams stated the timeline for Mrs. Gibbs' appointment as:

BOARD MEMBER  
COMMENTS

July 9, 2012	Bernadette Lawrence resigned
July 9, 2012	ISC#4 notified of Board vacancy
July 12, 2012	Vacancy posted; 2 candidates applied
July 24, 2012	Candidates interviewed during closed session of special Board meeting; to be voted on in open session of next Board meeting
August 2, 2012	Agenda contained Appointment of New Board Member
August 2, 2012	Voting process for selection discussed during Executive Session
August 2, 2012	Mr. Burton moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to appoint Judith Gibbs to fill the vacancy. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Legal counsel was present so why wasn't the Board given legal guidance at the August 2 meeting. Mrs. Gibbs' vote for the food service bid at the August 11, 2012 Special Board meeting should also be null and void and she should not have participated as a Board member in the September 12 regular Board meeting if she is not a legal Board member.

Mr. Burton moved, Mr. Crayton seconded, to **Approve the 2012-2013 Application for Recognition of Schools** as presented by Mr. Thomas. Every year, school districts must submit a Board-approved application to be recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education based on compliance with staffing, school improvement planning and instructional programming. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
2012-2013  
APPLICATION FOR  
RECOGNITION OF  
SCHOOLS

Mr. Crayton moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Approve an Extension of the Sila Maintenance** contract for snow removal services at the 2011-12 rate as presented by Mr. Thomas. The Board discussed the bid process and the possible legal ramifications because the snow removal did not go out to bid. Without a business manager, the Finance Committee recommended extending the current contract.

APPROVAL OF SILA  
MAINTENANCE  
SNOW REMOVAL  
SERVICES

Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Crayton seconded, to **Table the Approval of Sila Maintenance Snow Removal Services** to allow the contract to be sent out to bid. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

Mr. Crayton moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Approve the Cook County Department of Public Health Memorandum of Agreement** a presented by Mr. Thomas. The agreement provides for the use of Thornton and Thornridge High Schools as locations to dispense medication in case of a disaster. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
COOK COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH  
MEMORANDUM OF  
AGREEMENT

Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Approve the Out-of-State Field Trip** as presented by Mr. Willis for 25 cheerleaders to participate in the national cheerleading competition held in Orlando, Florida from March 1-4, 2013. 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. Thomas reported on the Strategic Planning Retreat that was held on September 21-22, 2012. The group included district and school level administrators, staff, community members and students who developed vision, mission statements and core values. The results of the organizational assessment performed in August were reviewed and current objectives/strategies were reassessed.

SUPERINTENDENT  
REPORT

District Goals:

- I. Develop Relevant and Rigorous Instruction where Teaching and Learning will result in globally competitive students.
- II. Develop and Empower Leaders at all levels.
- III. Develop school climate and culture which incorporates a positive transition from Elementary to high school to college.
- IV. Build and maintain an effective parent and community engagement.

In order to be successful, all goals will be reached by perspectives from all the above groups. Mr. Thomas explained the strategies and how the action will tie to the desired result. Beginning in 2014, all common core Curriculum will be aligned to common core standards. Mr. Thomas encouraged people to review the PowerPoint presentation that is on the district website and provide feedback.

He explained Performance Management as a tool that will help school leaders and teachers in their efforts to improve student outcomes. The implementation will be monitored through monthly PM sessions.

The Board discussed the method in which executive session was cancelled for this evening's meeting. It was agreed a motion was not necessary.

EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

At 8:35 p.m., Mr. Crayton moved, Mr. Burton 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

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President/Presiding Member

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Secretary/Recording Secretary