

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 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, Crayton, Gibbs, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams answered. Member Burton 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. 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 a couple items are on the agenda this evening.

Report from Policy Committee: No report.

Report from Discipline Committee: No report.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- Regular Meeting and Executive Session of July 11, 2012
- Special Meeting and Executive Session of July 24, 2012
- Special Meeting and Executive Session of July 26, 2012
- Special Meeting and Executive Session of August 2, 2012
- Regular Meeting and Executive Session of August 8, 2012
- Special Meeting of August 11, 2012
- Resignations: See Director of Human Resources.
- Leave of Absence: See Director of Human Resources.

MINUTES:  
JULY 11, 2012

JULY 24, 2012

JULY 26, 2012

AUGUST 2

AUGUST 8, 2012

AUGUST 11, 2012

RESIGNATIONS

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

On roll call, Members Banks, Gibbs and Robinson voted aye; Members Crayton, K. Williams and T. Williams passed; motion failed.

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

- Rev. Ethel Southern (South Holland) invited parents and students to Covenant United Church of Christ for the Gates Millennium scholarship presentation on September 24, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

- Troy O'Quin (South Holland) appealed to the Board regarding the administrators who were wrongfully terminated. The Principal of Thornwood needs to be reinstated. He is tired of the games the Board is playing and looks forward to a productive year.
- Lena O'Lidge (Dolton) asked how the Thornridge athletic director was chosen. Mr. Williams stated that it will be addressed after the meeting because it is a personnel matter.
- Pat Mahon (South Holland) asked: 1) what is contained in the Board policies in Agenda Item J and why is the Board looking to rescind them; 2) if the Board is looking to change the policies, they should be amended not rescinded; 3) if the Board rescinds the policies, will other policies replace them, and 4) if her questions are not answered, may she come back to address the Board again. Mr. Williams responded: 1) it will be expressed when that item is reached on the agenda and 4) yes, she may address the Board again.
- Jackie Franklin (South Holland) asked if there will be night games and if so, how many are scheduled for this year. Mr. Thomas responded that two games are scheduled at each school and security is being addressed.
- Vivienne Williams (Dolton) offered an apology to Dr. Buckner, stating that without the Board's consent, she could not have moved forward on certain issues. She asked 1) about a response to her FOIA request; 2) although Hensel was \$3000 higher than the lowest bidder for food service, they would provide more services for the children; 3) there is an issue regarding selling of booster club items; 4) use of the Thornridge gym facilities over the weekend by a group of individuals, and 5) there is a student in need of \$250 to attend college and suggested registration fees go up by \$1.00 to cover such costs for students in need. Mr. Thomas responded: 1) all FOIA's have either been responded to or an extension was requested; 2) the food service bid process was followed correctly; 3) the gym usage issue is being investigated. He will meet with her to discuss the other items.
- Diane Clifton (South Holland) was concerned about the performance of substitute teachers. Mr. Williams directed her to speak with the Superintendent after the meeting because this is a personnel issue.
- Joyce Miller (South Holland) stated her taxes have gone up three times for District 205 and had questions regarding the budget. Mr. Thomas informed her there will be hearing on the budget this evening.

PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION,  
Con't.

Mr. Doss reported that since the last Board meeting, sixteen (16) Freedom of Information Act requests were received and responded to within the allotted time.

FOIA

- Mr. Doss introduced Mrs. Bernadette Lawrence, retired Board member, who served on the Board from 2005-2012 as Secretary, Vice President and Chair of the Curriculum Committee. She is a graduate of Thornton Township High School. The Board presented Mrs. Lawrence with a plaque and thanked her for her years of dedicated service to District 205.
- Larria Russell received a bronze medal in Early Childhood at the FCCLA national competition held during the summer.

COMMUNICATIONS

#### Upcoming Events:

Sept.-Nov.	Parent Academies, Thornton High School, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Sept. 19	Late Start
	Meet & Greet with the Superintendent, Riverdale Village Hall
	6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
Sept. 27	Parent Teacher Conference
Sept. 28	Parent Teacher Conference
Oct. 8	Columbus Day – NO SCHOOL
Oct. 9	Student Board Meeting, Thornwood High School, 4:00 p.m.
Oct. 10	Late Start
	Board of Education Meeting, Thornwood High School, 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Robinson moved, Mrs. Williams seconded, to **Approve the Auditing Firm Agreement** as presented by Mr. Thomas to Legacy Professionals in the base amount of \$45,000.00. The Finance Committee is recommending approval of the agreement. On roll call, Members Crayton, Gibbs, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; Member Banks passed; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
AUDITING FIRM  
AGREEMENT

Mr. Andrew Chidester provided an overview of the summer Pharmacy Program that includes orientation, a mentor program at UIC for three weeks and job shadowing at a Walgreens pharmacy. There are a few jobs available for the students as pharmacy technicians. The students were introduced by Ms. Brenda Wilson. A three-minute video was shown highlighting the activities of the program. Mr. Calvin Stark thanked the Board and parents.

UIC PATHWAYS TO  
PHARMACY  
PROGRAM  
PRESENTATION

Mr. Ken Wendorff, Faculty Association President, spoke about the District moving forward and starting fresh with a new Superintendent and a new contract. He spoke about the dismissal of administrators and two principals which led to a delay in hiring teachers, planning for the start of the new year not occurring and costly litigation being waged against the district. There is turmoil in District 205. Thornton students have missed nearly 3 full days of learning caused by early dismissals due to heat. The Board delayed the Thornton air conditioning project for nearly two years, and stadium lighting became a priority. Money should be better spent for resources for all students, such as cutting edge technology to enable students to compete in a global society. This is the second year there is no business manager in place to present the budget. The District needs to focus on students by supporting faculty and the teaching and learning process. Do to otherwise is a disservice to the students and community. Please do what is right for the students.

FACULTY  
ASSOCIATION

Mr. Arrington stated a memo has been provided to the Board and more information will be forthcoming.

ISBE 2012  
ADMINISTRATOR  
AND TEACHER  
SALARY AND  
BENEFITS REPORT

Mr. Grossi opened the **2012-2013 District 205 Budget Public Hearing** by providing a recap of the tentative budget presented at last month's Board meeting. The budget has been on display for more than thirty (30) days as required by law, since the August 8, 2012 Board meeting. General state aid will drop approximately \$3.7 million; real estate taxes are raised slightly less than 1.5% in accordance with the tax levy. It is projected that expenditures will increase slightly. Next year, revenues will significantly drop due to the declining enrollment and reduced grant funding.

2012-2013 DISTRICT  
205 BUDGET  
PUBLIC HEARING

The public hearing was then opened for questions. Questions from the audience were answered as follows:

Ms. Ford (Harvey) is concerned about missed class time due to early dismissals for heat days. She asked: 1) does the budget provide for air conditioning at Thornton; 2) were the estimates accurate for the last two budgets that Mr. Grossi prepared, and 3) were unforeseen expenditures considered in preparing the budget. He responded: 1) The Thornton air conditioning project is allocated under the \$15 million for major capital projects within the budget; 2) the numbers were very close in accuracy; 3) revenues and expenditures can only be anticipated. There is a \$4.3 million surplus for this year.

Joyce Miller (South Holland) requested a hard copy of this year and last year's budget. Mr. Grossi will answer questions regarding her tax bill. After approval, the budget is posted on the district website and the State Board of Education website.

A community member asked where the repayment of the School Improvement Grant appears on the budget. Mr. Grossi responded that the District received approximately \$1.5 million from the grant in 2010 and is negotiating with ISBE whether or not it must be repaid. A final determination has not been made. The \$1.5 million is not in the budget; it was in last year's budget and was not paid. If it must be repaid, It would come out of the \$4.3 million surplus.

2012-2013 DISTRICT  
205 BUDGET  
PUBLIC HEARING,  
Con't.

Felita Crayton (Dolton) suggested hard copies of the budget be provided for the public. She asked if there a line item for parent and community involvement. Mr. Grossi stated it would fall under the community service function.

Mrs. Gibbs (Board member) asked if the District will receive less than anticipated for the Smaller Learning Communities grant. There is nothing to guarantee the District will receive the entire 1.7 million from the grant. All necessary paperwork has been submitted.

Mr. Robinson moved, Mrs. Williams seconded, to close the **Public Hearing of the 2012-2013 District 205 Budget.** On roll call, Members Banks, Crayton, Gibbs, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

Mrs. Williams moved, Mr. Robinson seconded to **Approve the 2012-2013 District 205 Budget and Resolution** as presented by Mr. Grossi. On roll call, Members Banks, Crayton, Gibbs, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
2012-2013 DISTRICT  
205 BUDGET AND  
RESOLUTION

Mr. Robinson moved, Mrs. Williams seconded, to **Approve the Strategic Planning Retreat** as presented by Mr. Thomas for the leadership staff to attend a strategic planning retreat from September 21 to September 23, 2012. The retreat would include district administration, building staff, teachers, parents and students. The Board suggested the retreat be conducted on District 205 property in order to save costs. On roll call, Members Banks, Crayton, Gibbs, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted nay; aye, none; motion failed.

APPROVAL OF  
STRATEGIC  
PLANNING  
RETREAT

Mr. Williams stated that Mrs. Gibbs will resume the committee positions previously held by Mrs. Lawrence, including Chairperson of the Curriculum & Technology Committee and member of the Public Relations, Board Goals & Policy Committee.

COMMITTEE  
ASSIGNMENTS

Mrs. Williams moved, Mr. Robinson seconded that Rosemary Papaleo, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent of Thornton Township High School Dist. 205, is designated by Toni Williams, Board Secretary of Thornton Township High School Dist. 205, South Holland, Illinois, and is delegated the primary responsibility of carrying out all duties of the local election authority in his absence for the April 9, 2013 election. The secondary responsibility of carrying out such duties is delegated to Lori Koditek, Administrative Assistant to the Director of Business Operations of Thornton Township High School Dist. 205. Also responsible for such duties are Heather Buller, Business Office Coordinator; Jerry Doss, Director of Public Relations and External Partnerships and Michele Powers, Benefits Coordinator. Board of Education Secretary Toni Williams will also assist in the process when she is available. On roll call, Members Banks, Crayton, Gibbs, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
BOARD  
SECRETARY  
DESIGNATION

Mr. Banks moved, Mrs. Williams seconded, to **Approve the Buildings & Grounds Equipment Purchases** as presented by Mr. Thomas in the amount of \$181,431.00. A discussion took place concerning the various purchases included. The Finance Committee is recommending approval of these purchases. On roll call, Members Gibbs, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; Members Banks and Crayton passed; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
BUILDINGS &  
GROUNDS  
EQUIPMENT  
PURCHASES

Mrs. Williams moved, Mr. Robinson seconded, to **Approve the Rescission of School Board Policies 2:105, 2:110, 2:125, 2:150, 2:160, 2:220 and 3:70** as presented by Board President Kenneth Williams who stated that the amendment of these policies on July 21, 2011 was not done in compliance with Board policy section 2:240 *Board Policy Development* and that any changes to policies must be done in accordance with policy section 2:240. In response to the Board, legal counsel confirmed that the process was in fact legal. On roll call, Members Gibbs, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; Members Banks and Crayton voted nay; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
RESOLUTION TO  
RESCIND SCHOOL  
BOARD POLICIES

Mr. Thomas presented the current enrollment figures totaling 4966 for the entire District. Enrollment has continued to drop over the past five years. He proposed an alternative to late registration school whereby students would enter the regular classroom and be supported by counselors, tutors, etc. to be on track for first semester.

SUPERINTENDENT  
REPORT

He reviewed the results of the recently performed organizational assessment in the areas of: 1) organization of principals; 2) powerful teaching and learning system; 3) core organizational functions; 4) aspirations and beliefs, and 5) District cycle of improvement. He emphasized the need for high quality teachers and shared the school audit results and the areas of improvement.

He will continue with his monthly community meetings which are held at the Village Halls of the feeder school communities.

At 8:15 p.m., Mrs. Williams moved, Mr. Banks seconded to go into **Executive Session** for the purpose of discussing specific personnel and pending or threatening litigation. On roll call, Members Banks, Crayton, Gibbs, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURN TO  
EXECUTION  
SESSION

At 11:00 p.m., Mr. Robinson moved, Mrs. Gibbs seconded to **Return to Regular Session**. On roll call, Members Banks, Crayton, Gibbs, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RETURN TO  
REGULAR SESSION

Mrs. Williams moved, Mrs. Gibbs seconded to **Approve Employment Matter No. 2012-03**. On roll call, Members Gibbs, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; Members Banks and Crayton voted nay, motion passed.

EMPLOYMENT  
MATTER  
NO. 2012-03

Mrs. Williams moved, Mrs. Gibbs seconded to **Approve Grievance No. 2**. On roll call, Members Gibbs, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; Members Banks and Crayton voted nay, motion passed.

GRIEVANCE NO. 2

At 11:05 p.m., Mrs. Gibbs moved, Mrs. Williams seconded to **Adjourn the Meeting**. On roll call, Members Banks, Crayton, Gibbs, 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