

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2012** IN THE AUDITORIUM AT THORNTRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL, 15000 SOUTH COTTAGE GROVE AVENUE, DOLTON, 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. Member Gibbs 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. Steve Valant, Assistant Principal of Thornridge High School; Mr. Anthony Bass, District 205 Legal Counsel, were also present.

ROLL
CALL

Mr. Arrington offered a moment of silence in memory of the late Ronald Kokesh, Thornridge science teacher, who was the recipient of the 2010 Star Teacher Award.

MOMENT OF
SILENCE

Report from Curriculum Committee: No report.

COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE

Report from Finance Committee: Mr. Crayton stated a Finance Committee meeting was held on August 2, 2012 and three items will be recommended for approval this evening.

Report from Policy Committee: No report.

Report from Discipline Committee: No report.

Mr. Robinson moved, Mrs. Williams seconded, to **Sever the July 11, 2012 Minutes from the Consent Agenda** to the Consent Agenda of the September 12, 2012 Board meeting. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Robinson moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Approve the Consent Agenda** as follows:

- Resignations: See Director of Human Resources.
- Leave of Absence: See Director of Human Resources.

RESIGNATIONS

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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

- Michelle Yisrael (Harvey) from Banner Educational Group emphasized educating at-risk youth who have been expelled or for whatever reason are not in school. Her group would like to work with District 205 and service these students to get them on track to graduate and be successful young people.
- Charlene Storey (Markham) spoke in favor of Prof. Yisrael and her dedication to young people.
- Hellon Turner (Markham) supports Prof. Yisrael and asked the Board to consider her program.
- Zimbabwe Turner (Markham) is a former student of Prof. Yisrael and stated the community needs a person like Prof. Yisrael who has a passion for children.

- Darius Randle (Homewood) is an advocate of Prof. Yisrael and believes that the second chance program would be a benefit to Thornton Township.
- Gershon Jackson (Riverdale) is a regional director of Banner Educational Group. Banner has six alternative learning programs in Chicago designed to help students who are mandated to return to school. He provided the Board with information on their services and programs.
- Minister G. Portland (Homewood) spoke on behalf of Hensual Food Service. Hensual grows their own fruits and vegetables. Although their bid was \$3000 higher than the lowest bidder, they will also provide 10 scholarships and mentoring services for the students.
- Pamela Broman (Chicago) of Hensual Food Service offered complimentary services for the students including real estate, power point and web design instruction as well as motivational leadership skills in conjunction with the food service bid.
- Dr. Levern Murphy (Homewood) from Busyman Power Team Movement, in association with Hensual Food Service, would offer students training on the importance of a healthy environment, a good diet and students' overall mental health.
- Wanda Lewis (Chicago) represented Hensual Management Group who has been featured nationally regarding nutritional wellness.
- Felita Crayton (Dolton) asked if the Board consisted of seven individuals and how many individuals would make a decision. The Board responded: seven.
- Byron Patterson (Harvey) stated it appears that questions presented during public participation are not answered. He asked how much money has been spent regarding the seven employees leaving. Is Mr. Bass still employed? Is he working on the matter of the seven employees? Will any money be recouped regarding his services concerning these employees? Security at Thornton is not being conducted as it was in the past and needs to be looked at. AIL contracts have not been signed? The District is not ready for the opening of school. Students are the number one issue. Please come together and get things done that are needed. The Superintendent assured him that the security issue at Thornton has been addressed for the opening of school.
- Michelle Berry (Matteson) demanded the reinstatement of the six people that were wrongfully terminated. Five of the six people returned the stipends issued to them. The community has been disrupted and the Board does not care. Stop misguiding the people and inform the community. The Board is wrong and will be up seated.
- Anna Lovelace Ware (Chicago) a 1981 Thornton High School alumni, stated that the public was not allowed to speak at the meeting last week. In collaboration with the citizens of Harvey, she is demanding the reinstatement of the six individuals who were wrongfully terminated. She reminded the Board of the three seats up for reelection. The community cannot reach the District through the telephone.
- Jacqueline Franklin (South Holland) asked the Mayor of South Holland if he supported the night games at Thornwood. He is not on board for night games and informed her that South Holland ordinances were not addressed. It must be approved by the Village Board. Will there be a Principal at Thornwood? Mr. Thomas responded that the Acting Principal assumes the responsibilities of a Principal. Mr. Williams stated the Board will have a conversation with the Mayor.
- Gloria Taylor (Dolton) asked if the Superintendent has the authority to hire or fire employees. Mr. Thomas responded it is the responsibility of the Superintendent to recommend employment to the Board. She believes it is a union matter.
- Jimmy Jackson (Thornton student) stated that the marching band has been requesting new band uniforms and the band's poor appearance causes them to lose points in competitions. The band will perform in this year's Bud Billikin Parade. His sousaphone is about 50 years old. The District 205 Foundation has contributed to the band, but uniforms are still needed. He stated that Dr. Lyke was the start of the rebuilding at Thornton and wants her and Mr. Ratliff to be rehired. With all the hiring and firing, nothing gets done. Mr. Thomas will meet with Mr. Jackson to discuss the matter.

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION,
Con't.

- April Weaver (Calumet City) has worked in the education field for 14 years. Has the Board heard what students have to say? If the politics don't stop and get to the education of the children, the violence will continue and more alternative schools will be needed. We must give back to the community.
- Alexandria Hines spoke about the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. Her group's mission is to make college accessible and affordable to all students in Illinois. Their service is to help the students of the community realize a college education and they look forward to working with District 205.
- Pat Mahon (South Holland) supports the Thornton and Thornwood Principals who were terminated and urged the Board to maintain stability in the schools and students' lives. Please build on the reputation of the district and do not tear it down. She asked the Board members to be leaders and examples for the students. Stop the infighting, put politics aside and do what is best for the students. Please reconsider and reinstate the employees before the school year begins.
- Janee Smith (South Holland) alumna of Thornwood, asked how is it a valid termination regarding misappropriation of funds. Legal counsel stated it is a personnel matter and cannot be discussed at this time. She demands their reinstatement; it is a defamation of character. Continuity of leadership is important in the schools.
- Troy O'Quin (South Holland) stated the Board has the opportunity to do the right thing. The children deserve someone to stand up for the children. He asked the Board to do what is right for the children. Let the people get back to work and do what needs to be done.
- Dawn Fields (Richton Park) is an alumna of Thornwood, and stated that the Board's position is to do what is in the best interests of the children. She supports the principals and administrators who were terminated and asked they be reinstated now. For many children, school is the only stability they have. This is not about the Board, it is about the children.

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION,
Con't.

At 7:44 p.m., Mrs. Gibbs joined the meeting.

MRS. GIBBS
JOINED MEETING

- Julie Lewis (Chicago) represents the law firm of Klein, Thorpe & Jenkins, who practices in the area of education law, looks forward to interviewing and serving District 205.
- Joy Roberts (Chicago) represents Rosenthal, Murphy, Coblenz & Donahue, who specializes in representing school districts and municipalities and looks forward to interviewing and serving District 205.
- Cora Williams (Thornton parent) stated her son graduated with honors and commended the staff of the past four years. She wants her daughter to have the same experience. She asked the Board to do what is right regarding the rehiring of the six individuals.
- Kenneth Williams (Board President) read the oath of office regarding protecting the school district's assets. He cited an article from the Chicago Tribune regarding the high suspension rate for Thornton. The Board will make corrections as necessary.

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION,
Con't.

Mr. Doss reported that since the last Board meeting, thirteen (13) Freedom of Information Act requests were received and responded to within the allotted time.

FOIA

At 7:50 p.m., Mrs. Williams left the meeting.

MRS. WILLIAMS
LEFT MEETING

Mr. Robinson moved, Mr. Banks seconded to **Approve the Paraprofessional Contract** as presented by Mr. Thomas. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Gibbs, Robinson and K. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
PARA-
PROFESSIONAL
CONTRACT

Mr. Burton moved, Mr. Robinson seconded to **Approve the HVAC Phase 3 Installation Bid** as presented by Mr. Thomas. The Finance Committee recommends approval of the bid to Tower Contracting, LLC in the amount of \$5,444,000.00. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Gibbs, Robinson and K. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
HVAC PHASE 3
INSTALLATION BID

Mr. Burton moved, Mr. Robinson seconded, to **Approve the HVAC Phase 3 Control Bid** as presented by Mr. Thomas. The Finance Committee recommends approval of the bid to Precision Control Systems, Inc. in the amount of \$876,250.00. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Gibbs, Robinson and K. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
HVAC PHASE 3
CONTROL BID

Mr. Grossi presented the District 205 2012-2013 tentative budget. The State of Illinois is facing financial challenges over the next several years which the District must be cognizant of in preparing its budgets. The revenues for real estate taxes are projected at \$61.9 million, which is slightly less than last year. The collection rate is approximately 89%, as it has been for the past few years. Other local revenues will decline. Some state grants will decrease slightly and federal grants will increase slightly. General state aid will decline by \$4.6 million due to the decrease by 768 students.

PRESENTATION OF
2012-2013
TENTATIVE
BUDGET

At 7:59 p.m., Mr. Burton and Mr. Robinson left the meeting.

BOARD MEMBERS
LEFT MEETING

At 8:00 p.m., Mrs. Williams joined the meeting.

MRS. WILLIAMS
JOINED MEETING

- Budgeted revenues \$109,253,000
- Budgeted expenses \$105,673,000

PRESENTATION OF
2012-2013
TENTATIVE
BUDGET, Con't.

The major changes to the budgeted expenditures include:

- Staff size has decreased significantly over the past two years to better align with decreasing student attendance levels.
- The teacher contract through 2014 is an effort to help stabilize the long-term financial condition of the District during these difficult times.
- The District will continue to monitor costs in order to keep expenditure levels below the 2011 figures.

Mr. Grossi also presented a breakdown of the budget by fund. The major financial challenges include: The District must adjust operation must be better aligned with decreasing student enrollment. The poor economy is impacting funding at every level. The future anticipated revenues will decline for general state aid and the Smaller Learning Communities grant.

At 8:05 p.m., Mr. Burton joined the meeting.

MR. BURTON
JOINED MEETING

At 8:10 p.m., Mr. Robinson joined the meeting

MR. ROBINSON
JOINED MEETING

Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Robinson seconded to **Approve the 2012-2013 Annual Scope Dues** in the amount of \$2,014.00 as presented by Mr. Thomas. SCOPE (South Cooperative Organization for Public Education) provides guidance on various funding issues pending with the State and Professional Development opportunities. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Gibbs, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
2012-2013 SCOPE
ANNUAL DUES

Mr. Robinson moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Approve the Auditing Firm Agreement** as presented by Mr. Thomas to John Kasperec Co. in the amount of \$24,000.00.

APPROVAL OF
AUDITING FIRM
AGREEMENT

Mr. Crayton moved, Mr. Banks seconded to **Defer the Auditing Firm Agreement** to the Finance Committee for review at a special meeting. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Gibbs, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

Mr. Robinson moved, Mrs. Williams seconded, to **Approve the Illinois Principal Evaluation Model** as presented by Mr. Thomas. The model has been mandated by the Illinois State Board of Education. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Gibbs, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
ILLINOIS PRINCIPAL
EVALUATION
MODEL

Mr. Robinson moved, Mr. Crayton seconded, to **Approve the Food Service Bid** as presented by Mr. Doss to the lowest responsible bidder, Sodexo, in the amount of \$1,799,450.42.

APPROVAL OF
FOOD SERVICE BID

Mr. Crayton moved, Mr. Robinson seconded to **Defer the Food Service Bid** to the Finance Committee for review at a special meeting to be held August 11, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Gibbs, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

Mr. Thomas gave his report on enrollment statistics and trends which will assist the District in strategizing for addressing the issues. The enrollment rate continues to drop; however, the attendance and graduation rate are improving. He provided statistics on the in-school and out-of-school suspensions which needs to be addressed so that students remain in school. He reviewed the grades and Explore test scores. The trend has been going downward but the District is partnering with the elementary schools to reduce the amount of low placement incoming freshmen. He reviewed the PSAE scores by subject. The scores show a steady decline which must be addressed. Approximately 80% of our students do not meet the state average score. He also reviewed the ACT scale score by subject for all grades which shows some growth. The state 2010-11 composite score is 20.6. District 205's score was 15.8. A school-wide improvement model will be implemented to improve academic achievement.

SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT

At 8:50 p.m., Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Robinson seconded, to go into **Executive Session** for the purpose of discussing personnel and litigation. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Gibbs, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURN TO
EXECUTIVE
SESSION

President/Presiding Member

Secretary/Recording Secretary