

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, 2012** IN THE AUDITORIUM AT THORNBRIDGE 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 movements of individuals who are 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. 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

Report from Curriculum Committee: No report.

COMMITTEE OF  
THE WHOLE

Report from Finance Committee: Mr. Crayton stated a Finance Committee meeting was held on July 9, 2012 and one item will be recommended for approval this evening.

Report from Policy Committee: No report.

At 6:32 p.m., Mr. Banks joined the meeting.

MR. BANKS JOINED  
MEETING

Report from Discipline Committee: No report.

COMMITTEE OF  
THE WHOLE, Con't.

Mr. Crayton moved, Mr. Robinson seconded, to **Approve the Consent Agenda** with the exception of (1) severed item—Employment, which includes the following:

CONSENT AGENDA

- The minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of June 13, 2012.
- The minutes of the Special Meeting and Executive Session of June 27, 2012
- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated June 13, June 21 and June 27, 2012.
- Resignations: See Director of Human Resources.
- Leave of Absence: See Director of Human Resources.

MINUTES:  
JUNE 13, 2012

JUNE 27, 2012

BILLS

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

- Byron Patterson stated that the Board represents the members of the community. He asked that the Board let the community know what their duties are and to announce what is going on with the principal, what process was taken. He also asked who said this is what needs to be done. Principals answer to the Superintendent; what is the duty of the Superintendent? He asked for everyone to join together as it takes a village to raise a child. Thornton was on the rise, don't bring us back down.

- Cora Williams (Harvey) stated she supports the Principal of Thornton High School and that he was vital to her son's success in high school. She felt the public was in the dark and wants the Principal to be treated fairly. Thornton has come a long way under his leadership.
- Tanora Applewhite (Harvey) spoke on behalf of the Principal. She has two students who attend Thornton. The school has gotten much better with the current principal. He is an advocate for the students.
- Girard Jenkins (South Holland) supports the Principal who represents the children of the community. He also governs the school and the children and has had a positive affect on the community.
- Demetrius Hardwick (Harvey) supports the Thornton principal. His son was not doing well in school. The Principal stepped in like he has done with many. If it were not for the Principal, his son would not be going to college. He applauds the Principal.
- Lawrence Powell (Thornton) stated that research needs to be done before action is taken. Action was taken, it can be corrected.
- Anna Ware (Harvey) represents the alumni of Thornton 1981 who are demanding the reinstatement of the Principal of Thornton Township High School. Access to a quality education was at Thornton where regardless of learning abilities, you can learn. The community supports the Principal and demands his reinstatement because students have improved, they are happy and ACT scores have improved. She asked if there was a lack of performance or if there is a hidden agenda. They are demanding he be reinstated; if not, other people will be groomed for the Board positions.
- Cynthia Carter (Harvey) alumni of Thornton 1980, is an artist who received her grooming at Thornton. She is demanding the reinstatement of the Thornton Principal. It is foolish to shut the door on a man of integrity and stature; a man to stand tall before the children and lead by example.
- Felita Crayton (Dolton) asked the Board to do what is right. She asked for an explanation of Item D of the agenda and for the conclusion of the finance committee meeting regarding stadium lights. Mr. Williams stated Item D is relative to stadium lighting which will be voted on this evening.
- Mattie Ratliff Bell (Harvey) spoke in favor of the Principal of Thornton and stated that he was raised as a person of integrity.
- Michelle Berry (Matteson) Thornton 1981 alumni, stated she has known the Principal of Thornton for 30 years and asked the Board how a man who has served this country cannot serve a population of 1200 students at Thornton High School. The residents of Harvey will do the right thing for the students; the community will not tolerate this being done to a man of integrity.
- Willie Richardson (South Holland) stated that the Superintendent had to do what was necessary regarding an allegation of a crime being committed.
- Denise Harris (Dolton) asked how Thornton spent \$100 million when other districts spend \$50 million. Why wasn't our budget trimmed? She is concerned that the community is not being informed about events within the District.
- Keith Williams (Thornwood) stated that District 205 has become a laughing stock of the south suburbs. He hates to see what is going on in the District and hopes to see the community come back.
- Merrilyn Chandler (Harvey) Thornton 1982 alumni, demands the reinstatement of the Principal of Thornton. He is a man from the community for the children to look up to.
- Kenneth Williams (Board President) stated that the Board will be transparent in this situation and do the right thing. They will make sure the outcome will be transparent and it will be right.
- Eric Kellogg (Mayor of Harvey) spoke about boy born and raised in Harvey who he witnessed grow up. Children learn from imitation. We need a man like the Principal of Thornton and woman like the Principal of Thornwood so children can continue to be successful. He asked the Board to reconsider this action. He spoke on behalf of the City of Harvey in favor of the Principal who transformed the school from negativity. The Harvey Police Chief will attest that the Police Department was consistently called. Now it is virtually zero. Please examine all the facts before a final determination is made. He is an outstanding man of the community.

PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION,  
Con't.

Mr. Thomas reported that since the last Board meeting, three Freedom of Information Act requests were received and responded to within the allotted time.

FOIA

Mr. Robinson moved, Mr. Banks seconded to **Approve the 2012-2013 Student Fees** as presented by Thomas. The only change is a \$5.00 increase for Advance Placement courses. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
2012-2013  
STUDENT FEES

Mrs. Williams moved, Mr. Robinson seconded to **Defer the Approval of the 2012-2013 Transportation Bid.** On roll call, Members Banks, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; Member Burton passed; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
2012-2013  
TRANSPORTATION  
BID

Mrs. Williams moved, Mr. Robinson seconded, to **Defer the Approval of the Paraprofessional Contract** for Board review. On roll call, Members Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; Members Banks and Burton passed; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
PARA-  
PROFESSIONAL  
CONTRACT

Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Approve the TIPS/TAPS Interlocal Agreement and Resolution** as presented by Mr. Thomas, which provides for the purchase and installation of poles only for stadium lighting. The agreement is being recommended for approval by the Finance Committee. On roll call, Members Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; Member Banks passed; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
TIPS/TAPS  
INTERLOCAL  
AGREEMENT

No report.

SUPERINTENDENT  
REPORT

At 7:24 p.m., Mr. Burton moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to go into **Executive Session** for the purpose of discussing Board business, employment and personnel. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURN TO  
EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

At 9:36 p.m., Mr. Burton moved, Mr. Robinson seconded, to **Return to Regular Session.** On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RETURN TO  
REGULAR SESSION

Mr. Williams thanked the public for attending the meeting and stated that there will be hearing for the individuals that the public came to represent.

STATEMENT BY  
BOARD PRESIDENT

At 9:38 p.m., Mr. Burton moved, Mr. Robinson seconded, to **Adjourn the Meeting.** On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

---

President/Presiding Member

---

Secretary/Recording Secretary