

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2012** IN THE AUDITORIUM AT THORNTON HIGH SCHOOL, HARVEY, 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, 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, Lawrence, K. Williams and T. Williams answered. Member Robinson was absent. Dr. Betheny Lyke, Acting Superintendent; Mrs. Dorith Johnson, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Mrs. Carrie Ablin, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; Mr. Jerry Doss, Director of Public Relations; Mrs. Maria Brunson, Director of Information Technology; Mr. Doug Ogarek, Director of Business Operations; Mr. James Walton, Principal of Thornridge High School; Mr. Tony Ratliff, Principal of Thornton High School; Mrs. Darcelle Williams, Principal of Thornwood High School; Mr. Dennis Willis, Assistant Principal of Thornwood High School; Mr. Ken Wendorff, Faculty Association President; Mrs. Deborah Scaletta, Faculty Association Executive Director, Mr. Anthony Bass and Ms. Kathleen Elliott, District 205 Legal Counsel, were also present.

ROLL  
CALL

Report from Curriculum Committee: Mrs. Lawrence announced that Navistar is extending its program to adults in the community, current and former students. In partnership with South Suburban College, classes will be held on evenings and Saturdays. More information will be available on the District website.

COMMITTEE OF  
THE WHOLE

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

Report from Policy Committee: Mrs. Williams reported that a policy committee meeting was held on February 21 and March 1. Recommendations from the Attendance and Discipline Committees will be presented this evening.

Report from Discipline Committee: No report.

At 6:34 p.m., Mr. Robinson joined the meeting.

MR. ROBINSON  
JOINED MEETING

Mr. Crayton moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Approve the Consent Agenda**, which includes the following:

CONSENT AGENDA

- The minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of February 8, 2012.
- The minutes of the Special Meeting and Executive Session of February 21, 2012.
- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated February 9, February 16, February 23 and March 8, 2012.
- Resignations: See Director of Human Resources.
- Leave of Absence: See Director of Human Resources.

MINUTES:  
FEBRUARY 8, 2012

MINUTES:  
FEBRUARY 21, 2012

BILLS

RESIGNATIONS

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

- Employment: See Director of Human Resources.

## EMPLOYMENT

On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, 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

- Felita Crayton (Dolton) asked: 1) do teachers have a contract; 2) how many teachers live in the community; 3) are the teachers getting paid every 2 weeks, and 4) remember the families in the community where your paycheck is from. Mr. Crayton responded: 1) yes; 3) the contract is being honored;
- Albert Butler (Dolton) stated that in order to have a contract, both sides must agree. District 205 used to be a district to be proud of; it is now a laughing stock of the southern suburbs partly due to a lack of respect for the faculty. It is impossible for faculty members to determine their retirement date due to the lack of a contract. Teachers have spent personal funds on behalf of the children. It is time to settle this matter.
- Helen Randall (Harvey) stated she is a board member, a union member and a teacher and is surprised the contract is not settled. Major trouble occurs when there is no nepotism policy. The Board needs to be in the schools to build relationships and participate in negotiations. There needs to be a superintendent and a teachers' contract in place in District 205. District 205 teachers have donated money to the Harvey Little League; they care about the students.
- Vivienne Williams (Dolton) stated the community and taxpayers: 1) are concerned about quality teachers leaving the district and urged the Board to offer a fair contract to teachers, and 2) would like to see more Superintendent candidates to choose from.
- Latrice Anderson (Parent) stated she has a struggling student in District 205. He is being remanded to RISE. She is dissatisfied with her son's suspensions, she found an alternative school, and there is a lack of communication. She was directed by the Board to speak with Dr. Lyke.

At 6:55 p.m., Dr. Lyke joined the meeting.

## DR. LYKE JOINED MEETING

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

## FOIA

Mr. Doss presented the following information:

## COMMUNICATIONS

- Thornridge senior Destiny Thompson won First Place in the Dramatic Interpretation category at the IHSA State Speech Tournament.
- Thornridge cast of Cat on a Hot Tin Roof competed in the SWSC Drama and Contest Play Festival and received an excellent rating.
- Thornridge Group Interpretation cast of Fierce: Narratives and Victims and Victories, won a superior rating in the SWSC Drama and Group Interpretation Festival.
- Thornridge crew, headed by technical director Mike Whitman, won the Tech'xellence award for superior technical work in setting up the show.
- Thornton seniors, Tamara Byrd and Darryl Cowans have been named 2012 Gates Millennium Scholars finalists.
- Thornton students, John Arrington, Jr. and Fred Jones were winners at the Sectional Speech Tournament held at Homewood-Flossmoor High School.
- Thornton students won third place awards in the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual South Suburban College Video Competition.

- Thornton Drama and Group Interpretation cast earned superior rankings at the SWSC Drama and Group Interp Festival.
- Thornton Varsity Basketball team won the Regional Championship for the 9<sup>th</sup> year in a row.
- Thornton student Cheron Mimms is a finalist for the United World Colleges Scholarship.
- Thornton's Mock Trial Team placed fifth out of 14 teams in the Sixth District's Mock Trial Competition.
- Thornton Varsity Cheerleaders competed in the Nationals Cheer Squad in Orlando, Florida and received a second place trophy.
- Thornwood students won first and second place awards in the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual South Suburban College Video Competition.
- Eleven Thornwood students won performance in the Round at the Sectional Speech Tournament held at Homewood-Flossmoor High School.
- Thornwood Varsity Basketball team is a SWSC champion.
- Thornwood Performance in the Round students finished third in State.
- The Stadium Lighting Survey resulted in positive feedback and two Friday night football games will be held next year under temporary lights.
- Due to the status of the girls' softball fields at Thornton, a partnership with the Harvey elementary school district will be pursued to use their fields.
- Board meetings will be relocated due to summer construction as follows: May, June, July and August will be held at Thornridge; September, October, November and December will be held at Thornwood.

COMMUNICATIONS,  
Con't.

#### Upcoming Events:

March 15	Parent Academy: Introduction to Basic Algebra and Introduction to Computers. 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Thornridge
March 20	Parent Academy: Introduction to Cooking and Hooked on Reading 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Thornridge
March 21	Parent Academy: Introduction to Zumba 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Thornridge
March 22	Parent Academy: Introduction to Basic Algebra and Introduction to Computers. 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Thornridge
March 24	Summer School Registration. 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 – p.m. All buildings
March 26	Coffee Chat with Dr. Lyke, 9:00 a.m., District Office
March 28	Late Start Parent Academy: Introduction to Zumba 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Thornridge
March 29	Family Reading Night & Poetry Slam, Thornwood
April 6	SAT Test registration deadline for May 5
April 6-13	Spring Break – No school
April 11	Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Thornton

Mr. Ken Wendorff, Faculty Association President, presented the District 205 graduates who now educate the students of the community. Even though teachers have not had a contract for two years and pay cuts have been implemented, teachers continue to work diligently to serve their students' needs and interests. The faculty is an integral part of the community. He spoke about the unpaid extra time teachers spend with students and out-of-pocket expenses that they give for the betterment of their students, going the extra mile and doing the right thing. As an association, they have contributed to the community in the following endeavors: sponsored food and clothing drives, Easter donations to Restoration Ministries; delivered hundred of valentines to seniors; created Halloween High; sponsored Little League teams; donated books to Family Reading Night; coordinated a back-to-school drive which provided thousands of dollars for supplies to students in need; contribute to and run the Ray Price Scholarship Fund to support future teachers from District 205. He spoke against changing the Nepotism Policy.

FACULTY  
ASSOCIATION

The Faculty Association was not provided the information requested regarding the Superintendent interviews and is concerned because the staff will be teaching at District 205 long after the current Board is gone. He emphasized the need for good leadership.

FACULTY  
ASSOCIATION,  
Con't.

Mr. Crayton moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Ratify the Overnight Field Trip** as presented by Mrs. Williams for three Thornwood band students to travel to Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana to participate in the All-Star Band Weekend from February 17-19, 2012. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RATIFICATION OF  
OVERNIGHT FIELD  
TRIP

Mr. Crayton moved, Mr. Robinson seconded, to **Ratify the Overnight Field Trip** as presented by Mrs. Williams for eleven Thornwood students of the speech team to travel to Peoria, Illinois to participate in the IHSA State Speech Tournament from February 16-19, 2012. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RATIFICATION OF  
OVERNIGHT FIELD  
TRIP

Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Ratify the Overnight Field Trip** as presented by Mr. Ratliff for two students of the Thornton Wrestling Team to travel to the University of Illinois in Champaign, Illinois, to participate in the state finals from February 16-19, 2012. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RATIFICATION OF  
OVERNIGHT FIELD  
TRIP

Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Ratify the Overnight Field Trip** as presented by Mr. Ratliff for twelve Thornton students of the speech team to travel to Peoria, Illinois to participate in the IHSA State Speech Tournament from February 16-19, 2012. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RATIFICATION OF  
OVERNIGHT FIELD  
TRIP

Mr. Robinson moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to **Ratify the Overnight Field Trip** for one Thornridge student to travel to Peoria, Illinois to participate in the IHSA State Speech Tournament from February 16-19, 2012. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RATIFICATION OF  
OVERNIGHT FIELD  
TRIP

Mr. Burton moved, Mr. Crayton seconded, to **Approve the French Level I Textbook, *Bien Dit*** as presented by Mrs. Johnson. The textbook has been on display for public viewing for thirty (30) days. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
FRENCH BOOK,  
LEVEL I

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Approve the French Level II Textbook, *Bien Dit*** as presented by Mrs. Johnson. The textbook has been on display for public viewing for thirty (30) days. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
FRENCH BOOK,  
LEVEL II

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Approve the Spanish Level I Textbook, *Asi Se Dice*** as presented by Mrs. Johnson. The textbook has been on display for public viewing for thirty (30) days. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
SPANISH BOOK,  
LEVEL I

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Approve the Spanish Level II Textbook, *Asi Se Dice*** as presented by Mrs. Johnson. The textbook has been on display for public viewing for thirty (30) days. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
SPANISH BOOK,  
LEVEL II

Mr. Burton moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Approve the 2012-2013 School Calendar** as presented by Mrs. Ablin. The first day of school will be August 20, 2012; the last day will be June 4, 2013. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
2012-2013 SCHOOL  
CALENDAR

Mr. Burton moved, Mr. Crayton seconded, to **Approve the Spring 2012 Asbestos Abatement** as presented by Mr. Ogarek in the amount of \$74,840.00 to Safe Environmental which is recommended by the Finance Committee. The abatement relates to the Thornton HVAC project. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
SPRING 2012  
ASBESTOS  
ABATEMENT

Mrs. Lawrence presented the proposed changes to the Nepotism Policy. The proposed changes will be posted online for thirty (30) days for review and are as follows:

APPROVAL OF  
CHANGES TO  
NEPOTISM POLICY

*"For the purpose of this policy, family member shall include but not limited to spouse, parent, child and sibling.*

*"Thornton Township High School District 205 is committed to hiring qualified personnel based on staffing needs in compliance with the Illinois State Board of Education and District 205 policies.*

*"It is the policy of Thornton Township High School District 205 that no family member of an administrator of Thornton Township High School District 205 may be employed full-time by the school district.*

*"However, employees who already hold a position at Thornton Township High School District 205 and are a family member of an administrator shall not be affected."*

No action was taken.

Dr. Lyke recommended that the Board adopt a **Soccer Goal Safety and Education Policy** which has been mandated by the Illinois State Board of Education. The proposed policy will address the safety issues associated with movable soccer goals. The policy will be posted online for thirty (30) days for review. No action was taken.

APPROVAL OF  
SOCCER GOAL  
SAFETY AND  
EDUCATION  
POLICY

Ms. Wanda Russell presented the **Proposed Changes to the Discipline Policy** including, but not limited to, the addition of a Student ID policy. Intervention services for repeated offenses may be provided. Any 10-day suspension would be subject to an administrative review. Suspended students will receive 75% for make-up work and will be expected to complete make-up work within 3 days upon return to school. The proposed changes will be posted online for thirty (30) days for review. No action was taken.

APPROVAL OF  
CHANGES TO  
DISCIPLINE POLICY

Mr. Al Pearson presented the **Proposed Changes to the Attendance Policy** including, but not limited to, Students with excused absences would receive 100% credit for make-up work; students with unexcused absences and/or out-of-school suspensions receive 75% credit for make-up work. Students will be expected to complete make-up work within 3 days upon return to school. Changes to the consequences for unexcused absences and tardies were also proposed. The proposed changes will be posted online for thirty (30) days for review. No action was taken.

APPROVAL OF  
CHANGES TO  
ATTENDANCE  
POLICY

Mr. Burton moved, Mrs. Williams seconded to **Change the April 2012 Board Meeting Date** to April 18, 2012 as presented by Dr. Lyke who stated that the regularly scheduled April Board of Education meeting falls during Spring Break. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
APRIL BOARD  
MEETING DATE  
CHANGE

Dr. Lyke reported as follows:

SUPERINTENDENT  
REPORT

Administrators have made community visits to reintroduce District 205 through city, village and school board meetings. A short video is showcased featuring the new Curriculum offerings and student achievements of the District.

District 205 is leading the Student Ambassador Program that originated at the Superintendents Roundtable in an effort to provide an earlier transition from middle school to high school. Current students will return to their middle school to explain programs and activities in District 205 to the 8<sup>th</sup> graders and tell about their high school experiences. The eighth graders will get the opportunity to visit to District 205.

Naviance, a new program to District 205, is a web-based research and college planning tool for 2012-2013. It will allow students to establish post-secondary goals connected to their coursework for the purpose of college planning. It also takes them through the college application and decision process. The program begins in a student's freshman year. Training for staff will be provided.

SUPERINTENDENT  
REPORT, Con't.

At 7:53 p.m., Mr. Crayton moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to go into **Executive Session** for the purpose of discussing student discipline, personnel and negotiations. 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 9:16 p.m., Mr. Burton moved, Mrs. Lawrence 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

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Banks seconded to approve the following disciplinary action. Student Case #1F-1112-06: Expel through June 2013 and **Hold in Abeyance** to attend Academy for Learning. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT  
DISCIPLINE  
CASE # 1F-1112-06

Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Approve Resolution No. 2012-3 Authorizing Execution of Employment Separation Agreement and General Release and Waiver of all Liability**. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RESOLUTION TO  
DISMISS A  
TENURED  
TEACHER

At 9:20 p.m., Mr. Burton moved, Mr. Banks 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

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President/Presiding Member

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Secretary/Recording Secretary