

MINUTES OF THE **OPEN SESSION OF A SPECIAL MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2012** IN THE AUDITORIUM AT THORNTON HIGH SCHOOL, 15101 BROADWAY AVENUE, HARVEY, ILLINOIS, BEGINNING AT 4:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by the President pursuant to notice.

PURPOSE OF  
MEETING

A copy of the meeting and certification by the Secretary are a part of the official minutes.

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m. On roll call, Members Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson and T. Williams answered. Members Banks and K. Williams were 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 and External Partnerships; Mrs. Maria Brunson, Director of Information Technology; Mr. Tony Ratliff, Principal of Thornton High School; Mrs. Darcelle Williams, Principal of Thornwood High School; and Mr. Anthony Bass, District 205 Legal Counsel, were also present.

ROLL  
CALL

In the absence of the President, Mr. Crayton assumed the role of President.

PRESIDENT *PRO*  
*TEM*

Mr. Crayton 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

At 4:17 p.m., Mr. Williams joined the meeting.

MR. WILLIAMS  
JOINED MEETING

- Felita Crayton (Dolton): 1) asked if students will be employed for the summer programs as in the past; 2) are all programs intact for the summer; 3) has the sports program increased this year; 4) who would the sports program be run under; 5) who are the summer school assistant principals; 6) what things have changed from last year to this year regarding summer school; 1) Dr. Lyke responded: 1) Yes, District 205 college students will be hired; 2) yes; 3) fee will be based on the number of students, it is a self-sufficient program; 4) The summer school principal or the assistant principals; 5) Steve Valant and Sherita Robinson; 6) it is still in the process of being put together.
- Jacqueline Franklin (South Holland) asked: 1) how the Race To The Top Grant will enhance students' educational experience, and 2) how can she get questions answered for a matter that occurred in the past and is not on the current Board agenda, and 3) how to her questions become record. Mr. Crayton stated that it will be addressed during the presentation at today's Board meeting. 2) her questions should first be directed to the Superintendent and if not answered, direct questions to the Board.
- Jeanita Eaves (Harvey): 1) stated that public participation is too early; and 2) asked the status of the Superintendent search. Mr. Crayton responded: 1) the Board is working to accommodate all constituents for public participation and all questions should be directed to the Superintendent, and 2) the public will be informed in the near future.
- Marketta Steele (South Holland): 1) asked how many school districts are expected to receive funds from the Race To The Top Grant; 2) if awarded, when will the funds be allocated, and 3) could the public be notified via cell phone when the Board returns to regular session. Mr. Crayton responded the cell phone suggestion will be taken under consideration.

PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION,

Dr. Lyke, Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Ablin presented information concerning the Race To The Top III Grant, stating it is not to be confused with the School Improvement Grant and does not require a bold and radical change. The State of Illinois received \$42.8 million in funds and will share 50% (\$21.4 million) with participating school districts. This grant would provide funds for state mandated initiatives to enhance teacher evaluations; collect student data; new teacher and principal induction programs; Professional Development for administrators and teachers and align Curriculum with Common Core. All initiatives affect student achievement.

RACE TO THE TOP  
III GRANT

The timeline for the grant is as follows:

February 29, 2012	Deadline to submit Letter of Intent
March 2012	Receive preliminary award letter
January – June 2012	Develop final scope of work

The District has already begun many of the required scopes of work required by the grant including, but not limited to:

- Establish professional learning communities and alignment teams
- Identify STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) application areas
- College and Career Readiness program planning
- Training or piloting of Rising star
- Curriculum analysis using new standards
- Cross grade-level discussions to identify shifts in content

More information about Race To The Top can be found on the Illinois State Board of Education website: [www.isbe.net](http://www.isbe.net).

All districts to be awarded grant funds will be notified of the amount in March 2012. If it is determined any amount awarded to District 205 is not significant enough to meet the demands, the District can reject the funds. Dr. Lyke explained how professional development will enhance the student learning.

The Board stated the new Superintendent should have input regarding applying for this grant and that more information is needed including the support of the Faculty Association.

At 5:04 p.m., Mrs. Williams moved, Mr. Robinson seconded to go into **Executive Session** to discuss employment. On roll call, Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

At 6:45 p.m., Mr. Crayton moved, Mr. Robinson seconded, to **Return to Regular Session**. Members Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RETURNED TO  
REGULAR SESSION

At 6:50 p.m., Mr. Crayton 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

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President *Pro Tem*

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Secretary/Recording Secretary

rp(spec brd mins 2-21-12)

**REGULAR SESSION**