

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2011** IN THE AUDITORIUM AT THORN RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL, 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, 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 Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams answered. Members Banks and Burton 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; 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, and Mr. Anthony Bass and Ms. Kathleen Elliott, District 205 Legal Counsel, were also present.

ROLL
CALL

The Board President offered a moment of silence to acknowledge all United States veterans in observance of Veterans' Day, November 11, 2011.

MOMENT OF
SILENCE

Report from Curriculum Committee: Mrs. Lawrence announced that the Curriculum Committee met on October 26, 2011 and discussed common core standards which will begin in 2014 and provide a clear understanding of what students are supposed to learn, this is a nation-wide initiative for grades K-12.

COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is designed for students "in the middle" to excel and has been successful in other districts.

Title I funding is now available to use for students in all grade levels because District 205 has been identified as a high poverty school district.

The topic of discussion at the next Curriculum Committee meeting in January will be developing procedures for remediation plans, athletes with falling G.P.A.'s; procedures for career developments and updates on trade programs

Report from Finance Committee: Mr. Crayton stated the Finance Committee met on October 21, 2011 and will recommend approval for three items on tonight's agenda.

Report from Policy Committee: Mrs. Williams reported the Policy Committee will hold a meeting on December 7, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at Thornridge High School.

At 6:36 p.m., Mr. Banks joined the meeting.

MR. BANKS JOINED
MEETING

Report from Discipline Committee: Mr. Banks reported the Discipline Committee will hold a meeting on November 22, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at Thornton High School.

COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE, Con't.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- The minutes of the Board Self-Evaluation Executive Session of October 10, 2011.

MINUTES:
OCTOBER 10, 2011

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ▪ The minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of October 12, 2011. | MINUTES:
OCTOBER 12, 2011 |
| ▪ The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated October 13, October 20, October 27 and November 4, 2011 | BILLS |
| ▪ Resignations: See Director of Human Resources. | RESIGNATIONS |
| ▪ Leave of Absence: See Director of Human Resources. | LEAVE OF ABSENCE |
| ▪ Employment: See Director of Human Resources. | EMPLOYMENT |

On roll call, Members Banks, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

Mr. Williams said as stated at the October 12, 2011 Board meeting, your name will not be called if you do not list a topic, or the topic is not on the current Board agenda or if Public Participation has begun.

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

- Linda Gauthreaux (Farmers Insurance), talked about the Freedoms Songs DVD project that was provided to the Board and stated it is important for all children to understand their fellow man's journey through history. She solicited support that Freedoms Songs be accepted as part of the curriculum.
- Ms. Henderson (Calumet City) asked for the District's process for accepting charter school proposals. Mr. Williams suggested she speak with Mrs. Lawrence after the Board meeting.
- Jeanita Eaves (Harvey): 1) asked if a bid has been accepted for the Thornton air conditioning project, and 2) stated that public participation does not allow her to address the topic after Board discusses it. In response: 1) Mr. Williams stated that the matter is on the agenda for a vote this evening; Mr. Crayton added it will be recommended for approval this evening.
- Felita Crayton (Dolton) asked: 1) is the Board adhering to the rules announced at the October Board meeting concerning public participation sign-up because late sign-ups occurred this evening; 2) will the HVAC be brought up tonight for a vote because the money has been set aside for this project in 2009 and please make sure students have fresh air at Thornton high school; 3) the status of the Superintendent search; and 4) will the public be part of the process. Mr. Williams responded: 1) Tonight a grace period was extended; 2) Mr. Crayton responded that Phase 1 will be recommended for approval which is a heating and cooling system for Thornton High School; 3) the IASB will make a presentation this evening; 4) and the Board has already decided that public input was a part of the selection process.
- Willie Richardson (South Holland) stated the PSAT results released were very disheartening with a 50% decline in student performance. The problem is the gap between the feeder schools and the transition to high school. What is the status of the Articulation meetings previously described by Dr. Buckner. Dr. Lyke responded that the meetings are under the Thornton Township Teaching & Learning Partnership program and are still ongoing. Meetings occur monthly and principals from feeder schools are invited. Dr. Lyke is establishing a Superintendents Roundtable to discuss common core to bridge the gap.
- Bernard Lacour is a member of the Board and design team for Life Academy Charter School and hopes the proposal will receive full and fair consideration.

At 6:55 p.m., Mr. Burton joined the meeting.

MR. BURTON
JOINED MEETING

- Mr. Byron Patterson: 1) asked how much money is spent for utilities and security guards on night duty; 2) stated 20 minutes for a student to eat lunch is not enough time and he is frustrated at the situation; 3) students did not get what they needed from Summer School; 4) late start days should not interrupt the students' schedules, and 5) Board meetings are not productive.
- Vivienne Williams (Dolton): 1) asked that sporting events be scheduled before or after graduation so that all can participate; 2) asked to go into closed session; 3) stated that a dedicated instructor performs above and beyond and that if job security is not at District 205, they could lose dedicated teachers; the Board voted to violate the collective bargaining agreement by replacing fair negotiations with dictatorship. Improvement starts with building relationships. She urged the Board to return the salaries to the teachers and work in good faith to enter into a fair contract. In response: 2) Dr. Lyke asked Mrs. Williams to contact her regarding next month's closed session meeting.

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION
Con't.

Mr. Ogarek reported that since the last Board meeting, four Freedom of Information Act requests were received and responded to within five days.

FOIA

Mr. Doss presented the following information:

COMMUNICATIONS

The Board meeting protocol was read to the public. He stated the designated area for videotaping as the second center row of the auditorium.

- Twenty-five Thornridge students were entered into the National Honors Society at an induction ceremony on October 27, 2011.
- Southwest Suburban Conference Football All Conference Status has been given to Thornridge athletes, Devonte Stewart, Stephen Davis and Terrance Thomas.
- National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) students are currently in a near tie for second place in a state-wide stock market game. The team is sponsored by Illinois State Representative Will Davis who will visit the school on November 28.
- The Thornton student body won a contest during Spirit Week for WGCI 107.5 to come to the school during the Spirit Pep Assembly.
- Thornton Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity hosted life skills workshops for students on Saturday, November 5th. Over 200 youth participated.
- The Thornton speech team competed in a tournament on November 5th. Tournament champions included John Arrington, Jr., Darwin Perry and LaNeah Hawkins.
- *Beauty and the Beast* was performed for Thornton students from Lowell Longfellow Elementary School in the new auditorium.
- Thornwood Freshman, Glennita Williams, coordinated a community service activity entitled Operation Twinkie, which was highlighted on ABC 7 News. Over \$477.00 was raised and 3,000 Twinkies and other care items were shipped to soldiers in Afghanistan.
- Darell Combs, Thornwood Senior, has signed a letter of intent to play Division I basketball at Loyola University Chicago.
- Thornwood Band competed in the 22nd Annual Marching Bulldog Band Festival and placed second and third in the top categories in the prestigious Class AAA competition.
- District 205 is now posting a Facebook page. All announcements and related school are posted on Facebook.
- The Illinois State Board of Education School Report Cards are now available for the District and each school. They can be found on the district website and copies are available in the main office of each building.

Upcoming Events:

Nov. 10	Mock Congressional Hearings at Thornton
Nov. 12	Smooth Jazz Café at Thornton
Nov. 16	Late Start
Nov. 19	Thornridge Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
Nov. 24-25	Thanksgiving Holiday
Nov. 28	Coffee Chat with Dr. Lyke, District Office
Nov. 30	Attendance committee Meeting at Thornridge
Dec. 7	Late Start
Dec. 7	Policy committee meeting at Thornridge
Dec. 13	Student Board of Education Meeting at Thornridge
Dec. 14	Board of Education meeting, Thornridge

COMMUNICATIONS,
Con't.

Dr. Lyke announced that November 15th is Illinois School Board Members Day. District 205 Board members were recognized with a reception earlier this evening. The seven Board members serve a diverse population of over 47,000 households, 13 communities, 9 feeder districts, 650 staff members and over 5300 students. They attend several meetings monthly, visit schools, speak with parents and community members and represent District 205 in a variety of school and community events. The District thanks them for their all their services and vision for student achievement.

RECOGNITION OF
BOARD MEMBERS

Double Victory, the documentary companion to the George Lucas film, *Red Tails*, was described by Captain Ken Repeir, President of the Chicago Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, as a film about the struggles of the Tuskegee Airmen in the U.S. Military. *Red Tails* will be released January 20, 2012. Captain Repeir talked about the Young Eagles Program wherein children between the ages of 8 and 17 are provided free introductory flights from Gary-Chicago Airport. Reservations can be made by calling the hotline (773.602.2880) or visiting the website at www.taichicago.org. He asked that students be encouraged to apply for a \$1,000 scholarship program that is offered by the Chicago Chapter. Airman Alvin Rider would like the opportunity to present a flight simulator experience for students.

TUSKEGEE AIRMEN
PRESENTATION

Ms. Darcell Ross, Founder, presented a proposal on behalf of Life Academy Charter School. The plight of the African American and Latino urban school students in Illinois and the U.S. is that they are falling behind other states and developed countries at an alarming rate. Life Academy's mission is to empower urban students who have not been successful in traditional high schools by implementing a unique instructional approach. Their vision is to provide a rigorous, engaging and challenging college preparatory educational program. She stressed the values the school promotes, including rigorous college and workforce preparation in a positive school culture. She cited the graduation rate, academic proficiency, college readiness, changing demographics and attendance of District 205 and stated Life Academy looks forward to completing the Charter School process with District 205.

LIFE ACADEMY
CHARTER SCHOOL
PROPOSAL
PRESENTATION

Dawn Miller, Illinois Association of School Boards consultant, gave an overview of the Superintendent search process offered by IASB, which begins with an online survey for staff, parents and community members. An announcement of the vacancy is made throughout the country. IASB will present the top candidates to the Board based on the established criteria. A workshop on the interview process is made available to the Board members.

IASB
SUPERINTENDENT
SEARCH
PRESENTATION

Mr. Robinson moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded to **Approve the Out-of-State Field Trip** as presented by Mrs. Williams for 25 Thornwood cheerleaders to travel to Orlando, Florida to compete in the National Contest of Champions from February 23-27, 2012. Fundraising efforts will offset the cost of the trip. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
OUT-OF-STATE
FIELD TRIP

Mr. Crayton moved, Mr. Robinson seconded to **Approve the Snow Removal Bid** as presented by Mr. Ogarek. The Finance Committee is recommending the bid be awarded for one year to Sila Maintenance in the amount of \$118,457.00. Mr. Ogarek stated the District spent just under \$71,000.00 which includes a reimbursement from FEMA in the amount of approximately \$118,000.00 for the blizzard in February 2011. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
SNOW REMOVAL
BID

Mr. Crayton moved, Mr. Burton seconded to **Approve HVAC Bid – Phase 1** as presented by Mr. Ogarek. Phase I includes the purchase and installation of generators for electricity for the project; construction of the mechanical room; and purchase and installation of equipment within the mechanical room and other infrastructure. The Finance Committee is recommending approval of the bid by Nicholas and Associates in the amount of \$5,998,000.00. A discussion ensued with the architect and the engineer concerning the different phases of the project, the necessity to complete the project and the remaining funds for capital projects.

APPROVAL OF
HVAC BID-PHASE I

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Williams seconded to **Table the Approval of the HVAC Bid – Phase 1**. On roll call, Members Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; Members Banks, Burton and Crayton voted nay; motion passed.

MOTION TO TABLE
HVAC BID-PHASE 1

At 8:36 p.m., Mr. Banks left the meeting.

MR. BANKS LEFT
THE MEETING

Mr. Ogarek presented the **2011 Tentative Tax Levy** in the amount of \$61,966,625, and explained the legal requirements under the Truth in Taxation Act. The tentative tax levy will be on display for 30 days prior to adoption as required by law. The tentative levy is 4.99% higher than the total 2010 extension. The levy will be presented for approval at the December 14, 2011 Board meeting.

TENTATIVE 2011
TAX LEVY
PRESENTATION

Mr. Ken Wendorff, Faculty Association President, introduced Ms. Mary-Tina Vrehas, teacher at Thornridge High School, who spoke about the Increase the Peace Rally and working together to stop violence. She stated that the time is always right to do what is right. Teachers should be instruments of inspiration and they have the power to make difference in a child's life. She believes that District 205 stands on the brink of greatness and asked the Board to bring encouragement to the staff. Mr. Wendorff added that the hiring of a Superintendent will not take place until the end of the school year and challenged the Board to include the Faculty Association and the community in the planning process to increase student achievement.

FACULTY
ASSOCIATION

Dr. Lyke reported that she is in the process of forming a Superintendents Roundtable in an effort to close the gap between the feeder schools and District 205. Districts 148, 133, 147 and 150 have agreed to be on the Superintendents Roundtable, which focuses on the implementation of common core standards from kindergarten through high school.

SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT

Mr. Tom Porter, Fine Arts Area Instructional Leader, described the Fine Arts Program including Art, Music, Speech, Foreign Language and English Language Learning. Research among 25,000 students shows that students in high levels of involvement in the arts had higher test scores, more community involvement, less boredom with school and better attendance.

Each building has one band instructor and a pilot course in Advance Placement Music Theory is being offered this year. All students are required to take Speech One as a graduation requirement and have opportunities to take Speech Two; Theatre Arts; Stagecraft and Media Production 1 and 2. In conjunction with South Suburban College, Media 2 is a dual credit course, wherein students receive college credit upon completion of the course.

SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT, Con't.

Chinese 1 and 2 are being taught by two native speakers from China. It is hoped to include level 3 next year. Five different levels of French are taught throughout the District. French is the second most used language in the business world. Currently four levels of Spanish are being offered across the District and administration is working on a Spanish Speakers course. Seven years of language are needed for a student to become fluent. The District 205 ELL (English Language Learning) Program is housing all students at Thornton Township High School. The number of students enrolled is 110 students, an increase from 72 students last year.

The Board appreciates Mr. Porter's attendance at Board meetings. All Advanced Placement courses offered at District 205 are authorized by the College Board.

At 9:14 p.m., Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Crayton seconded, to go into **Executive Session**. The agenda will be student discipline; semi-annual review of unreleased closed meeting minutes; charges against employer by Faculty Association; Superintendent search, negotiations discussion and litigation. On roll call, Members Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURN TO
EXECUTIVE
SESSION

At 10:44 p.m., Mr. Crayton moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to **Return to Regular Session**. On roll call, Members Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RETURN TO
REGULAR SESSION

At 10:45 p.m., Mr. Crayton moved, Mrs. Williams seconded, to **Adjourn the Meeting**. On roll call, Members Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

President/Presiding Member

Secretary/Recording Secretary