

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2011** IN THE AUDITORIUM AT THORNBRIDGE 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 Banks, Crayton, Lawrence, K. Williams and T. Williams answered. Members Burton and Robinson 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

Report from Curriculum Committee: Mrs. Lawrence announced that a date will be set for a Curriculum Committee meeting and the public will be informed.

COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE

Report from Finance Committee: Mr. Crayton stated the Finance Committee is recommending approval of the McGladrey Pullen Audit Arrangement Letter contained in tonight's Consent agenda.

Report from Policy Committee: No report.

Report from Discipline Committee: No report.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- The minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of September 14, 2011.
- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated Sept. 16, Sept. 23, Sept. 29 and October 6, 2011.
- Discovery Education Contract
- ECHO 2011-2012 School Lunch Program Agreement
- McGladrey Pullen Audit Arrangement Letter
- Resignations: See Director of Human Resources.
- Leave of Absence: See Director of Human Resources.
- Employment: See Director of Human Resources.

MINUTES:
SEPTEMBER 14, 2011

BILLS

CONTRACT

AGREEMENT

ARRANGEMENT
LETTER

RESIGNATIONS

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

EMPLOYMENT

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

Mr. Williams announced that the following protocol regarding Public Participation will be in effect beginning at the November 9, 2011 Board meeting. Your name will not be called if you do not list a topic on the sign-in sheet; the topic is not on the current Board agenda; after Public Participation has begun, no late sign-ups will be accepted and the time will be limited to three minutes.

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

- Elizah Smith (Chicago) the Regional Director of Farmers Insurance, was introduced by Linda Gauthreaux and described the Freedoms Songs DVD that he provided to the Board and asked the Board's permission to provide the DVD's to the schools at no cost. Mr. Williams thanked him and stated the DVD was very informative.
- Rose Taylor (Dolton) asked: 1) for an audit of the special needs funds; 2) that teachers be allowed to take special needs students into the neighborhoods and out of the classroom setting, and 3) the status of the Superintendent search. In response: 1) Mr. Crayton directed Dr. Lyke to review the special needs audit issue, and 3) Mr. Williams stated the Superintendent search is being addressed with IASB.
- Felita Crayton (Dolton) 1) asked the status of the cash registers purchase; 2) there is conversation among the community that the Board does not follow through; 3) when will the Superintendent search begin; 4) are the teachers working under a contract; 5) given the economy, would the teachers be willing to take a pay freeze; 6) requested to go into executive session regarding a teacher who made an inappropriate comment to a student. Dr. Lyke responded: 1) the purchase has been approved; Mr. Williams responded 3) the Board is going to work with IASB regarding the Superintendent search and a representative will provide a presentation at next month's Board meeting; 4) Dr. Lyke responded yes; 5) negotiations are ongoing;
- Tameka Redmond (Riverdale) and Marcelle Wade (Dolton) spoke about a group they have formed called SWA (Seniors With Ambition) whose purpose is to volunteer with homeless shelters, orphanages, nursing homes, etc. They are looking for sponsors to support their ambitions, i.e., organizing a Halloween party in a shelter/orphanage and raising money to buy costumes for the children and take children trick or treating. They were applauded for their efforts and Mr. Crayton suggested a conversation take place with Dr. Lyke after the meeting.

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION,
Con't.

Mr. Ogarek reported that since the last Board meeting, five Freedom of Information Act requests were received and responded to within five days concerning the following: one request for vendor invoice; and four commercial requests for vendor contracts and research data were responded to within 21 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.

- Congratulations to Thornton Township High School faculty member Ayodeji Ogunniyi who was invited to the White House to speak during the roll out of National Public Radio's new Story Corps Program. You may view his speech on the District 205 website and his story is now archived at the Library of Congress.
- On September 17th an Increase the Peace Anti-Violence Rally took place in the Village of Dolton. The Thornridge Band performed and participating organizations included the Dolton Youth Commission, the District 205 Student Board of Education and the Thornridge Poetry Club.
- Ms. Alma Rogue, Thornwood faculty member, was honored by Purdue University as a Distinguished Alumni for her commitment to education.

At 6:50 p.m. p.m., Mr. Robinson joined the meeting.

MR. ROBINSON
JOINED MEETING

New members of the Student Board of Education include: Triana Williams, Marshun Tolbert, Glennita Williams and Luke Arrington.

COMMUNICATIONS,
Con't.

Upcoming Events:

Oct. 14	End of Quarter 1
Oct. 19	Late Start
Oct. 19	Biology Bowl, Thornridge, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Oct. 20	Capital Improvement Dedication Ceremony, Thornton, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Oct. 22	ACT Test Date
Nov. 2	Late Start
Nov. 4	ACT Registration Deadline for Dec. 10
Nov. 5	SAT Test Date
Nov. 8	SAT Registration Deadline for Dec. 3
Nov. 8	Student Board of Education Meeting, Thorn ridge 4:00 p.m.
Nov. 9	Board of Education Meeting, Thorn ridge, 6:30 p.m.

At 6:56 p.m., Mr. Burton joined the meeting.

MR. BURTON
JOINED MEETING

Mr. Ken Wendorff, Faculty Association President, expressed concern regarding the inability for the Faculty Association and the Board of Education to reach a fair agreement. He spoke about the unfairness of the Board's action to cut teachers' salaries back to what they made in the 2009-2010 school year while negotiations are continuing and stated it is unprecedented and wrong, creating undue anxiety for teachers. He stated it is the teachers of District 205, not the administration, who do the real work of educating children and preparing them to be competitive in the real world, many of them spending a great deal of time planning outside of the regular school day. District 205 teachers work hard and deserve to have that work recognized with a fair contractual agreement.

FACULTY
ASSOCIATION

Mr. Robinson moved, Mr. Burton seconded to **Approve the Out-of-State Field Trip** as presented by Mr. Ratliff for 20-22 Thornton 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

The Board commented that District 205 must address the curriculum so that it meets the academic needs of incoming freshmen.

MISCELLANEOUS

Dr. Lyke introduced Dr. Michael Sanders, English Area Instructional Leader, who began his presentation by stating that District 205 is at war with literacy. He described the regular English courses for each level of high school students, freshman through senior year, as well as the honors track.

SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT

One of the parent outcries during the planning for the District Improvement Plan was the calling for freshman reading courses. Students taking Ramp Up to Literacy are entering high school at a second to fourth grade reading level. Reading Foundations students are between fourth and sixth grade reading levels. The maximum number of students for Ramp Up classes is 54 per building. The Foundations class comprises approximately 40% district-wide, High School reading (students between sixth and eighth grade level) comprises approximately 50% and the Reading Seminar (at grade level or above) equals approximately 10%. A Sophomore reading class was also needed, and it is a very teacher-to-student experience.

The Gates-MacGinitie reading scores indicating as much as two years gain. He thanked the Board for retaining Ramp Up to Literacy as he believes it is by far the most successful of all the America's Choice initiatives. The reading program also showed a gain of one grade level for the Seminar group.

SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT, Con't.

He explained the responsibilities of literacy coaches and stressed that the Professional Development Plan demands that reading be the responsibility of all content areas, not just English. Everything will rise if literacy is spread across the Curriculum. The response has been positive.

A Library initiative called the Abe Lincoln Award is given to an author of teenage literature voted by the students, designed to engage them in reading. Incentives \$5 monthly drawings, free books and gift cards.

Poetry Slam congregates in the library. The poetry team meets regularly and conducts slams which led to the annual Family Reading Night. This year's event will be held on March 29 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. The attendance goal for this year is 500.

Five late starts will be devoted to Professional Learning Communities, inspired teachers to work on projects that they don't have time for during the regular school day.

In response to the Board, Mr. Sanders added the following:

District 205 articulates with the feeder schools 4 times a year to share data and resources. The literacy coaches give them as much information as possible. Over the past three years, the reading level of incoming freshman has improved from approximately 5.6 to 7.2.

Currently, District 205 does not offer dual credit toward college. Depending on some university regulations, students can opt out of certain classes. There are pros and cons to this topic.

Mr. Williams repeated the announcement regarding Public Participation effective at the November 9, 2011 Board meeting. Before requesting to address the Board during executive session, protocol requires parents to first contact the teacher, then the principal, and lastly the Superintendent. If the matter cannot be resolved, it then will be brought to the Board. He encouraged parents to keep a log of these activities.

ANNOUNCEMENT
TO THE PUBLIC

At 7:42 p.m., Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Crayton seconded, to go into **Executive Session**. 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 8:53 p.m., Mr. Crayton 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

At 8:55 p.m., Mr. Burton moved, Mrs. Williams 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