

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2011** IN ROOM 1630 AT THORNWOOD HIGH SCHOOL, SOUTH HOLLAND, ILLINOIS, BEGINNING AT 6:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. President Williams made the following announcement: Per District 205 Board Policy, any person may record or broadcast an open Board meeting, which dictates recording participants in Board meeting, not the audience. Recording meetings shall not distract or disturb Board members, other meeting participants, or members of the public. If necessary, the Board Vice 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 Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, K. Williams and T. Williams answered. Member Robinson was absent. Dr. Betheny Lyke, Acting Superintendent; Mr. Jerry Doss, Director of Public Relations; Mrs. Maria Brunson, Director of Information Technology; Mrs. Leslie Morris, Coordinator of Business Services; Mr. Brad Beilfuss and Mrs. Dorith Johnson, Co-Principals 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: No report.

COMMITTEE OF  
THE WHOLE

Report from Finance Committee: Mr. Crayton reported that the Finance Committee held a public meeting on August 4, 2011 and recommendations will be made later in the agenda.

Report from Policy Committee: No report.

Report from Discipline Committee: No report.

At 6:33 p.m., Mr. Robinson joined the meeting.

MR. ROBINSON  
JOINED MEETING

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- The minutes of the Special Meeting and Executive Session of July 11, 2011.
- The minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of July 13, 2011.
- The minutes of the Special Meeting Open Session of July 21, 2011.
- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated July 13, July 22, July 27, August 2 and August 5, 2011.
- Resignations: See Director of Human Resources.
- Leave of Absence: See Director of Human Resources.
- Employment: See Director of Human Resources.

MINUTES:  
JULY 11 2011

JULY 13, 2011

JULY 21, 2011

BILLS

RESIGNATIONS

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Williams asked that the approval of the July 11, 2011 minutes be removed from the consent agenda until he is provided full minutes of the executive session.

BOARD MEMBER  
COMMENTS

He stated approval of the bills should be removed until the next Board meeting because there are errors on the bill run. There are checks issued to Mr. Williams that were not spent and should be indicated as voided. He traveled with his wife and did not use the check. The bills should not reflect he received money because he did not spend it and returned the check to the District.

Regarding personnel, Mr. Williams agrees to the hiring of teachers only. The Board should be made aware in advance of any other hiring; particularly, the Athletic Director at Thornwood and head coaches at the three schools. Any head coaching positions are to be taken first to the committees who make their selection. That selection is sent to Principal and the Principal then makes a recommendation to the Board. The Board has not been informed of the results of the head coaching positions or Athletic Director and the items should therefore be removed from consent agenda.

BOARD MEMBER  
COMMENTS, Con't.

He further stated that transparency should show the hiring process to be fair. He does not agree with back door and in-house hiring. The Board is responsible at the end of the day if that is allowed to happen. All seven members must make a decision and give their recommendation also. He has not received any communication from the Principals. He stressed that hiring should be done according to Board Policy. Head coaching positions are serious positions and should go through the Board process; therefore the items should be removed from consent agenda.

He added that according to Policy, a rescission of a resignation should not be allowed and that item as well should be removed from the consent agenda.

Mrs. Williams moved, Mr. Robinson seconded to **Sever the Minutes of the Special Meeting and Executive Session of July 11, 2011 from the Consent Agenda**. On roll call, Members Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; Members Banks, Burton, Crayton and Lawrence voted nay; motion failed. Mr. Williams requested the item to be pulled and stated that according to Policy, any Board member may request an item to be removed from the consent agenda without a vote.

MOTION TO SEVER  
MINUTES

Mrs. Williams moved, Mr. Robinson seconded to **Sever the Bills dated July 13, July 22, July 27, August 1 and August 5, 2011 from the Consent Agenda**. On roll call, Members Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; Members Banks, Burton, Crayton and Lawrence voted nay; motion failed.

MOTION TO SEVER  
BILLS

Administration responded to Mr. Robinson's questions regarding electric bills; legal fees; abatement project expenses and special education transportation bills; out-of-state court ordered placements, and technology consultants. Mr. Williams requested a letter from administration confirming he returned a check issued to him to District Office.

DISCUSSION  
REGARDING BILLS

On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence and Robinson voted aye; members K. Williams and T. Williams voted nay; motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA,  
Con't.

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION

- Willie Richardson (South Holland) stated the African American unemployment is twice that as the overall population. African Americans are inadequately represented in the fire departments of Thornton Township. The President of the Chicago branch of the International Association of Black Firefighters has agreed to talk to students about firefighter careers. The idea was well received and Mr. Crayton suggested a written proposal be submitted to Dr. Lyke.
- Helen Randall (Harvey) commended the Board on the fairness of hiring. She thanked the Faculty Association for again supporting the Harvey Little League. She hopes the United Nations Leadership Program at Thornridge can be expanded.
- Felita Crayton (Dolton) stated she is disappointed with negative comments and hopes the Board and everyone continue to realize they must work collectively for the betterment of the children and community as the District moves forward.
- Michelle Gant (Thornridge parent) stressed the importance of parental support and asked that it be noted on the open house agenda to encourage parents to participate in their student's school life.

Dr. Lyke reported that since the last Board meeting, fourteen (14) Freedom of Information Act requests were received and responded to within five days concerning the following: vendor contracts and other financial agreements; vendor invoices; Board attorney retainer fees; employee information including payroll and employment contracts; current bus routes; charges against a Board member; District 205 finance, curriculum policy and discipline policy meeting minutes

FOIA

Mr. Doss presented the following information:

COMMUNICATIONS

- Concerning recording of Board meetings, he added that special requests to facilitate recording or broadcasting an open Board meeting, such as seating, writing surfaces, lighting, and access to electrical power, should be directed to the Superintendent at least 24 hours before the meeting. Also, the designated taping area for tonight's meeting is the second row center of the auditorium.
- Congratulations to Johari Mackey, Thornwood graduate, who is the 2011 National Forensic League National Champion in Poetry Reading. Johari competed against more than 3,000 competitors and now qualifies for more than \$200,000 in scholarships.
- Thornridge winners of the Family Career and Community Leaders of America Competition at the National Convention were: Parish Whitehead, BevLisa Baker, Laneisha White and Jeannika Jones.
- Thornton Pre-Pharmacy Student Lamonette Scales participated in the American Cancer Society Medical Research Program at University of Illinois at Chicago this summer.
- Thornton student Stacy Ashley placed second in the world competition held at the Pan-American games, which qualifies her for Team USA with a possible appearance at the Olympics.
- District 205 is attempting to obtain public input regarding short and long-term decisions. The public is encouraged to complete the parent/community survey available on the District's website.
- Upcoming Events:

August 11	Schedule pick-up and Registration for all students
August 15	Teacher Institute Day (no school)
August 16	Freshmen Orientation
August 17	First Day of School for all students
August 25	Back to School Night
Sept. 5	Labor Day (no school)
Sept. 14	Board of Education Meeting, Thornridge Auditorium

Mr. Robinson stated that the District cell phone allowance should be reviewed and possibly eliminated. Mr. Williams stated that a forensic audit was approved at a previous Board meeting and urged the Board to move forward before the next Board meeting to assure the forensic audit is put out to bid. Mr. Robinson inquired about the Superintendent applications. Dr. Lyke responded that 25 individuals have shown interest in the position. She further stated the Business Manager position is being reposted because the selected candidate rejected the position. Previous candidates have been notified to reapply if interested. Mr. Williams requested the process and the committee's interview documentation from the head coach interviews be provided to the Board. For clarity, Mr. Banks described the head coach hiring process to be as follows: A committee is formed consisting of representatives from the community, the Board, administration, Faculty Association. They interview the candidates and recommend their top two or three individuals for the position. From those recommendations, the Principal selects the person for the position. The hiring process for the Athletic Director is the same, and sometimes includes head coaches on the interview panel.

BOARD MEMBERS'  
COMMENTS

Prior to his budget presentation, Mr. Rob Grossi of Crystal Financial Consultants suggested to the Board that perhaps the type of audit they are seeking is a cash tie-out audit rather than a forensic audit. He went on to say that sometimes when there is a change in administration, there is a desire to know that the money listed on the audit is in fact the money that is in the bank—this is a cash tie-out audit, which does not go into great detail, just verifying that everything is in order. A forensic audit consists of examining a specified issue or a narrow part of the finances. In response to the Board, he stated the cost for a cash tie-out could be between \$60-120,000. A forensic audit would be less depending on the specific scope of the project. The Board should be mindful that every school district is required to audit their financial statements by an independent auditor as of June 30 of each year. In response to the Board, Dr. Lyke stated the District is working on meeting the October 15<sup>th</sup> audit deadline.

MR. GROSSI  
COMMENTS

Mr. Grossi presented the District 205 2011-2012 tentative budget. Unknown items such as staffing decisions and general state aid figures will impact the final budget. A summary of the total budget included total revenues of \$114,753,000, which is a decrease of approximately \$4 million from last year. The general state aid formula affected this difference. However, the poverty grant allowed for additional revenue this year. He informed the Board that this will help the budget this year, but not for next year. Last year the District enrollment was approximately 6,000 students. The calculation for the low income count is based on the number of high school students whose families are receiving public aid in the community, whether they attend District 205 or not. Expenses are estimated at \$111,499,000.

PRESENTATION OF  
2011-2012  
TENTATIVE  
BUDGET

Mr. Grossi presented a historical report on revenues vs. expenses and fund balances. Concerns going forward include:

- A decrease of approximately \$1 million in general state aid over the next two years;
- The District utilized \$3.8 million in Federal ARRA funds in FY2012. This will be the last time the District will receive these funds.
- ISBE has cautioned there is a risk that future general state aid revenues may be reduced due to the dramatic increase in the cost state-wide. Even if not reduced, the District is projected to be operating with approximately \$7.8 million less revenue.

At 8:01 p.m., Mr. Williams left the meeting.

MR. WILLIAMS LEFT  
MEETING

In the absence of Mr. Williams, the Vice President, Mr. Crayton, presided over the meeting.

VICE PRESIDENT  
PRESIDES OVER  
MEETING

Mr. Burton moved, Mr. Banks seconded to **Approve the 2011-2012 Annual Scope Dues** in the amount of \$1,908.00 as presented by Dr. Lyke. SCOPE (South Cooperative Organization for Public Education) provides guidance on various funding issues pending with the State and Professional Development opportunities. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
2011-2012 ANNUAL  
SCOPE DUES

Mr. Robinson moved, Mr. Burton seconded to **Approve the Pre-Purchase Equipment Bid** for the Thornwood Media Center as presented by Dr. Lyke to Temperature Equipment Corporation in the amount of \$21,250.00. The Finance Committee recommends approval of the bid. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
PRE-PURCHASE  
EQUIPMENT BID

Mr. Burton moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded to **Approve the Equipment Installation Bid** for the Thornwood Media Center HVAC System as presented by Dr. Lyke to Mechanical Concepts of Illinois in the amount of \$187,000.00. The Finance Committee recommends approval of the bid. A discussion took place concerning the high cost of installation. The other bids were \$194,374.00; \$204,134.00; \$210,500.00 and \$229,777.00. Mr. Szurgot explained the cost includes cutting of walls to remove the unit, duct work replacement and piping configurations, new controls for the unit, large doors leading to the roof so in the

APPROVAL OF  
EQUIPMENT  
INSTALLATION BID

future, the unit can be removed without breaking walls. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson voted aye; Member T. Williams voted nay, motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
EQUIPMENT  
INSTALLATION BID,  
Con't.

Tria Architecture presented the concerns of the Thornton Gymnasium and Field House as poor ventilation, code and life safety violations, the age of the equipment and operational issues facing the maintenance staff. Poor ventilation creates poor indoor air quality for students and staff. Life Safety codes require proper ventilation.

APPROVAL OF  
THORNTON HVAC  
SYSTEM

The gymnasium was built in 1949; the field house was built in 1964 and all equipment in both is original. The central steam plant that serves the two buildings dates back to the 1930's. Over 80% of the equipment is non-operational or non-controllable. The equipment is so old that parts are not available and repairs to the piping are difficult.

The new project would replace all mechanical heating, ventilating and exhaust equipment. The existing ductwork would be cleaned, repaired and reused. The pool space would be dehumidified and the life of the system would be extended to 30-35 years.

At 8:33 p.m., Mr. Williams joined the meeting.

MR. WILLIAMS  
JOINED MEETING

Mr. Williams stated more input is needed from building Principals concerning decisions of this type and perhaps \$3 million should be spent on other things for the students. Classrooms and areas to be air conditioned and those with ventilation only were identified by the architects. Mr. Williams stated more conversation is needed about the gymnasium and field house air conditioning. He also requested the cost to replace the indoor track. The architect stated the equipment manufacturers could not hold their bid price after tonight's meeting. The general contractor, Chicago Heights Construction, agreed to hold their bid price as of today, but the future is uncertain.

APPROVAL OF  
THORNTON HVAC  
SYSTEM, Con't.

The funds for the project are budgeted from the capital improvement fund.

In response to the Board, the architects stated it is very uncommon for school districts to air condition field houses; a few gymnasiums of the Chicago north shore area schools are air conditioned.

Air conditioning and heating of the Thornton main building is going out to bid in September 2011. The auditorium, cafeteria, IT rooms, the multi-purpose room and the main office are currently air conditioned.

No action was taken.

Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Williams seconded to **Table Agenda Item E. Recommended Approval of Thornton HVAC System.** Mr. Burton stated the discussion about the Thornton HVAC System has been ongoing since April and there is no guarantee the price will not increase in the future. On roll call, Members Banks, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; members Burton and Crayton voted nay; motion passed.

MOTION TO TABLE  
AGENDA ITEM E

None.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Dr. Lyke introduced Mrs. Dorith Johnson as the Director of Curriculum and Instruction. She comes to the position with 15 years of experience in District 205 as a math teacher, mentor coordinator, Freshman Academy chairperson, Freshman Academy Principal, Assistant principal and Co-Principal.

SUPERINTENDENT  
REPORT

- The leadership vision of the District 205 leadership team is to establish District 205 as the gateway for preparing students for a global society through effective, competent and passionate leadership. The areas of focus for the leadership team are to support all stakeholders; structure for programs and procedures; communication; provide resources for student success and build leadership capacity of the students and staff.
- The elements of student success are to enhance numeracy and literacy skills; prepare all students for college and careers; increase the rigor of the curriculum; reinforce a climate of respect and school pride; provide staff support for instructional excellence and professional growth, and promote partnerships within the community.
- School Improvement Grant update: On May 24, 2011 District representatives met with the State Board of Education and were informed that if the School Improvement Grant is not implemented as written, the grant would not be continued for the 2011-2012 school year. Any funds distributed during the 2010-2011 school year (approximately \$1.5 million) would have to be returned if the District cannot justify them as radical and bold.
- On July 22, 2011 written communication was received from the Illinois State Board of Education that due to the decision not to implement the freshman center, the School Improvement Grant partnership is terminated. Any funds distributed during the 2010-2011 school year (approximately \$1.5 million) would have to be returned if the District cannot justify them as radical and bold.
- Next step is to meet with ISBE to determine which expenditures can qualify as radical and bold.

SUPERINTENDENT  
REPORT, Con't.

At 9:00 p.m., Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Williams seconded to **Adjourn to Executive Session**. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNED TO  
EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

At 10:43 p.m., Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Burton 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.

RETURNED TO  
REGULAR SESSION

Mr. Burton moved, Mr. Crayton seconded to **Expel through June 2012 and Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance** for Student Case No. 1A-1011-03 and recommended placement in 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  
NO. 1A-1011-03

Mr. Crayton moved, Mr. Burton seconded to **Expel through June 2012 and Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance** for Student Case No. 1F-1011-04 and recommended placement in Second Chance. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT  
DISCIPLINE CASE  
NO. 1F-1011-04

At 10:48 p.m., Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Burton 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

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Secretary