

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2011** IN ROOM 1630 AT THORNWOOD HIGH SCHOOL, SOUTH HOLLAND, ILLINOIS, BEGINNING AT 6:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m. On roll call, Members Banks, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams answered. Members Banks and Burton were absent. Dr. Betheny Lyke, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Community Relations; 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, District 205 Legal Counsel, were also present.

ROLL  
CALL

At 6:38 p.m., Mr. Banks joined the meeting.

MR. BANKS JOINED  
MEETING

Report from Curriculum Committee: Mrs. Lawrence stated that the graduation requirements and class standing will be presented during the New Business portion of this Board meeting.

COMMITTEE OF  
THE WHOLE

Report from Finance Committee: Mr. Crayton reported that in addition to the new business action items, other items to be addressed are the HVAC issues for the Thornton gymnasium and field house.

Report from Policy Committee: No report.

Report from Discipline Committee: No report.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- The minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of June 8, 2011.
- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated June 10, June 15, June 24 and June 29, 2011.
- Resignations: See Director of Human Resources.
- Leave of Absence: See Director of Human Resources.
- Employment: See Director of Human Resources.
- Terminations: See Director of Human Resources.

MINUTES:  
JUNE 8, 2011

BILLS

RESIGNATIONS

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

EMPLOYMENT

TERMINATIONS

Mrs. Lawrence added for the record that there were no terminations. On roll call, Members Banks, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION

- Jacqueline Franklin (South Holland) asked: 1) asked if Mr. Burton was absent with notice, and 2) requested to receive the charges against a board officer prior to July 19. Mrs. Lawrence answered: 1) Mr. Burton is a professor at South Suburban College and his class is not dismissed on Wednesdays until 6:45 p.m.; therefore, he will arrive late to the Board meeting; and 2) Mr. Williams stated all requests should be submitted to Dr. Lyke for expediting.
- Tom Porter (Chicago, District Area Instructional Leader) stated that staff has not been allowed to place orders for textbooks and supplies which is normally done in July. He encouraged the Board to act on budget issues to ensure necessary supplies will be in place for students when the 2011-2012 school year begins.

- Felita Crayton (Dolton) stated: 1) she is concerned about district bills being paid; 2) was disappointed in the Board members who were not seated at the last Board meeting; 3) school is due to start in 4 weeks and certain things have not transpired; 4) is the Board run by one member or by seven and a majority vote; 5) there are two sides to every story; 6) this is a 7-member board; one or two board members cannot sign off on anything according to school code; 7) the board represents the taxpayers; there are hidden agendas and part truths are being told.
- Jeanita Eaves (Harvey) asked for the status of heating/air conditioning at Thornton. The agenda item was previously approved by the Board. Mr. Williams responded that there will be air conditioning at Thornton but it is a budgetary issue. Mr. Williams confirmed that after the topic is discussed in executive session, information will be shared with the public.
- Willie Richardson (South Holland) 1) looks forward to the response to his FOIA request for the charges against a Board member; 2) asked where can the public find the Board member responsibilities. Mr. Williams responded the Board policy is on the district website and Dr. Lyke will assist him.
- Vivienne Williams (Dolton) did not want to speak during executive session about issues with a Thornridge Co-Principal regarding her participation in the interview process for District 205 employees.
- Evelyn Sorrell (Dolton) asked: 1) who is Mr. Grossi; 2) who hired him; 3) are the graduation requirements what the committee had talked about; 4) for clarification on the signatory agenda item D, and 5) why is the summer break extension on the agenda. Mr. Williams responded 1) Mr. Grossi will assist the District with budget and negotiation issues; 2) it was on the June 8, 2011 Board agenda and was approved; 4) Items D. and E. will be stricken from the agenda; 5) it would allow for box lunches to be provided for the first few weeks of school to allow for the cafeteria work to be completed and the schedule will not be changed, and 3) Mrs. Lawrence responded that both the faculty and community recommendations will be presented.
- Fahim Muhammad (Calumet City) 1) spoke regarding the July 11<sup>th</sup> meeting and the confusion of the changes in personnel; and substitute teachers; 2) What is the process and time frame for receiving a response to a job application, and 3) the career counselor position within the schools is one of the most important positions.

PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION  
Con't.

At 7:02 p.m., Mr. Burton joined the meeting.

MR. BURTON  
JOINED MEETING

- Latrice Muhammad (Calumet City) thanked for Dr. Lyke for communicating with her regarding an interview for a teaching position.
- Tony Williams (Board member) stated the Board is a seven-member Board. She did not attend the meeting on July 11 because she would not attend an ambush with bogus charges against the Board president. She never had a discussion with anyone regarding the charges and knew nothing about it.
- Darren Robinson (Board member) stated he was never contacted and knew nothing about what was going on.
- Kenneth Williams (Board President) stated that all Board members are entitled to have a different vision but collectively must do what is best for the students of District 205 and move the district forward. The entire Board is supposed to be notified and receive the same information pertaining to meetings. He asked the community to work with the Board and allow them to work out their differences. He questions the leadership because the District has been failing for 11 years; therefore, something different needs to be done. He thanked everyone for their support.

PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION  
Con't.

- Edward Crayton (Board Vice President) stated that he is very proud to be a Board member; he was never on a team and will make a conscious vote to represent the people. The District was not going in a positive direction; was late on everything; lawsuits were being filed; employees were resigning and the fact is that the Interim Superintendent did not take direction from the Board. Each one deserves to be respected as a Board member. There are no old board members, no new board members, we are a Board. He stated school starts in four weeks and he will continue to do whatever it takes to get the job done. Any personal agendas need to be left at the door.
- Mr. Williams (Board member) asked the four Board members who brought the charges against him that are illegal to recognize that if the Board is going to stand as a unit, they should dismiss the charges because they are not real. The Interim Superintendent was doing her job; administrators are working without contracts and notification was sent from ISBE that the District was not in compliance. There are issues with legal counsel.

PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION  
Con't.

Dr. Lyke reported that since the last Board meeting, ten Freedom of Information Act requests were received and responded to within five days concerning the following: past employee personnel file; current vendor contract information; staff list; employee's application; current attorney fee schedule and charges; student activity account information, and 2009-10 financial reports.

FOIA

None.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Williams announced that Ms. Dawn Miller, the Illinois Association of School Board representative was in an automobile accident and unable to attend the meeting.

IASB  
SUPERINTENDENT  
SEARCH  
PRESENTATION

Mr. Rob Grossi of Crystal Financial Consultants provided his 25-year background information and how he will provide assistance to the District in absence of a Business Manager. He stated that prior to 2004, the District was running a large deficit and borrowing in order to cover deficits. From 2004 to 2008, the District took serious action, turned around its finances and ran surpluses. It was a notable turnaround for the District. For the last two years the District translated deficits primarily because the State is late in payments.

PRESENTATION OF  
2011-2012  
TENTATIVE  
BUDGET

The tentative budget prepared by the previous business manager shows a deficit of expenses over revenues of \$5.4 million. Some circumstances have changed since that budget was created, i.e., the number of retirees is more than anticipated and provides some savings that was not calculated. Extreme negative impact is the declining enrollment of 1000 students over the past two years. General State Aid is calculated at approximately \$6,000 per student, which will cause the District to operate at \$6 million less per year. Uncertainty regarding the following also will impact the 2011-2012 budget: staff size; contract negotiations; School Improvement Grant status (\$1.6 million payback); State revenue distributions; foreclosures on tax collections are down significantly at 4%. Historically the State made its payments to school districts within three days; now the State is 260 days late. To overcome these and other challenges, it will take a unified effort to improve student learning with less resources.

Total budgeted revenues are \$108 million and expenses are \$113 million (all funds for the district). More specific information will be available in August and final adoption of the budget will be in September.

Mrs. Dorith Johnson presented the proposed changes to the Graduation Requirements and Class Standing as recommended by the Faculty Graduation and Standards Committee and the Board Curriculum Committee. The Graduation and Standards Committee is proposing that the requirements be reduced from 26 to 24, which includes a reduction in math credits from 4 to 3 and a reduction in elective credits from 8 to 7. The Curriculum Committee is proposing the requirements be reduced from 16 to 15, which includes 4 math credits; a reduction in elective credits from 8 to 7. The State requires 3 math credits. Mrs. Lawrence stated that a determination will be made by the Board after discussion during Executive Session. The public made comments on the proposals.

APPROVAL OF  
CHANGES TO  
GRADUATION  
REQUIREMENTS  
AND CLASS  
STANDING

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Burton seconded to **Table Agenda Items D. Deposit Account Resolution Designating District 205 Signatory and E. Interim Superintendent Contract.** On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; Member Banks passed; nay, none; motion passed.

TABLE AGENDA  
ITEMS D. AND E.

Mr. Banks moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded to **Approve the Bronze Plaque for Thornton High School Auditorium Renovation Project** as presented by Mr. Williams. Mr. Crayton suggested a second option for the names. Mr. Williams stated the item will be discussed during Executive Session with action to follow.

APPROVAL OF  
BRONZE PLAQUE  
FOR THORNTON  
AUDITORIUM

Mr. Robinson moved, Mrs. Williams seconded to **Approve the 2011 Summer Break Extension** as presented by Mr. Williams. This will allow the contractors a ten-day extension to install the refrigeration and kitchen equipment. The cafeteria will be open for the students and they will be provided box lunches. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF 2011  
SUMMER BREAK  
EXTENSION

Mr. Crayton moved, Mr. Burton seconded to **Approve the Cafeteria Furniture Systems** as presented by Mr. Crayton for the standard cafeteria furniture: tables fixed with the chairs. Mr. Tom Szurgot of Tria Architecture then provided the status of ongoing projects: Thornton Auditorium is near completion; the 3 cafeterias include major renovations, the Thornton windows replacement is near completion. Presentation boards showing job progress will be provided by Tria and displayed outside the monthly Board meetings. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
CAFETERIA  
FURNITURE  
SYSTEMS

In response to the Board, Mr. Grossi stated that in 2008 the District borrowed \$50 million for capital projects. Those funds are separate and by law must be used for capital projects to. The funds are separate from the budget. He answered questions from the Board regarding the accounting of said funds.

MR. GROSSI  
COMMENTS

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Banks seconded to **Approve the 2011-1012 Student Fees** as presented by Mr. Crayton. The schedule is the same as last year. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
2011-2012  
STUDENT FEES

Mr. Burton moved, Mr. Banks seconded to **Approve the 2011-2012 RJB Monthly Contract Extension** as presented by Mr. Crayton who stated in the absence of a new contract, it is recommended to continue the existing contract on a month-to-month basis. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
2011-2012 RJB  
MONTHLY  
CONTRACT  
EXTENSION

Mr. Williams stated that the contract with the current transportation vendor has expired. Decrease in student enrollment and anticipated cuts in transportation funds from the State affect the District's transportation situation. The item will be discussed during Executive Session.

2011-2012  
TRANSPORTATION  
CONTRACT  
EXTENSION  
DISCUSSION

Mr. Crayton stated that Mr. Szurgot of Tria Architecture and Mr. Lindy will be available at Board meetings to answer any questions the public may have concerning the progress of the capital improvement projects.

CAPITAL  
IMPROVEMENTS

At 8:34 p.m., Mr. Burton moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to go into **Executive Session**. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; Member Burton passed; nay, none; motion passed.

EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

At 11:05 p.m., Mr. Robinson moved, Mr. Williams 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

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Banks seconded to **Approve Changes to Graduation Requirements and Class Standing** as presented by Mrs. Lawrence. To allow seniors more flexibility for scheduling classes in their senior year, 3 math classes will be required for graduation, a total of 24 credit hours. It is highly recommended for college-bound students to take a 4<sup>th</sup> year of math. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
CHANGES TO  
GRADUATION  
REQUIREMENTS  
AND CLASS  
STANDING

Mr. Crayton moved, Mr. Banks seconded to **Approve the Deposit Account Resolution Designating District 205 Signatory** for Dr. Betheny Lyke. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
DISTRICT 205  
SIGNATORY

Mr. Burton moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded to **Approve the Interim Superintendent Contract** for Dr. Stacey McJunkins from June 8 to August 8, 2011. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
INTERIM  
SUPERINTENDENT  
CONTRACT

Mr. Robinson moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded to **Approve the Bronze Plaque for Thornton High School Auditorium Renovation** project to include the names of Dr. J. Kamala Buckner, Superintendent; Kenneth Williams, President; Edward Crayton, Vice President; Toni Williams, Secretary; and Board Members Ray Banks, Arthur Burton, Bernadette Lawrence and Darren Robinson. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
BRONZE PLAQUE  
FOR THORNTON  
AUDITORIUM

Mr. Williams stated that Dr. Lyke will work with the Principals and administration to present a schedule to the Board regarding transportation at the next Board meeting. No action was taken.

APPROVAL OF  
2011-2012  
TRANSPORTATION  
EXTENSION  
CONTRACT

Mr. Crayton announced that a meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 2, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at T107 to discuss HVAC in the Thornton High School main building. All are invited to attend. The architect will be at the meeting to answer questions regarding all options available and the matter will be on the August 10<sup>th</sup> Regular Board Meeting agenda.

THORNTON HVAC  
MEETING

At 11:20 p.m., Mrs. Lawrence 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

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Secretary