

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 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. On roll call, Members Banks, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams answered. Member Burton was absent. Stacey D. McJunkins, Ed.D.; Mr. Tim Truesdale, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and External Funding; 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 and Ms. Wanda Russell, Assistant Principal of Thornton High School; Mrs. Darcelle Williams, Principal of 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

Report from Curriculum Committee: Mrs. Lawrence stated that review of the graduation standards is ongoing and further information will be provided at a later date. Mr. Williams added the matter will be addressed at the July Board meeting.

COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE

Report from Finance Committee: It is the recommendation of the Finance Committee to approve the items on the agenda relative to the Prevailing Wage Act Resolution; Copy Paper Bid and Required Budget Reallocation. The Board will discuss any capital improvement modifications during Executive Session.

Report from Policy Committee: No report.

Report from Discipline Committee: No report.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- The minutes of the Special Meeting and Executive Session of May 2, 2011.
- The minutes of the Special Meeting of May 5, 2011.
- The minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of May 11, 2011.
- The minutes of the Special Meeting and Executive Session of May 19, 2011.
- The minutes of the Special Meeting and Executive Session of May 26, 2011.
- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated May 12, May 20, May 27, June 1 and June 3, 2011.
- Resignations (3): See Director of Human Resources.
- Leave of Absence (1): See Director of Human Resources.
- Employment (3): See Director of Human Resources.

MINUTES:
MAY 2, 2011

MAY 5, 2011

MAY 11, 2011

MAY 19, 2011

MAY 26, 2011

BILLS

RESIGNATIONS

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

EMPLOYMENT

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

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION

- Jeanita Eaves (Harvey) asked: 1) what is the decision about air conditioning for Thornton; 2) how many times a topic can be voted on because the air conditioning was voted on in the past; 3) how much grant money has been spent and what are the alternatives; 4) for public participation to be moved after New Business on the agenda. In response: 1) Mr. Crayton stated it will be discussed during Executive Session; 2) clear direction will be obtained; 3) Mr. Williams stated it will be addressed by Mr. Truesdale later in the meeting.

- Felita Crayton (Dolton) asked: 1) are there 7 members consisting of the Board; 2) does the President have more than one vote; 3) did the Board direct a transition team and who is the team; 4) Did the Board approve a transition team; 5) Is there a report from the meeting in Springfield on May 24; 6) Does Mr. Williams report back to the Board on any issues when he represents the Board; 7) policies and procedures need to be followed regarding the transition team's presence in the school buildings. Mr. Williams responded: 1) Yes; 2) all board members have one vote; 3) a transition team of volunteers is working with the Board and the Interim Superintendent due to the departure of the Superintendent and Business Manager; 4) it will be addressed during Agenda Item 12; 5) the Board continues to work with the State regarding keeping the School Improvement Grant; 6) some things may be missed due to the departure of the Superintendent; 7) Mr. Crayton added that he did not know of the transition team and looks forward to the conversation.
- Peggy Taylor McDonald (Dolton) asked: 1) will the search for a new superintendent will be addressed this evening, and 2) public participation be moved to immediately before Executive Session. Mr. Williams responded: 1) it will be rescheduled due to a death in the family of the presenter, and 2) it will be considered.
- Tony Ratliff (Thornton High School Principal) asked to address the Board during Executive Session. His request was granted.
- Larry Bradley (South Holland) stated the Board is doing the best job they can and the public should support them.
- Vivienne Williams (Dolton): 1) asked if vocational classes will be offered for the upcoming school year; 2) parents and teachers should be included in the recommendation for a superintendent; 3) asked the Board to explore other medical insurance for athletes to include better catastrophic benefits; 4) information about meetings needs to be better communicated to the public. Mrs. Lawrence stated: 1) electrical, heating and plumbing courses are being looked into; 3) she agrees with the insurance for athletes. 4) Mr. Beilfuss stated that the athletic director put together a committee of Board members, parents, community members, athletic staff and administrators.

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION
Con't.

Dr. Lyke reported that since the last Board meeting, five Freedom of Information Act requests were received and responded to within five days concerning the following: four requests for contract and agreement information; one for security services information.

FOIA

Mr. Doss reported on the following:

COMMUNICATIONS

- Summer school first semester (held at Thornridge): June 6-23, 2011
- Enrollment: 1080 students
- Summer Boost Programs (held at Thornridge): June 8-July 14, 2011
Enrollment: 215
- United Nations Summer Leadership Academy (held at Thornwood): June 13-July 28
Enrollment: 120
- Summer Sports Academy (held at Thornwood): June 13-July 8, 2011
Enrollment: 120
- Project Lead The Way Camp (held at Thornwood), Enrollment: 48
- Smaller Learning Communities Camps began June 6 and includes 4 one-week camps; 150 students
- Music Camp (held at Thornridge) began June 6; enrollment of 65 is expected to increase.
- Summer Feeding Program: Anyone under the age of 18 may come to Thornridge and be served breakfast (8:00 – 9:00 a.m.) and lunch (12:30 – 1:30 p.m.) This includes all students attending summer programs.

- Extensive capital improvements are underway including Thornridge cafeteria renovations; Thornton window replacement, asbestos abatement; auditorium and cafeteria renovations which will be completed by the start of school, and Thornwood cafeteria renovations.
- Special Olympic participants from all three schools will compete this weekend at the State competition held at Thornridge.
- District 205 has been working with Representative Will Davis and AT&T to train students in areas of fiber optics and working in the call center. The first phase included the \$50,000 grant awarded to supplement the United Nations programs. A fiber optic trade program similar to the Navistar program is being developed by Mr. Stark and Mr. Sinde.

COMMUNICATIONS,
Con't.

At 7:10 p.m., Mr. Burton joined the meeting.

MR. BURTON
JOINED MEETING

Mr. Burton moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to **Approve the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) Annual Dues** in the amount of \$12,732.50. IASB membership includes workshops, conferences, tools to support the policymaking role of the school board, legislative reports, analysis of new laws, assistance with school board governance, self-evaluation, policymaking, and Board-Superintendent relations. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
2011-2012 IASB
ANNUAL DUES

Mr. Crayton moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Approve the 2011-2012 Prevailing Wage Act Resolution**. The resolution is an annual activity required of all public bodies in Illinois. The Finance Committee recommends approval of this Resolution. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
2011-2012
PREVAILING WAGE
ACT RESOLUTION

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Banks seconded to **Approve the Changes to the Discipline Policy** as presented by Mr. Ratliff, which include state-mandated cyber-bullying and sexting language. Consequences for students violating this policy would be based on the frequency and severity of the actions as determined by the professional judgment of administration. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
CHANGES TO
DISCIPLINE POLICY

Mr. Crayton moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded to **Approve the Copy Paper Bid** as presented by Dr. Lyke to RIS Paper now known as Contract Paper Group in the amount of \$82,304. The bid is recommended for approval by the Finance Committee. On roll call, Members Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; Member Banks passed; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
COPY PAPER BID

Mr. Crayton moved, Mr. Burton seconded to **Approve the Required Budget Reallocation** as presented by Mr. Truesdale based on the Illinois State Board of Education notification for a 5% cap for administrative costs. It does not change the total budget amount; but merely reallocates funds in more specific and appropriate categories to bring the District into compliance regarding administrative costs. The Finance Committee recommends approval of the budget reallocation. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
REQUIRED
BUDGET
REALLOCATION

Mr. Truesdale provided the Board the following update regarding retaining the **School Improvement Grant**. The Board has not taken action to rescind the Grant; the District will submit an application requesting modifications to the project to maintain the funding which would not include a freshman center. Mr. Truesdale shared some of the data for the early stages of implementation of the grant beginning in October 2010 and the start of the second semester. Ramp Up to Literacy, Literacy Navigator and Math Navigator students all showed significant gains. In response to the Board, Mr. Truesdale explained the term district next door means any neighboring school district.

SCHOOL
IMPROVEMENT
GRANT UPDATE

SCHOOL
IMPROVEMENT
GRANT UPDATE
Con't.

Mr. Williams moved, Mr. Crayton seconded to open the floor for public questions relating to the School Improvement Grant. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

Mr. Truesdale responded to the individuals as follows:

- Ms. Grant (Dolton) stated that from the data, it appears the program is working. Response: There were many challenges to implement the program because of the timing of notification of receiving the grant, and yes, the program is working.
- Mr. Burton (Board member) asked what will happen to these programs if the District cannot keep the School Improvement Grant money. Response: The District will need to determine if it can budget for the programs by other means, such as Title I funds.
- Peggy Taylor McDonald (Dolton) asked what percentage of students was included in the program. Response: The capacity to implement RampUp second semester included approximately 60 students; Navigator included approximately 180 students.
- Tyron Richardson (Dolton) asked if the assessments included one school or all three schools. Response: all three schools.
- Larry Bradley (South Holland) asked how many freshman students are in District 205. Response: There are 1400 freshman students; not all are in need of the RampUp programs.
- Michelle West Gant (South Holland) stated if the District continued to implement these programs, the cost would drop because the majority of the grant money was spent on Professional Development. Response: Yes, and some of the coaching positions would remain in place moving forward.
- Jeanita Eaves (Harvey) asked how much money has been spent to date and where will the District get the money if the grant dollars cannot be kept. Response: approximately \$3.5 million; the District will look at the budget to see where the costs can be absorbed.
- Rose Taylor (Dolton) stated if only 60 freshmen were assessed, it cannot be said that the program is working.
- Gloria Taylor (Dolton) asked how many students qualified that were not entered into the program. Response: the data will be obtained.
- Felita Crayton (Dolton) asked what the District's expenditures to date are and will the District be able to pay the money back. Response: the District is obligated to approximately \$3.5 million for this year. Mr. Williams added that the Board has chosen not to rescind any funds back to the State because the District is trying to retain the money.
- Willie Richardson (South Holland) asked for the status of the recruitment efforts for replacing the Superintendent. Mr. Williams responded that an Interim Superintendent is in place.
- Evelyn Sorrell (Dolton) asked for clarification of the correct amount of grant money spent. Response: \$1.5 million has been reimbursed by the State. That amount is required to be paid back.
- Darcelle (Dolton) stated programs serve a small percentage of students and what restructuring will allow the grant money to remain in the District. Response: The primary bold and radical change was the freshman center. Without that component, the District is developing modifications for proposal to the State to implement the freshman center concept to maintain programs.

- Jerry Jones (South Holland) asked when the District must provide actual numbers of students eligible vs. the 60 participating in these programs to the state and how will that affect their final decision. Response: There are many elements besides RampUp and Navigator that affect the grant. Reading, math and data coaches touch staff that work with all students. Logistically, 60 students could be placed into these programs mid-year. It was a complex process and many factors needed to be considered regarding students' schedules.

SCHOOL
IMPROVEMENT
GRANT UPDATE
Con't.

Mr. Williams moved, Mrs. Williams seconded to close the floor for questions relating to the School Improvement Grant. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

Mr. Williams moved, Mr. Banks seconded to **Approve the Agreement with Crystal Financial Consultants** to provide financial services to the District due primarily to the resignation of the Business Manager. Crystal Financial Consultants is familiar and has worked with District 205 in the past regarding various budget and financial matters. The firm will assist the District in all financial areas as needed. Mr. Crayton was instructed to direct questions relating to Finance Committee issues first to the Interim Superintendent. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
CRYSTAL
FINANCIAL
CONSULTANTS
AGREEMENT

None.

MISCELLANEOUS

Dr. Stacey D. McJunkins was introduced as the Interim Superintendent by Dr. Lyke. Dr. McJunkins thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as Interim Superintendent and presented a Preliminary Transition Report that included information in the following categories designed to enhance the quality of education for District 205 students: curriculum, school management/operations, leadership, parent/community involvement, student centered involvement and technology.

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT

Mr. Crayton stated he believes a Transition Team being put in place would require Board approval and to date, he has not been introduced to those individuals. Mr. Williams stated the topic will be addressed during Executive Session.

BOARD MEMBER
COMMENT

At 8:17 p.m., Mr. Robinson moved, Mrs. Williams seconded, to go into **Executive Session**. On roll call, Members Banks, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; Member Burton passed; nay, none; motion passed.

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

At 10:51 p.m., Mr. Crayton 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

At 10:56 p.m., Mr. Burton moved, Mrs. Williams seconded, to **Adjourn the Meeting**. On roll call, Members Banks, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; Mr. Burton was absent; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

President

Secretary