

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2011** IN THE CAFETERIA AT THORNTON HIGH SCHOOL, HARVEY, ILLINOIS, BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 6:17 p.m. Dr. J. Kamala Buckner, Superintendent; 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; 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

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- The District 205 bills as presented for payment.

BILLS

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

At 6:19 p.m., Mr. Burton moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to go into **Executive Session** to discuss student discipline issues. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

At 6:55 p.m., the Board **Returned 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. Banks moved, Mr. Crayton seconded to approve the following disciplinary action:

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE

Student Case #3B-1011-07: The student will **Remain at Academy For Learning** for the remainder of the 2010-2011 school year. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

Dr. Lyke reported that since the last Board meeting, four Freedom of Information Act requests were received and responded to within five days concerning the following: employee severance package; administrators' salaries and Illinois State Board of Education audit and District 205 budget; capital improvement projects; and information regarding the 2011 summer renovations bid and Thornton Auditorium Renovation project.

FOIA

Mr. Doss reported on the following:

COMMUNICATIONS

- The National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) at Thornton Township High School produced several winners in a recent competition in the categories of Best Business Overall (Darius Calhoun); Service (Tinley Park High School); Food/Gift (Gamara Byrd); Sports/Entertainment (Elijah Taylor, Sam Brack and Aquil Manuel); Fashion/Accessories (Mia McLemore, Maritza Najera and Jorie Thomas) and Technology/Innovation (Desmond Shuford).
- Twelve Thornridge students received honors from the Southwest Suburban Conference for their outstanding academic work and involvement in activities: Melissa Boyer, Alexzandria Clemmons, Jacqueline Schmitt, Sharna' Hines, Jason Jones, Reginald Smith, Jordan Williams, Kadeem Tra-B-Shon, Gregory Sorrell, Nicholas Clemmons, Antonio Daniel and Markist Booker.
- Ms. Johari Jackey, Thornwood senior, is a first place winner of the 3rd Annual National August Wilson Monologue Contest held in New York City.

- Heat Policy: Due to extreme heat, Thornton will implement the District Heat Policy on May 12, 2011. Students will be dismissed at 11:20 a.m.
- Thornton Township Teaching and Learning Partnership Physics Phestival included 400 middle school students from seven feeder schools for a day of fun and learning. Thornridge and Thornton teachers and students brought their projects to share. Special thanks to Mark Danielson; the Phestival was an overwhelming success.
- The 2011 Reaching for the Stars Gala Star Teacher Award recipients were: Thornton, Mr. Terry Wells; Thornwood, Mrs. Ann Maziur and Thornridge, Mr. David Eanes.
- The Student Board election was held April 15, 2011. The New Student Board members are: Thornridge: Brian Geiger, Courtney Chavers, Taylor Lewis, John Anderson and Vincent Jones; Thornton: Timothy Mitchell, Jr., John Arrington, Jr., Sonaa Vhora, Anthony Evans and Nolan Robinson, and Thornwood: Maurice Kendall, China Anderson, Candice Sewell and Javon Hall.
- The graduating Senior Student Board Members will attend:
Habitat Oguntade – Thornwood; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Alex Mayfield – Thornwood; Moraine Valley Community College
Chloe Flowers – Thornwood; Alabama Sate
Bryan Williamson – Thornwood; Mizzou, University of Missouri
Jaylen Tyra – Thornton; Devry University
Jeremiah Whittington – Thornton; University of Michigan
- Gates Milleneium Scholarship Winners: Tandrea Harris (Thornton) will attend Spelman College and Habitat Oguntade (Thornwood) will attend University of Illinois.
- Upcoming Events:

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| May 13 | TALF Second Annual Alumni Day |
| May 23, 24 | Senior Exams |
| May 28 | Graduation; 10:30 a.m. |
| May 30 | School Holiday |
| May 31 | End of Semester 2; grades due |
| | Finance Committee Meeting; 10:00 a.m. at District Office |
| June 2 | Last day of school due to (2) snow days used |
| June 4 | SAT test |
| June 7 | Student Board of Education Meeting, 4:00 p.m., Thornwood High School |
| June 8 | Board of Education meeting, 6:00 p.m., Thornwood High School |

Mr. Ken Wendorff, Faculty Association President, provided the newly-constituted Board of Education a perspective on how the Faculty Association members may best serve the students of District 205.

FACULTY
ASSOCIATION

- Increased technology in all classrooms. District 205 has fallen behind other school districts in the area of technology.
- Evaluate programs. Have programs of this past year been successful and how may they be improved.
- Increased parent and community involvement.
- Boost Extracurricular Activities. Students involved in activities tend to be more successful academically.
- Offer more vocational education opportunities. If students are not planning on a 4-year college degree, they should begin vocational training as early as possible.
- Hire good people and give them proper training and support. It is critical to have the best administrators in place to help lead the faculty.
- Provide more social and emotional support for our students.
- Curriculum. He encouraged everyone to work together so that students have different opportunities available because "One Size Does Not Fit All".

- It is not always about testing. We need to challenge students with authentic assessments related to the real world.
- The need to work together and the need for our professional opinion to matter. He emphasized the need to work together. Teachers work directly with students and have great insight into their educational needs.

The Faculty Association has worked all year without a contract and looks forward to resume negotiations.

Jennifer Lavigne, Faculty Association Representative, presented the Ray Price Memorial Scholarship to four graduates. They are: Gregory Sorrell, Thornridge, who will study Music Education at Tennessee State University; Angela Johnson, Thornton, desires to become a preschool teacher and will study at St. Xavier University; Jessica Tinder, Thornwood, will study Early Childhood Education at Northern Illinois University; and Ann Mobley from Thornton, who was awarded the Vocational Scholarship, will pursue Culinary Arts. The Board congratulated the recipients.

RAY PRICE
MEMORIAL
SCHOLARSHIP

Mr. Crayton moved, Mrs. Williams seconded, to **Approve the Out-of-State Field Trip** as presented by Mr. Beilfuss for four students and a sponsor to travel to Anaheim California from July 10-14, 2011 to attend the Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCCLA) National competition. The four students scored highest in their events at the state competition. Dr. Buckner stated that application could be made to one of the District's foundations to help underwrite the cost. Mr. Williams suggested that in the future, the administration work with the Board to secure funds from outside support. 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. Truesdale presented recommendations for the **District Graduation Requirements and Class Standing**. The two elements for the recommendations are: 1) total credits required for graduation, and 2) credit requirements for sophomore, junior and senior standing. The Joint Faculty Graduation Standards and Requirements Committee are recommending 24 total credits and 3 math credits be required. The Board of Education Curriculum Committee is recommending 25 total credits and 4 math credits be required. He provided rationale for the recommendations of both Committees. Mrs. Lawrence favors the 4 math classes requirement and offering more math classes for seniors. The recommendations will be on display for 30 days for comment with action requested at the June 8th Board meeting.

PRESENTATION OF
GRADUATION
REQUIREMENTS

Ms. Wanda Russell and Mrs. Donna Sweeney presented two recommendations of the Safe and Secure Committee as it relates to Section 7:180 Preventing Bullying, Intimidation and Harassment. The additions would include Bullying/Cyber Bullying under 7:20, *Harassment of Students Prohibited*; and Sexting under 7:310, *Restrictions on Publications and Written or Electronic Material*. Feedback was obtained from administration and community members in attendance at monthly meetings. Dr. Buckner stated this should be addressed by Parent Advisory Committees. The recommendations will be on display for 30 days for comment with action requested at the June 8th Board meeting.

PRESENTATION OF
DISCIPLINE POLICY
CHANGES

Mr. Williams announced the following Board committee assignments:

COMMITTEE
ASSIGNMENTS

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| Curriculum & Technology | Mrs. Lawrence and Mrs. Williams |
| Discipline | Mr. Banks and Mr. Burton |
| Finance & Facilities (Bldgs & Grounds) | Mr. Crayton and Mrs. Williams |
| Public Relations/Board Goals & Policies | Mrs. Williams and Mr. Crayton |
| Negotiations | Mr. Robinson and Mr. Banks Mr. Crayton (alternate) |
| SCOPE (2 meetings per year) | Mr. Banks and Mr. Robinson |
| IASB (2 meetings & one convention) | Mr. Crayton and Mr. Williams |
| Student Board | Mr. Banks |

Dr. Buckner stated in order to begin the 2011-2012 school year on time, the cafeteria project must be completed and requested Mr. Crayton to plan the Finance Committee meeting earlier than scheduled to address the issue. Mr. Crayton agreed.

COMMITTEE
ASSIGNMENTS,
Con't.

Mr. Williams stated Graduation will take place on Saturday, May 28, 2011 at 10:30 a.m. and the Board member assignments are as follows:

GRADUATION
ASSIGNMENTS

Thornton Mr. Banks, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Williams
Thornridge Mr. Crayton, Mrs. Williams
Thornwood Mr. Burton, Mrs. Lawrence

Mr. Williams moved, Mr. Robinson seconded, to **Reconsider the Notice/Agreement for Termination of Superintendent Buckner's Contract** as presented by Mr. Crayton. For the record, Mrs. Lawrence stated that the vote was 7-0 in favor of the Notice/Agreement for Termination of Superintendent Contract at the last Board meeting. Mr. Banks asked for clarification of the motion. Mr. Crayton responded that the motion is for the Board to take a second look at the contract agreement since the new Board members had not been seated when the vote was taken and they should be part of the discussion. Mr. Williams stated that at the April 13th Board meeting, he had concerns about some contract items and information that he had not received; that he still has not received the information and it is only fair that the new Board be allowed to discuss the contract before it is finalized. On roll call, Members Crayton, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; Members Banks, Burton, Lawrence and Robinson voted nay; motion failed.

RECONSIDERATION
OF
NOTICE/AGREEMENT
FOR TERMINATION OF
SUPERINTENDENT
CONTRACT

Mr. Williams read the draft letters prepared for 8th grade parents, District 205 parents, feeder school Superintendents and municipalities, informing them that all three high schools in District 205 will remain comprehensive four-year schools. Thornridge will not become a Freshman Center. Mr. Banks added that this information should be posted on the website, in local newspapers and that business owners be notified.

STATUS OF
SCHOOL
IMPROVEMENT
GRANT
APPLICATION

Mr. Williams stated that at this time the Board is in search for a new Superintendent and Business Manager.

SEARCH FOR NEW
SUPERINTENDENT
AND BUSINESS
MANAGER

None.

MISCELLANEOUS

Dr. Buckner congratulated all Student Board members for their contribution to the capital improvement work. She encouraged students to take advantage of the opportunity to be on the Student Board. She thanked Mr. Crayton for addressing the cafeteria issue as the students are anxious to complete that project.

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION

- Jeanita Eaves (Harvey) asked: 1) is the Thornton auditorium project is still ongoing; 2) is the Thornton air conditioning/heat project moving ahead; 3) how can information be relayed to the public about all meetings especially if they do not have students in the district; 4) the heat policy will be implemented tomorrow and Thornton is in need of air conditioning; 5) Thornton heating/air conditioning was voted on, why isn't it going ahead? 6) where is the money coming from for all the improvements. Mr. Crayton responded 1) yes; 2) it will be discussed on Friday; 3) the community will be informed of all meetings via cable, robo calls and the district website; 4) Mr. Williams stated that the Board is working on getting air conditioning for Thornton and needs to be prudent on how much money is spent on the air conditioning; 5) Dr. Buckner responded that at Friday's meeting all items will be addressed with the architect. Mr. Williams asked the public to allow the new Board time to review all information that was put before them before any decisions are made; 6) the new Board is familiarizing themselves with procedures and reviewing the budget to be certain money is allocated properly. Mrs. Lawrence added that community members may be added to the robocall list.

- Felita Crayton (Dolton) 1) presented a letter to the Board from the Thornridge Band association regarding needed funds; 2) was glad that the faculty understands the need for vocational training for students and spoke of the need for parental involvement; 3) asked the status of the School Improvement Plans; 4) asked if there will be a 4-year program at every District 205 high school; 5) asked how many sophomores are in the Half Cap Ceremony; 6) stated an awards night should be held instead of Half Cap Ceremony; 7) asked what is TALF 2nd Alumni Day and why can they post on the website and the community cannot; 8) asked are Assistant Principals 12-month employees? 9) requested to go into Executive Session regarding the contracts that she received. Dr. Buckner responded: 3) the School Improvement Plans have changed due to new federal regulations; 4) Yes; 5) Thornridge sophomores—99 out of 380; 7) TALF is a Thornton alumni foundation and recognizes their alumni annually and posts information on the website as they are a partnership with District 205; 8) No, they are 210 day employees.
- Jerry Jones (South Holland) President of Dolton Bears, appreciates the support of the Board for such programs as youth football, wrestling and basketball and hopes to continue the relationship. He agrees with Mr. Wendorff when he stated children are more able to achieve when involved in extra-curricular activities and that administration should listen to the teachers. He supports the Board and is available to help in any way.
- Vivienne Williams (Dolton) spoke on behalf of concerned community members. The group believes that taxpayers' money has been misspent and demands a forensic audit of District 205 funds; expects the Board to become more fiscally responsible; parent and community councils will be formed to meet with District administration to discuss programs affecting children prior to being brought to the Board for vote; all AIL's and unnecessary administrators should be removed; bring 2.0 GPA requirement back for participation in extracurricular activities; start vocational programs and bring simulators back into Driver Ed; want to be involved in the hiring process; teachers need to have a strong voice; request that the Thornridge auditorium be named after David Eanes, and Dr. Buckner's contract should be reviewed by the new Board.
- Helen Randall (Harvey) thanked the Faculty Association for their previous \$1100 donation for the Harvey Little League. She thanked Dr. Buckner for her personal assistance to register a homeless child at Thornridge and for always being there for the community. She also thanked Mr. Jerry Doss for being a liaison to the community as well as other District 205 administrators. Everyone needs to work together; parents need to do their job to help their children along with the teachers.
- Evelyn Sorrell (Dolton) stated that Jazz at the Ridge will take place on May 27 at the Thornridge Auditorium, 7:30 p.m. to celebrate the 50th year of Thornridge.
- Tracy Brown (Dolton) 1) asked for clarification of "sitters and getters" as stated by Mr. Wendorff; 2) some teachers are not qualified and should be re-evaluated; 3) the contract should have been viewed; 4) the cafeteria floor is painted; the food is terrible; 5) work together to represent the community; 6) asked to be informed of the next superintendent's contract; 7) asked the community to continue to be involved to watch over their tax dollars. 1) Mr. Wendorff responded it meant if teachers were just teaching, expecting students to get information versus coming up with creative ways to present material to meet the needs of students. Mr. Williams responded: 2) Dr. Lyke will get more information from Ms. Brown; and 4) the cafeteria will be completed during the summer.
- Mrs. Goodin asked if she could be heard this evening about a specific issue. Mr. Williams stated she may speak during Executive Session.

- Willie Richardson (South Holland) commended the teachers for working without a contract and the Board for coming together. He asked: 1) while some students come to high school not prepared, some students are capable of more Advanced Placement courses. Will there be offerings in classes such as math, and 2) is the Superintendent position being publicized and how? 1) Mr. Truesdale responded that Advanced Placement offerings have been increased over the last few years in math with AP calculus and statistics; AP computer programming; world languages now include Chinese and Arabic; social studies an AP government course and US History. 2) Mr. Williams stated IASB has been contacted to assist the Board in the search for a new Superintendent and Business Manager. The Superintendent will assist them in the process also. 1:58
- Carlita Jenkins (Harvey) has been active in the community for 24 years. District 205 has been positive to her family. She embraces change and believes the District needs a vision and everyone needs to work together. She asked the Board to hire good leadership and people who care about their jobs. She is an advocate for all children and asked the Board not to lose the vision of building up young students. Put aside difference and support teachers; put the right leadership at the top.
- Mr. Banks (Harvey, Board member) thanked the Superintendent, the Board, District 205 administration and the teachers who have taught his children. Five of his children graduated from District 205 and the youngest is now graduating from college. He added it is true that it takes a village to raise a child and thanked the Faculty Association for their support to help all the kids get through high school.

At 9:02 p.m., Mrs. Williams moved, Mrs. Lawrence 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.

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

At 10:00 p.m., Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Banks 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 10:05 p.m., Mr. Crayton moved, Mr. Robinson 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