

MINUTES OF THE **OPEN SESSION OF A SPECIAL MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2011** IN THE STUDENT CAFETERIA AT THORNWOOD HIGH SCHOOL, 17101 SOUTH PARK AVENUE, SOUTH HOLLAND, ILLINOIS, BEGINNING AT 6:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by the President for the purpose of discussing and/or acting on pending litigation and personnel issues. A copy of the meeting and certification by the Secretary are a part of the official minutes.

PURPOSE OF
MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams answered. 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 and 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 Finance Committee (Mr. Crayton and Mrs. Williams) Chairperson Mr. Edward Crayton reported that as stated at the April 13, 2011 Board meeting, the Finance Committee report was deferred until the new Board was seated.

COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE

The Finance Committee is recommending:

the Thornwood Summer Renovation work be awarded to Chicago Heights Construction Co. in the amount of \$3,445,000 (base bid) plus Alternate #4 (walk-in coolers) in the amount of \$70,500 for a total of \$3,515,500;

the Thornton Summer Renovation work to Milord Company in the amount of \$5,049,003 (base bid) plus Alternate #4 (walk-in coolers) in the amount of \$63,949 for a total of \$5,112,952;

the Thornridge Summer Renovation work to Milord Company in the amount of \$1,728,707 (base bid) plus Alternate #4 (walk-in coolers) in the amount of \$72,822 for a total of \$1,801,529.

The Finance Committee is also recommending the Asbestos Abatement for Thornton Windows to AMW in the amount of \$266,000.

Mr. Crayton moved, Mr. Robinson seconded, to Accept the Finance Report as presented. On roll call, Members Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; Member Banks passed; nay, none; motion passed.

The following individuals spoke during public participation:

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION

- Peggy Taylor (Dolton) asked if the interim Superintendent was going to be Mr. Truesdale and who was considered for the position. Mr. Williams responded it will be determined during Executive Session.
- Felita Crayton (Dolton): 1) stated it is unfair that 48-hour written notice is required for the public to be heard during Executive Session; it is not on the website; 2) asked if the candidates for Superintendent are in-house; 3) would appreciate the Board to move forward as a team and be transparent as they promised during the election campaign. Mr. Williams responded: 1) 48-hour notice is required to allow the Board time to fully review the information and provide an accurate response; correct public participation information will be posted on the District website. Mr. Burton stated that people should be heard and then a respond can be given as soon as possible. 2) In-house recommendations were made; 3) asked the public to allow the Board time to build their team in order to do what is best for the community.
- Dr. Kimberly McNeal is familiar with the community and would like to be considered for the position of interim Superintendent.

- Dr. Hope Jackson (Harvey) is hopeful to become part of the District 205 administration and is merely observing the meeting this evening.
- Lena O'Lidge (Dolton) asked why the Board voted against the public viewing Dr. Buckner's separation agreement. Mrs. Lawrence responded that it is private and may be disclosed to the public through the Freedom of Information Act and should be laid to rest inasmuch as there are many more pressing issues for the betterment of the children that need to be addressed.
- Jeanita Eaves (Harvey) asked: 1) how do community/parent issues get put on the agenda; 2) can public participation be moved toward the end of the meeting; 3) without the implementation of a freshman center, what new things will be done to improve student achievement; 4) will the community be informed of new developments; 5) is videotaping of public meetings legal; 6) the behavior of the public should set a better example for young people when attending Board meetings and the Board should control the meetings. Mr. Williams responded: 1) forward concerns to the Superintendent for presentation to the Board for consideration; Dr. Buckner added that set protocol directs that the agenda is composed by the Board and the public may speak during Public Participation to any of those items; 2) consideration was given to the placement of public participation; Mr. Crayton added that the matter will be reviewed in the future; 3) Mrs. Lawrence stated the next week a meeting will be held with ISBE regarding rewriting the School Improvement Grant (1003g). Mr. Williams added that the Board will engage faculty and staff for ideas as well as encourage more community/parent involvement. 4) The Board added that letters will go out to all community members concerning the plans of District 205; great initiatives are taking place and the community will be informed of the District's progress; 5) The matter will be looked into.
- Evelyn Sorrell (Dolton) asked: 1) where is Mr. Gress; 2) if the Board changes the order of public participation it should be posted more than 48 hours in advance; 3) the community and everyone needs to be involved in the hiring of the new interim Superintendent. Dr. Buckner responded: 1) Mr. Gress is on FMLA.
- Dr. Fred Nash (South Holland) 1) spoke about public participation and Mrs. Lawrence clarified her statement about moving the District forward concerning curriculum, discipline, etc., not moving public participation line of people along. He has written letters and received no response; 3) when policy is changed, people need to be made aware.

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION,
Con't.

Mr. Crayton moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to award the **Summer Renovation** work: for Thornwood to Chicago heights Construction Co. in the amount of \$3,445,000.00 (base bid) plus Alternate #4 (walk-in coolers) in the amount of \$70,500.00 for a total contract amount of \$3,515,500.00; for Thornton to Milord Company in the amount of \$5,049,003 (base bid) plus Alternate #4 (walk-in coolers) in the amount of \$63,949.00 for a total contract amount of \$5,112,952.00, and for Thornridge to Milord Company in the amount of \$1,728,707.00 (base bid) plus Alternate #4 (walk-in coolers) in the amount of \$72,822.00 for a total contract amount of \$1,801,529.00. This work is for the cafeterias only and is to be completed over the summer before the start of the 2011-2012 school year. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
CAFETERIA
PROJECT

Mr. Crayton moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Approve the Asbestos Abatement Project** to AMW in the amount of \$266,000.00. Mr. Crayton stated that the new windows at Thornton cannot be installed until the asbestos abatement project is completed. A timeline for each of the projects will be provided by Tria Architecture. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
ASBESTOS
ABATEMENT
PROJECT

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Williams seconded, to Set a Date for a **Discipline Committee Meeting** to address changes to the Discipline Policy. When ascertained, the date will be posted on the website. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

REVIEW OF
DISCIPLINE POLICY

Mr. Crayton moved, Mrs. Williams seconded, to **Approve the Preparation of a Request for Proposal for a Forensic Audit of District 205 Finances**. Mr. Williams stated the matter will be put out to bid. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL FOR
FORENSIC AUDIT
OF DISTRICT 205
FINANCES

At 7:29 p.m., Mr. Robinson moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded to go into **Executive Session** for the purpose of discussing pending litigation, the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees and/or collective bargaining matters. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

At 10:03 p.m., Mr. Burton 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

The meeting reconvened at 10:09 p.m. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams answered.

At 10:10 p.m. Mr. Burton moved, Mr. Robinson seconded, to continue the meeting until Thursday, May 26, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

MOTION TO
CONTINUE
MEETING

At 10:11 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

President

Secretary

rp(spec brd mins 5-19-11)

REGULAR SESSION