

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 **MONDAY, MAY 2, 2011** IN THE STUDENT CAFETERIA AT THORNWOOD HIGH SCHOOL, 17101 SOUTH PARK AVENUE, SOUTH HOLLAND, ILLINOIS, BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by the President for the purpose of discussing and/or acting on Board Reorganization.

PURPOSE OF MEETING

A copy of the meeting and certification by the Secretary are a part of the official minutes.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. On roll call, Members Banks, Bradley, Burton, King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams answered. Dr. J. Kamala Buckner, Superintendent and Ms. Shelli Anderson, Legal Counsel, were also present.

ROLL CALL

Dr. Penman moved, Dr. Burton seconded to **Approve the Minutes** which includes the following:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
March 9, 2011

- The minutes of the Executive Session of the Regular Meeting of March 9, 2011. The minutes of the Executive Session of this meeting shall be confidential and closed to the public until such time that the Board of Education determines that it is no longer necessary to protect the public interest or privacy of an individual by keeping them confidential.
- The minutes of the Executive Session of March 21, 2011.
- The minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of April 13, 2011.

March 21, 2011

April 13, 2011

On roll call, Members Banks, Bradley, Burton, King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

Mr. Burton moved, Dr. Penman seconded to **Approve the Resignation** of Steven Gress. On roll call, Members Banks, Bradley, Burton, King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF RESIGNATION

Dr. King thanked Dr. Sallie D. Penman and Mrs. Vanessa Bradley for their dedicated service to the Board and made a statement to be appended to the minutes. He stated it is the responsibility of the Board to ensure District 205 students' success; to uphold transparency; to maintain integrity in the spending of district funds and adhere to district policies including the policy against nepotism; and to address the academic challenges of the students immediately. The Board thanked the outgoing Board members for their service and presented them with an engraved token of appreciation.

RECOGNITION OF BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. King reviewed the Official Certificate of Results and Abstract of Votes from David Orr, Cook County Clerk, dated April 26, 2011 which certified Edward E. Crayton, Darren L. Robinson and Toni M. Williams being elected to the 4-year term.

ABSTRACT OF VOTES

Dr. King adjourned the Meeting Sine Die.

ADJOURNMENT SINE DIE

On roll call, Members Crayton, Banks, Burton, Lawrence, Robinson, T. Williams and K. Williams answered.

ROLL CALL

Mrs. Lawrence administered the *Oath of Office* to members elected to the District 205 Board of Education on April 5, 2011: Edward E. Crayton, Darren L. Robinson and Toni M. Williams.

OATH OF OFFICE

Mrs. Lawrence was appointed President Pro Tem.

PRESIDENT PRO TEM

Mr. Robinson moved, Mr. Crayton seconded, to **Appoint Kenneth Williams as President**. Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Appoint Bernadette Lawrence as President**. Nominations closed. On roll call, for the appointment of Kenneth Williams as President, Members Crayton, Robinson, T. Williams and K. Williams voted aye; Member Banks voted nay; Members Burton and Lawrence passed; motion passed.

ELECTION OF
PRESIDENT

Mrs. Williams moved, Mr. Robinson seconded, to **Appoint Edward Crayton as Vice President**. No further nominations; nominations closed. On roll call, Members Banks, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; Member Burton passed; motion passed.

ELECTION OF VICE
PRESIDENT

Mrs. Lawrence moved to **Appoint Darren Robinson as Secretary**. Mr. Robinson declined the nomination. Mr. Crayton moved, Mr. Williams seconded, to **Appoint Toni M. Williams as Secretary**. On roll call, Members Crayton, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; Members Banks and Lawrence voted nay; Member Burton passed; motion passed.

ELECTION OF
SECRETARY

Mr. Crayton moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Establish the Salary for the Secretary** at One (\$1.00) dollar. On roll call, Members Banks, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; Member Burton passed; motion passed.

ESTABLISHMENT
OF SECRETARY'S
SALARY

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Williams seconded, to **Establish Regular Board Meetings**. The Board meetings will be held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the locations for the following months as follows: January, February, March and April will be held in the Thornton High School Auditorium, Harvey, Illinois; May, June, July and August will be held at Thornwood High School, South Holland, Illinois; September, October, November and December will be held in the Thornridge Auditorium, Dolton, Illinois. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ESTABLISHMENT
OF REGULAR
MEETING DATES &
LOCATIONS

Mr. Robinson moved, Mrs. Williams seconded, to appoint Grasso Bass, P.C. and Tressler LLP as the District 205's legal counsel. Mrs. Lawrence and Mr. Banks requested the motion be tabled until May 11, 2011 to allow the existing Board to review and discuss information regarding the attorneys. The Board will go into Executive Session later during this meeting to discuss the matter.

APPOINTMENT OF
ATTORNEY

Mr. Crayton moved, Mr. Robinson seconded, to **Approve the Direction to Staff to Suspend Any Actions or Activities in Furtherance of the Transformation/Closure of Thornridge Freshman Center**. On roll call, Members Banks, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; nay, none; Member Burton passed; motion passed.

SUSPEND
THORNRIDGE
FRESHMAN
CENTER
ACTIVITIES

Mrs. Williams moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to **Approve the Direction to Staff to Suspend Any Action or Activities in Furtherance of Terminating the Contract With ECHO**. At the Board's request, Ms. Anderson stated that legally there is no contract with ECHO. The Board withdrew as administrative agent at the request of ECHO. On roll call, Members Banks, Crayton, Lawrence, Robinson, K. Williams and T. Williams voted aye; Mr. Burton voted nay, none; motion passed.

SUSPEND
TERMINATION OF
ECHO CONTRACT

Mrs. Lawrence requested that the Board appoint committee members because a negotiations meeting is scheduled for May 10, 2011. Mr. Williams stated the committee assignments will be discussed at the May 11, 2011 Board meeting. In the meantime, Mr. Banks will continue as negotiations representative for the May 10th meeting and Mr. Crayton will also attend the meeting until the committee assignments are finalized.

REQUEST FOR
COMMITTEE
ASSIGNMENTS

The following individuals spoke during public participation:

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION

- Michael Smith (Dixmoor) stated that he looks forward to working with the new Board members to improve schools and future partnerships with District 205.
- Larry Bradley (South Holland) welcomed the new Board members on behalf of the Booster Club and looks forward to working with them to make District 205 the best district in the state.
- Felita Crayton (Dolton) congratulated the new and existing Board members for understanding the importance of educating young people and will hold the Board accountable. She commended the Board for rescinding the Freshman Center. A double dose of any subject will make a student worse. The community has a voice in every decision that is made by the Board and the Board will be held accountable for all taxpayers' money.
- Rose Taylor (Dolton) congratulated the new Board and thanked the old Board members and is looking forward to the Board making great decisions.
- Kamala Buckner (Phoenix) stated she will be at future Board meetings. She understands the concerns of the community and looks forward to participating on the resident side. She asked people to remember that it is always about the children. Mr. Gress could not attend the meeting due to the coming birth of his first child.

Mr. Kenneth Williams thanked the outgoing Board members for their sincere commitment to the students of District 205. He promised that the Board would be transparent and as President, he would be fair to all Board members, as well as community members because their views and opinions are also necessary to move the District forward. The input of the people is important as evidenced by the last election cycle. He stated the community will be better informed of Board activities. Teachers, administrators and extended staff will have a voice in Board endeavors. Teachers need to be supported in order to motivate and provide the goals for the students. There are great athletic and academic alumni from all three schools whose input or contribution will be welcomed by the Board. He is a believer of the African proverb, *It Takes a Village to Raise a Child*. The Board should support educational goals including improving low performing schools and give parents a voice in improving their children's education. As a team effort, no one Board member, administrator or teacher is responsible. Support should be improved for students, teachers and administrators to reach high expectations. It is about doing what is best for our children, together as a team.

STATEMENT BY
BOARD PRESIDENT

At 6:50 p.m., Mrs. Lawrence 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; nay, none; motion passed.

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

At 8:15 p.m., Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Crayton 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 8:25 p.m., Mr. Robinson moved, Mrs. Lawrence 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