

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2011** IN THE CAFETERIA AT THORNTON HIGH SCHOOL, HARVEY, ILLINOIS, BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 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. Steven Gress, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations; 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 of Thornton High School; Mrs. Darcelle Williams, Principal of Thornwood High School; Mrs. Deborah Scaletta, Faculty Association Executive Director, and Ms. Shelli Anderson, District 205 Legal Counsel, were also present.

ROLL
CALL

At 6:06 p.m., Mr. Burton moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to go into **Executive Session** to discuss discipline and personnel issues. On roll call, Members Banks, Bradley, Burton, King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

At 8:10 p.m., Mrs. Lawrence moved, Dr. Penman seconded, to **Return to Regular Session**. On roll call, Members Banks, Bradley Burton, King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RETURNED TO
REGULAR SESSION

Dr. King announced that the Board will need to return to Executive Session after the Regular Session has been concluded.

Dr. King offered a moment of silence in memory of the late Gary Lester, who served the District in a number of capacities over his career.

MOMENT OF
SILENCE

Mr. Burton moved, Dr. Penman seconded, to **Approve the Consent Agenda**, which includes the following:

CONSENT AGENDA

- The minutes of the Executive Session of December 12, 2010.
- The minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 9, 2011.
- The minutes of the Special Meeting of March 21, 2011.
- The District 205 bills as presented for payment.
- The ECHO bills as presented for payment.
- Resignations: See Director of Human Resources.
- Leave of Absence: See Director of Human Resources.
- Employment: See Director of Human Resources.
- Notice to Remedy for One (1) Teacher.

MINUTES:
DECEMBER 12, 2010

MARCH 9, 2011

MARCH 21, 2011

BILLS

ECHO BILLS

RESIGNATIONS

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

EMPLOYMENT

NOTICE TO REMEDY

On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, and Penman voted aye; Members Lawrence and Williams voted no; Member Bradley abstained; motion passed. Mr. Williams stated that the Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session of December 12, 2010 was listed on the Agenda in error; the correct date should have been December 8, 2010.

Dr. King moved, Dr. Penman seconded to Rescind the previous motion and Approve the Consent Agenda as amended to remove the approval of minutes from Executive Session of December 12, 2010. All other items on the consent Agenda items will remain as is. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence and penman voted aye; Member Williams voted no; Member Bradley abstained; motion passed.

Mr. Banks moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded to **Deny Grievance No. 013111**. On roll call, Members Banks, Bradley, Burton, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; Member Williams voted nay; motion passed.

GRIEVANCE No.
013111

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Dr. Penman seconded to approve the following disciplinary action:

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE

Student Case #2F-1011-12: **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance** through June 2012 and recommended placement in RISE.

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

Mr. Gress reported that since the last Board meeting, six Freedom of Information Act requests were received and responded to within five days concerning the following: contract information (2); finance questions (2); a transportation question, and a construction question.

FOIA

- Mr. Doss read the Resolution for Mr. Gary Lester who passed away after nearly a 33-year educational career with Thornton Township High School Dist. 205 as a social studies teacher; football, basketball and softball coach; Dean of Students; Assistant Principal, Principal of Thornwood High School for 6 years and with distinction as Master Principal for all 3 schools. He was a trailblazer and was recognized for his leadership and professional expertise when honored as Illinois High School Principal of the Year in 2006 by the Illinois Principals' Association and National Secondary Association of School Principals, which honor was recognized by the Illinois General Assembly. He was deeply immersed in the District 205 community as a former resident of Dolton and South Holland as well as graduate and member of the Thornridge High School Football team. He made invaluable contributions to his community, state and nation. He is survived by his wife Shelly and children, Adam, Mark, Jeff, Grant, Jackson and Taylor.

COMMUNICATIONS

Upcoming events:

April 16	District 205 Academic Enrichment Foundation Star Gala, Lansing Serbian Center, 5:30 p.m.
April 27	Prairie State Achievement Exam
April 29	Prairie State Achievement Exam
April 29	Press 2 – Q4 Reporting Period Ends
May 2-6	National Teachers' Appreciation Week
May 3	Progress 2 – Q4 Grades Due
May 4	Late Start
May 6	SAT Registration Deadline for June 11
May 6	SAT Registration Deadline for June 4
May 7	SAT Test
May 10	Student Board of Education Meeting; 4:00 p.m., Thornwood
May 11	Board of Education Meeting; 6:00 p.m., Thornwood

Mr. Burton moved, Mr. Williams seconded, to **Approve the Out-of-State Field Trip** as presented by Thornwood Principal, Mrs. Darcelle Williams, for three Thornwood students (including one adult chaperone) to participate in the National Forensic League Speech Tournament in Dallas, Texas from June 12-19, 2011. The total cost is \$4,278.52. Mr. Gress stated that grant and student activity funds as well as funds set aside for out-of-state competitions generally used for sports could possibly be used to fund the trip. On roll call, Members Banks, Bradley, Burton, King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
OUT-OF-STATE
FIELD TRIP

Dr. Penman moved, Mr. Williams seconded, to **Approve the IHSA Membership for the 2011-2012 School Year** as presented by Dr. Lyke. No payment for membership is required. The IHSA governs the equitable participation in interscholastic athletics and activities. On roll call, Members Banks, Bradley, Burton, King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
2011-2012 IHSA
MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Banks moved, Dr. Penman seconded to **Approve the Modification of the 2010-2011 School Calendar** as presented by Dr. Lyke. The school year would be extended by two days to accommodate for the two (2) snow days used on February 2 and February 3, 2011. The new end date for the school year will be Thursday, June 2, 2011. On roll call, Members Banks, Bradley, Burton, King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
MODIFICATION OF
2010-2011 SCHOOL
CALENDAR

Dr. Buckner stated that the **Discipline Policy Changes Presentation** is tabled until the May 11, 2011 Board meeting.

PRESENTATION OF
DISCIPLINE POLICY
CHANGES

Dr. Buckner stated that the **Graduation Requirements Presentation** is tabled until the May 11, 2011 Board meeting.

PRESENTATION OF
GRADUATION
REQUIREMENTS

Dr. King moved, Mrs. Bradley seconded the **Drafting of a Policy to Waive District 205 Graduation Requirements in Extraordinary Circumstances** to the extent such requirements are more rigorous than the State requirements. On roll call, Members Banks, Bradley, Burton, King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

GRADUATION
REQUIREMENTS
POLICY

Dr. King moved, Mr. Williams seconded to **Approve the Graduation Exemption** for student case No. 235174. On roll call, Members Banks, Bradley, Burton, King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
GRADUATION
EXEMPTION

The Board will adjourn to Executive Session to continue discussion and will return to Regular Session to address this agenda item.

NOTICE/AGREEMENT
FOR TERMINATION OF
SUPERINTENDENT
CONTRACT

Dr. King moved, Mrs. Bradley seconded to Retain the Services of an independent accounting firm and engage the Illinois State Board of Education to conduct an audit of all District 205 funds as of May 3, 2011 and again on June 30, 2011. Mr. Williams requested that the current Board allow the new Board members to be sworn in and select an auditor together; Dr. King granted the request. He also asked that agenda items G., H., and I. be tabled for action by the new Board members. In response to Mr. Williams, Ms. Anderson responded that ISBE conducts audits of school districts every few years; there is no supporting data. He further stated the agenda presented to the Board last week did not contain items G. and H. and in accordance with District 205 policy, the Board was not provided with documentation/data 48 hours in advance of tonight's meeting. On roll call, Members Banks, Bradley, Burton, King, Penman and Williams voted aye; Mrs. Lawrence voted nay; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
APPOINTMENT OF
AUDITOR AND/OR
ISBE TO CONDUCT
SPECIAL AUDIT

Dr. Penman moved, Dr. Burton seconded to **Approve the Termination of District 205 as Administrative Agent for ECHO**. Dr. Buckner stated that the ECHO Joint Agreement consists of 17 school districts outside of District 205 and is managed by a separate Board. The termination of District 205 as administrative agent is at the request of ECHO. Mr. Williams stated there was no documentation presented to the Board about this request and asked to table the item. Because the Board will not take into consideration the items he has asked for, Mr. Williams voted no. On roll call, Members Bradley, Burton, King and Penman voted aye; Mr. Banks, Mrs. Lawrence and Mr. Williams voted nay; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
TERMINATION OF
DIST. 205 AS
ADMINISTRATIVE
AGENT FOR ECHO

At the recommendation of the Finance Committee, the Copy Paper Bid award was tabled until the new Board members are seated. The low bid was submitted by RIS Paper in the amount of \$80,512 for one delivery and \$82,304 for multiple delivery dates.

APPROVAL OF
COPY PAPER BID

Mr. Burton moved, Mrs. Bradley seconded to **Approve the PE Uniform Bid** as presented by Mr. Gress to St. John Sports in the amount of \$35,329.90. The Finance Committee has reviewed the bid and recommends approval. Mr. Williams stated that a notice was sent to Dr. Buckner requesting that no action be taken on contracts or bids. On roll call, Members Bradley, Burton, King and Penman voted aye; Mr. Banks, Mrs. Lawrence and Mr. Williams voted nay; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF PE
UNIFORM BID

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Williams seconded to **Table the Summer Asbestos Abatement Bid** at the recommendation of the Finance Committee until the new Board members are seated. The low bid was received from AMW in the amount of \$266,000.00. On roll call, Members Banks, Bradley, Burton, King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
SUMMER
ASBESTOS
ABATEMENT BID

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Williams seconded to **Table the Thornton HVAC Pre-Purchase Bid** at the recommendation of the Finance Committee until the new Board members are seated. On roll call, Members Banks, Bradley, Burton, King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
THORNTON HVAC
PRE-PURCHASE
BID

Mrs. Lawrence announced that there will be a Curriculum meeting on Wednesday, May 4, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. The location will be determined.

MISCELLANEOUS

Dr. Buckner stated to the public that she has been in this community since 1956 and in District 205 since 1973. She is a graduate of Thornton Township High School. She and her family appreciate the support of the community for all of their endeavors. Her love for the students kept her at her job past her retirement time. She appreciates the staff and community members that she has worked with side by side over the years. She appreciates the teachers who believed in her as a young student and asked the community to love the children first and put pettiness aside. People may not always agree, but please stand up for the children. She wished good luck to the new Board.

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT

The Board thanked Dr. Buckner for her 38 years of service to the District and recognized her as a great leader and caring person in and outside of the community. Her accomplishments and dedication to children have led her to become one of the top educators in the country. Children have always been her number one priority and the Board must not lose sight of that. The Board President stated it was an honor and privilege to work alongside Dr. Buckner; thanked her for commitment to excellence and that she will be sorely missed. At her request, she will graduate one more time with the 2011 Class of Thornton Township High School.

- Mr. Williams congratulated Mr. Crayton, Mr. Robinson and Mrs. Williams and asked that they stand for transparency, be fiscally sound and do what is right for the children.
- Ed Crayton (Dolton) spoke on behalf of himself and newly elected Board members Darren Robinson and Toni Williams and requested any documentation available regarding the transition of the new Board. Mrs. Williams requested a date for the swearing in. Dr. King stated the information will be forthcoming.
- Lloyd Kelly congratulated the new Board members and stated that the Superintendent and the Board members are servants of the people. He encouraged the new Board, audience and community to listen to each other.
- Patricia Jones (South Holland) opposes the freshman academy. Some of her children had to take remedial courses after graduating from Thornridge; she asked the Board to reconsider

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PARTICIPATION

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Con't.

- Peggy McDonald as a special needs parent, asked why the Board is terminating the administrative agent position for ECHO and why wasn't information presented to the Board prior to the Board meeting. Ms. Shelli Anderson responded that at the request of the ECHO Board of Directors, the item was put on the agenda to terminate the agreement.
- Gloria Taylor (Dolton) stated she voted for most of the present Board members but no one asked the community what they needed.
- Rose Taylor (Dolton) is thankful the new Board members were elected and asked the Board to remember it is our kids who are sitting in the classrooms.
- Felita Crayton (Dolton) stated: 1) Dr. Buckner has a responsibility to the taxpayers to answer questions; 2) the Board took an oath to serve the community and didn't listen to their concerns; 3) asked about the special meeting minutes; 4) would love to know what was stated in closed session; 5) was the \$6 million paid to the District that was owed by the State; 6) under FOIA, requested a detail of each administrator's salary and duties and responsibilities; the same information for AIL's; 7) there was a miscommunication regarding the tabling of certain agenda items; 8) requested the meeting notes from the finance committee meeting; 9) requested documentation regarding the withdrawal of District 205 as the administrative agent for ECHO; 10) requested a breakdown of the budget for each school of expenditures and line items. In response: 3) Ms. Anderson confirmed Mrs. Crayton was referring to whether the closed session minutes could be released to the public and stated it was a determination to be made by the Board, and 7) Mr. Burton responded that the items stated in the finance meeting to be tabled were tabled; other agenda items tabled were not finance committee items.
- Evelyn Sorrell (Dolton) stated: 1) the graduation exemption that was passed by the Board should be given across the board to all students; 2) asked for detail of the Thornridge band activity money; 3) Thornridge band has difficulty getting money and it should be consistent across the district; 4) in the future the Board will learn to listen to the community. Dr. King responded: 1) the motion made this evening was to establish a policy for an exemption in extraordinary cases, and 2) please submit the question in writing to Mr. Gress.
- Vivienne Williams (Dolton) stated the community demands a forensic audit dating back a minimum of ten years and that the Board obtain bids on the assignment; requested the same information as Mrs. Crayton. Dr. King instructed her to submit her request in writing.
- Kenneth Williams, Jr. (South Holland) congratulated his mother, Darren and Mr. Crayton on the Board election.
- Debra Smith stated that at the last band parent meeting that there are accounting issues at Thornridge; things are being worked out. She asked that Mr. Gress call her regarding band funds. Dr. Buckner will be missed; she has been an advocate for the band students, parents and her family.
- Lamar Miller (District 215) attended Thornton in 2008-09 and stated Dr. Buckner is an awesome Superintendent. The freshman academy could work. At District 215 there is a freshman wing and it is successful because you need to start at the freshman level. The Board should have communicated with the community. There must be community, leadership and student involvement. In campaigning, you can talk a big game, but action is needed.

- Brian Hannah (Dolton) stated he does not want the freshman center. By attending meetings he is discovering that money is missing and the state's attorney should be brought in to find out where all the money is going. Money is not being spent appropriately. Transparency is needed.
- Tracy Brown (Dolton) congratulated the new Board members and will hold them to their word. She advised the Board to stand up for what is right, not be power minded and continue to push opportunities for the students. Parents should continue to attend Board meetings to be involved in the decision making process. She thanked the Board for doing what they thought was best for the children and will hold the new Board accountable.
- Dr. Betheny Lyke, Steven Gress and Tim Truesdale (District 205 Administrators) on behalf of the Administrative Team thanked Dr. Buckner for 38 years of service to Thornton Township High School Dist. 205 and for her leadership and support in the work to help students succeed in a challenging world. Among her many roles, Dr. Buckner served as a teacher, grant program coordinator, assistant superintendent and for the last 12 years as Superintendent. Her laser focus has always been on the students of District 205 and providing them with opportunities to grow and excel. Her grace and courage are an example for all.

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At 10:05 p.m., Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to go into **Executive Session**. On roll call, Members Banks, Bradley, Burton, King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed. Dr. King stated the Board will reconvene Regular Session at the conclusion of Executive Session and informed the public he did not know the time they would reconvene.

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

At 11:05 p.m., Mr. Burton moved, Mrs. Bradley seconded, to **Return to Regular Session**. On roll call, Members Banks, Bradley Burton, King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RETURNED TO
REGULAR SESSION

Mr. Banks moved, Dr. King seconded to **Approve the Agreement Regarding Termination of Superintendent's Employment, Settlement Agreement and General Release**. On roll call, Members Banks, Bradley Burton, King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
TERMINATION OF
SUPERINTENDENT'S
CONTRACT

At 11:15 p.m., Mrs. Lawrence moved, Dr. Penman seconded, to **Adjourn the Meeting**. On roll call, Members Banks, Bradley, Burton, King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

President

Secretary