

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2011** IN THE CAFETERIA AT THORNTON HIGH SCHOOL, HARVEY, ILLINOIS, BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams answered. Member Bradley was absent. 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; Mr. Ken Wendorff, Faculty Association President; Mrs. Deborah Scaletta, Faculty Association Executive Director and Ms. Shelli Anderson, District 205 Legal Counsel, were also present.

ROLL  
CALL

At 6:01 p.m., Mr. Burton moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to go into **Executive Session** to discuss student-related issues. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

At 7:40 p.m., the Board returned to Regular Session.

RETURNED TO  
REGULAR SESSION

**Report from Curriculum Committee** (Mrs. Lawrence and Dr. Penman). Dr. Penman announced that there will be a Curriculum Committee meeting on March 16, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in Room T-107.

COMMITTEE OF  
THE WHOLE

**Report from Policy Committee** (Mr. Banks and Dr. King). No report.

**Report from Finance Committee** (Mrs. Bradley, Mr. Burton and Mr. Williams) Mr. Gress gave an update and recapped the information from last month's meeting, stating that on November 3, 2010 the Board approved the installation of an electric heating and air conditioning system including a peak shaving generator for Thornton Township High School in the amount of \$15,978,653. The capacity of this system is for heating and air conditioning only and would not include lighting, computers, etc. A power outage occurred at Thornton last week for approximately one hour. This would not have affected students if a generator with instructional capacity existed. He provided a system comparison including the total cost and efficiency over 30 years of the current system vs. a water source heat pump system. A savings of approximately \$6.4 million over the life cycle of the generator would result from the water source system.

The funds available for capital improvement include \$1,078,025 from the IDEA and ARRA grant; \$677,000 previously allocated to life safety work that will not be needed because a new HVAC system has been purchased, and \$885,000 previously allocated to pool renovations for a total of \$2,640,205.

In response to the Board, Mr. Gress stated information regarding green energy was previously provided to the Board. A geothermal system is approximately \$30 million. The previously approved system is approximately \$13 million. The water source system would be approximately an additional \$3 million.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- The minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of February 9, 2011.
- The District 205 bills as presented for payment.
- The ECHO bills as presented by payment.

MINUTES:  
FEBRUARY 9, 2011

BILLS

ECHO BILLS

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| ▪ Resignations: See Director of Human Resources     | RESIGNATIONS     |
| ▪ Leave of Absence: See Director of Human Resources | LEAVE OF ABSENCE |
| ▪ Employment: See Director of Human Resources       | EMPLOYMENT       |

Mr. Williams requested the amount of the Jones Diversity invoice regarding a grievance brought against him. Mr. Gress stated the amount was paid through the District attorney. A discussion took place about who District legal counsel represents in a grievance brought against a Board member by an administrator. Mr. Williams asked if, as a Board member, he was to be represented by District legal counsel. Legal counsel, Ms. Anderson, responded that legal counsel represents the Board as a whole, and not individual members. Mr. Williams asked if there was a policy stating the grievance procedure should begin at the District 205 Human Resources Dept. level. She stated, not in this instance because the administrator who would oversee the grievance is below the Superintendent. Mr. Williams asked if it is required by law for a Board member to follow FOIA guidelines to obtain information. Ms. Anderson responded that it depends on what information is being sought. He stated he requesting information on bills; specifically the amount paid to Jones Diversity.

On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; Member Williams voted no; motion passed.

Dr. Penman moved, Mr. Burton seconded to approve the following disciplinary actions:

STUDENT  
DISCIPLINE

Student Case #1B-1011-01: **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance** through June 2013 and recommended placement in Second Chance.

Student Case #1F-1011-02: **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance** through June 2013 and recommended placement in Academy for Learning.

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

Mr. Burton moved, Mr. Williams seconded to **Table the Graduation Exemption** for further Board discussion and action within thirty (30) days. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

GRADUATION  
EXEMPTION

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: IHSA exemption information (2); District boundary committee; certified payroll (2), and District boundaries.

FOIA

Mr. Doss reported the following:

COMMUNICATIONS

- Board President, Dr. King, recognized former Board of Education member, Mrs. Elizabeth Ware for her dedicated service to the Board of Education from 1995-2010. A graduate from Governors State University, Mrs. Ware was a teacher at Thornton Township high School from 1977-1995. Dr. King welcomed Mrs. Ware and her family and thanked her for her services to the Board from 1995-2010. Mrs. Lawrence added her compliments to Mrs. Ware.
- The Thornton Cheerleaders competed in Springfield in the ICCA State Championship. Junior varsity placed second and varsity placed fourth. Board member Williams added that this is the first time that the junior varsity cheerleaders have been able to go to State and compete. He thanked the coaches and Thornton staff and Board.
- Thornridge Band parent Association will hold its annual spring Concert on April 21, 2011 at Thornridge. Requesting donations for their ad book. Contact Deborah Smith or Brenda Jones, or Mrs. Sorrell. Information will be posted on the website.

- District 205 Academic Enrichment Foundation is dedicated to educational excellence for all staff led activities in District 205, which include the United Nations Summer Leadership Academy, 25-Book Campaign, Schaumburg Student Exchange; Music Programs, S.A.V.E. and the Student Board of Education. The Foundation awards up to \$500 in grants for enriching various activities. Fundraisers include the Commemorative Brick Sales, Reaching for the Stars Gala, since 2004 over \$130,000 has been raised through the Star Gala. Star Appeal is a newly created campaign where staff can donate through payroll deduction.
- The Foundation received a \$50,000 grant from the AT&T Foundation to underwrite the United Nations Program the entire school year.
- Thornton Alumni Legacy Fund (TALF) is to raise money to implement an endowment for Thornton to sustain and support programming. Recent special projects include the Distinguished Speakers Series which includes alumni such as Dan Ustian, CEO of Harvester International Navistar, Lorna Propes, Cook County Judge and John Rogers, CEO of Arial Financial, who recently spoke to students.
- TALF supports various scholarships including the Alex Ustian and Marv Austin Scholarships, National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE), Thornton Township Academy of Truck & Diesel Technology Powered by Navistar, Yearbook, Athletics and Drama.
- TALF's primary fundraiser is the TALF Wildcat Open, raises over \$100,000 to support endowment and immediate needs. Others include TALF Alumni Day where alumni are inducted into the Thornton Alumni Hall of Fame; Thornton McLegends Basketball Game on April 15-16. Bringing in alumni basketball players to play with Thornton.
- Auditorium seats may be purchased for those who want a piece of Thornton Township High School history. For more information contact Kay Rampke or see the TALF website.
- Students from all three schools have progressed to the second round of the Gates Scholar 2011 National Competition: Jason Jones, Thornridge; Jeremiah Whittington, Brianna Sullivan and Tandrea Harris, Thornton and Habibat Oguntade, Thornwood. District 205 has the highest number of Gates Scholars in the country. The Gates Scholarship is for \$250,000.

Upcoming events:

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| • March 11           | End of quarter 3                                       |
| • March 12           | SAT Test   |
| • March 16           | Late Start   |
|                      | Curriculum Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m., T107          |
| • March 18           | April ACT Late Registration Deadline                   |
| • March 28 – April 1 | Spring Break   |
| • April 8            | SAT Registration Deadline for May 7                    |
| • April 9            | ACT Test   |
| • April 12           | Finance Committee Meeting; 10:00 a.m., District Office |
| •                    | Student Board of Education Meeting                     |
| • April 13           | Late Start   |
|                      | Board of Education Meeting                             |

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Dr. Penman seconded, to **Ratify the Out-of-State Field Trip** as presented by Thornwood Principal, Mrs. Darcelle Williams, for four Thornwood band students to participate in the All-Star Band Weekend at Butler University, Indianapolis, Indiana from February 18-20, 2011. The students spent the weekend in rehearsals for a public concert performance with the University Symphonic Band. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RATIFICATION OF  
OUT-OF-STATE  
FIELD TRIP

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Approve the FCCLA (Family Career & Community Leaders of America) State Leadership Conference** as presented by Mrs. Williams, for ten Thornwood students and three chaperones to travel to the Prairie Capital Convention Center in Springfield, Illinois from April 7-9, 2011. The students will compete in the areas of Culinary Arts and Fashion Design. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
FCCLA STATE  
LEADERSHIP  
CONFERENCE

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Williams seconded, to **Approve the Comcast Telecast of the McLegends Basketball Game at Thornton High School** scheduled for April 16, 2011 as presented by Mr. Ratliff. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
COMCAST TELECAST  
OF McLEGENDS  
BASKETBALL GAME

Mr. Burton moved, Mr. Banks seconded to **Approve the 2011-2012 School Calendar** as presented by Dr. Lyke. The calendar is similar to those of recent years. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
2011-2012 SCHOOL  
CALENDAR

Mr. Burton moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded to **Approve the Additional Cost for the Thornton HVAC System** in the projected amount of \$2,505,009, which includes a water assisted system which is projected to provide a long-term savings to the District of \$6,442,050. Mr. Williams spoke of the District's future financial status and suggested the item be tabled. Mr. Burton explained the need to move forward. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; Mr. Williams voted no; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
ADDITIONAL COST  
FOR THORNTON  
HVAC SYSTEM

Mr. Burton moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded to **Approve the Submission of the School Energy Efficiency Grant Application** as presented by Mr. Gress. The Thornton window replacement project qualifies as an energy efficiency program and if awarded, the District could receive up to \$250,00 in funding assistance. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; Mr. Williams voted no; motion passed.

APPROVAL TO  
SUBMIT SCHOOL  
ENERGY EFFICIENT  
GRANT  
APPLICATION

Mr. Williams stated that while he believes Thornton Township High School Dist. 205 is a great district, some matters brought before the Board are not well planned and asked that the Board request the \$50 million bond issue be placed where it is supposed to be according to the grant.

MISCELLANEOUS

Dr. Buckner reported that a Cyber Bullying Policy and a Bullying/Harassment Policy need to be put into effect. Some bullying begins outside of school and continues into the school buildings. The Discipline Committee will meet with parents, students and staff for input. Professional Development will also be implemented.

SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT

- Bobby Bell (Dolton) stated that taxes in the community go up and asked for patience.
- Lloyd Kelly (Dolton) stated he is concerned at the lack of forethought about the HVAC situation. He stated that over 50 years there would be a 30% savings. He asked if the cost for all Thornton buildings would be \$96 million for the HVAC system. Mr. Gress responded that the system would service the entire campus except for air conditioning in the field house.
- Willie Richardson (South Holland) asked: 1) what is the minimum GPA for a student to participate in sports; 2) was water conservation considered in choosing the HVAC system and 3) does the water need to be treated. Dr. Buckner responded: 1) 1.5; 2) Yes. Mr. Gress added that water would be re-circulated throughout the building and 3) he would consult the architect.
- Veronica Maxwell (South Holland) asked what newspaper the minutes are published in. Dr. Buckner responded that the minutes are posted on the District website.

PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION

- Edward Crayton (Dolton): 1) asked that the Board move executive session to the end of the agenda; 2) was confused with the capital improvement presentation and asked for clarification; 3) is still confused and asked for a simple explanation document; 4) stated the Finance Committee is not in sync, and 4) congratulated TALF for their accomplishments and asked that they share their ideas with the other two schools. In response: 1) Dr. King stated that public participation was moved based on a recommendation from a resident; 2) Mr. Gress stated that the original HVAC system was part of the \$50 million bond issue; tonight's change will be paid through savings generated from the IDEA/ARRA grant, \$667,000 of previously approved life safety items that are now included in the heating system price and the elimination of the second Thornton swimming pool provides additional funding; 3) the matter was referred back to the Finance Committee who did not make a recommendation; therefore, it was discussed during Committee of the Whole and the District website contains the information.
- Felita Crayton (Dolton): 1) stated Thornton is doing great things but what about the other two schools; 2) asked for the amount allocated for Thornton improvements; 3) asked about the boundary committee; 4) asked if the District has received transportation reimbursement; 5) how much grant money has been received; 6) is the public allowed to attend the events held in T106 and T107 training for quality core; 7) the community has not participated in any meetings with the lead partners; 8) what does TALF stand for. In response: 2) Mr. Gress did not have the exact amount; 3) a committee has been formed and each school's booster club president will be contacted; 4) 2010 transportation funding has been received; 2011 has not; 5) Dr. Buckner stated money is not received until it is spent; we have received \$1.5 million in reimbursement; 6) Mr. Truesdale stated the events are for teacher training; and 8) Thornton Alumni Legacy Fund was holding a meeting in the T Building.
- Toni Williams (South Holland) asked 1) is freshman center is moving forward; 2) when was it voted on; 3) what was the \$1.5 million spent on, and 4) where is the vote documented. Dr. King responded: 1) yes, it is moving ahead. 2) Mrs. Lawrence stated the community is not for the freshman center. Dr. King added the grant was approved for submission in April 2010; 3) Dr. Buckner stated America's Choice is on site providing services for reading and data coaches, etc., and 4) Dr. King said the vote is documented in the April 2010 Board meeting minutes.
- Michelle West Gant (South Holland): 1) stated she has not read about the radical changes and does not feel the community trusts the Board; 2) asked if there is there a reporter, other than for minutes, to report school events in a newspaper publication for residents other than online, and 3) is there an individual budget for the grant which request she will put in writing. Dr. Buckner stated: 2) the District will work in this area.
- Darren Robinson (Harvey): 1) stated something needs to be done about the mice in the building; 2) regarding the HVAC, the water must be treated; 3) where is the documentation regarding reimbursement guidelines for the grant; 4) if the freshman center is still in litigation, you cannot move forward; 5) a vote was never taken to accept the grant. He asked the Board to please reconsider. Dr. Buckner responded: 3) this is a Federal reimbursable grant.
- Larry Russell (Dolton) stated that the demeanor of the Board is confrontational toward the public and their confidence level is low because there is no plan. He asked if there has there been a transportation study regarding transportation costs? Mr. Gress responded that the impact is negligible and that at the freshman center there will be only one bus run.
- Peggy-Taylor McDonald (Dolton) stated that the grant was submitted; it was never accepted. The parents are not involved and this plan will not succeed if parents are against it. Mrs. Lawrence agreed that parent involvement was not obtained before the grant was submitted and that Dolton Mayor Lewis has stated there is not enough manpower to manage a freshman center. Therefore, she is against the freshman center.

- Mr. Burton (Board member) stated that when a grant is applied for, it is assumed the District wants the grant. Federal grants differ from other grants. The reason for applying for the grant was because of the poor academic record of the District. The grant will provide extra help for students. The first year for high school students is critical.
- Mr. Williams (Board member) stated that the District's standards are too low at 1.5 GPA. Teachers are confused because the curriculum changes too frequently.
- In response to Dr. King, legal counsel stated the September 2010 executive session minutes can be released after Board action. Mr. Williams added that discussion is only discussion and not Board action.
- Kathy Bendell (Dolton) asked the date of public participation for the new calendar, and she asked for the Board to go students for input. Other school districts turned down the grant. A vote was taken in closed session which cannot be done; King said the Board did not vote; Transportation costs were not considered; funding will not be adequate. How many of the projects have been completed? What has been done at Thornridge? Transportation reimbursement received? Asked that the 1.5 GPA required for sports participation be raised. What was the 2010 transportation costs Mr. Gress responded: the Thornton auditorium and window project are completed; one science lab has been completed at Thornridge, another lab will be renovated during the summer along with the cafeteria, one computer lab at TR. Dr. Lyke stated that most holidays are mandated by the State; a public hearing was held regarding Lincoln's Birthday at the February Board meeting. Presidents' Day will be a school holiday. Gress said 2010 transportation reimbursement has been received. \$1.9 million was reimbursed by the State for 2010 transportation costs, a 42% cut from the previous year. Total transportation cost was approx. \$7 million, a portion of which is funded from the tax levy. Dr. Buckner stated the District uses the IHSA eligibility; scattergram showed 205's eligibility on a 2.0 would be lower.
- Evelyn Sorrell (Dolton) stated the Thornridge Band concert will incorporate the 50th year celebration of Thornridge High School. Mr. Eanes has reached out to alumni to perform. Green energy will ultimately save money.
- Randy Foulkes (Dolton) stated it is dangerous to spend money in anticipation of being reimbursed. Appreciates the cyber bullying policy. The Board allows the public to speak after a decision has been made. Keep Thornridge a 4-year high school.
- Dallas Gordon (Dolton) has been involved in various programs and committees over the years. Changes were sought to make it better for the children. There is a loss of trust. Negative things from people who have better things behind them. Challenges the Board and community to come together. Problems with bullying were solved at Thornton. Removing the upperclassmen from Thornridge will take away maturity and the impact they have on younger students. He asked the Board to be accountable.
- Jeanita Eaves (Harvey) asked if there will be pre AP classes at the freshman center, and 2) requested information about the school consolidation bill; 3) requested public participation be moved to the end. Dr. Buckner 1) responded yes, and Mrs. Lawrence 2) stated that when further information is received, it will be shared.
- Felita Crayton representing Patricia Jones asked the Board to pay attention to the local cable channels. There will be issues that the Board will not be able to control. To integrate young people from different communities, there will be trouble. There is fear. What will happen to Thornridge if the program does not work? The student population decreased when the boundary lines changed. Children are being put in harms ways. Moving freshman to high schools that don't make AYP. The stakeholders have been disrespected. The Board has the right to share what has been discussed in Executive session. Asking the Board to share it. Dr. King responded that there is a diminishing student population; there are major issues in the

future. Dr. Buckner replied that the money is designed to help move all 3 schools to make students successful. In the State of Illinois 9 out of 10 high schools have not made AYP.

- Kiera Williams (Thornton student) does not appreciate Dr. King not allowing her father to speak as he is a Board member. She stated many teachers to not take their job seriously. There should be surprise visits, because they prepare when they know someone is coming. Will there be improvements in lunches? Mr. Gress stated that the food service program will be out to bid this year.
- Diamond Long (Thornton student) asked what is being done for upperclassmen so she is ready for college and stated the Board should have asked the students about the freshman center. Dr. Buckner stated more AP eligible students are needed and referred her to Mr. Ratliff for opportunities on college readiness and information.
- Jalena smith (Thornton student) asked what will happen to sports in view of the freshman academy. Dr. Buckner stated full athletics will continue; there may be some changes in coaching.

At 10:33 p.m., Mr. Burton moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Adjourn the Meeting**. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

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President

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Secretary