

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2008** IN THE AUDITORIUM AT THORNBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL, DOLTON, ILLINOIS, BEGINNING AT 7:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Lawrence, and Penman answered. Members King and Ware were absent. Dr. J. Kamala Buckner, Superintendent; Mr. Tim Truesdale, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Mr. Steven Gress, Director of Business; Dr. Paige Dague, Director of Accountability, Research and Information Service; Dr. Betheny Lyke, Thornton Principal; Mrs. Darcelle Williams, Thornwood Principal; Ms. Kim Waller, Thornridge Principal; Ms. Ebonie Williams, Thornton Assistant Principal; Mr. Tony Ratliff, Thornton Assistant Principal; Mrs. Dorith Johnson, Thornwood Assistant Principal; Mr. Wayne Dendler, Academy for Learning Principal; Mr. Ken Wendorff, Faculty Association President; and Mrs. Suzanne Garcia, Faculty Association Executive Director, were also present.

ROLL
CALL

The minutes of the regular session and the minutes of the executive session of the regular meeting of October 8. 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.

MINUTES:
October 8, 2008

Mr. Burton moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to **Approve the Minutes for October 8, 2008**. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Approve the District 205 Bills**. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

DISTRICT 205
BILLS

None.

RESIGNATIONS

None

LEAVE OF
ABSENCE

Mr. Burton moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to **Approve the Employment List**. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Jerry Doss spoke about the following:

COMMUNICATIONS

- Illinois Senate President Emil Jones visited Thornton Township High School last week as a result of a letter written by student Andrea Rodgers. He spoke with students about school funding reform and Illinois politics.
- Thornwood students, Darius Leaks and Sinnard Scott, were tournament champions in dramatic duet acting at the West Chicago Speech Tournament on November 8, 2008.
- Thornwood High School hosted a Mathletes Invitational on October 22, 2008. The students placed first in all categories under the direction of first-year coach, Vincent Hathorn.
- District 205 Administrators, faculty and students attended a leadership conference for high school students with Archbishop Desmond Tutu sponsored by the Chicago Center for Cultural Connections on October 24, 2008.
- William Brazley, Thornton Township High School 1961 graduate, passed away on November 8, 2008. Mr. Brazley was a world renowned African American architect, philanthropist, trailblazer and speaker in the Thornton Alumni Legacy Fund's Distinguished Speaker Series. William E. Brazley and Associates Architectural Company's work includes projects at O'Hare Airport for Lufthansa and Air France, Chicago State University Convocation Center and the Navy Pier Expansion. The Board will send a resolution to the funeral services on November 15, 2008.

The upcoming events for the month of November are:

November 15	National School Board Members Day
November 26	Early dismissal and grade/progress reports sent home
November 27-28	Thanksgiving Break, no school
November 28	Interim Grading Period Ends

The following individuals spoke during public participation:

PUBLIC
PATICIPATION

- Edward Crayton (Dolton) recognized the Board members for National School Board Members Day and thanked them for their work. He expressed his dissatisfaction of the placement of public participation on the agenda.
- Felita Crayton (Dolton) objected to the placement of public participation on the agenda. She asked about finalizing the parent resource room at Thornridge to which Dr. Buckner responded that an additional expenditure of \$8,000 for asbestos removal is required which must be presented to the Board. Mrs. Crayton invited the Board to the Thornridge Athletic Booster Club Annual Fall Awards Dinner on November 15, 2008. She stressed that the community and parents would like to be involved in the details of the Parent Academy. Dr. Buckner replied that each parent academy will be under the leadership of the building Principal who will meet with the parents for input. She asked for the suspension data for each building and Dr. Buckner stated that it is not currently available; that administration is currently focusing more on academics.

At 7:16 p.m. Dr. King joined the meeting. He asked that proposals be submitted to the Finance Committee regarding the Thornridge asbestos abatement project estimated to cost approximately \$8,000.

DR. KING JOINED
MEETING

Mr. Burton moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to **Approve the Title I Parent Involvement Policy** as presented by Mr. Truesdale. The policy is being updated to comply with requirements of No Child Left Behind and replaces the Chapter I Policy adopted in 1988. It was reviewed by Title I parents. In response to the Board, Mr. Truesdale stated that there is a Freshman Academy administrator in each building to schedule meetings and notify the Title I parents by letters and robocalls. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
TITLE I PARENT
INVOLVEMENT
POLICY

Dr. King moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Approve the Parental Involvement Policy**. The policy was presented by Dr. Buckner at a parent meeting on October 30, 2008. In response to the Board, Dr. Buckner stated that she and the Principals are responsible for the implementation of the policy to ensure collaboration between student families and the District and when the data is available, progress reports will be provided. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
PARENTAL
INVOLVEMENT
POLICY

National School Board Members Day, November 15, 2008, was recognized with a reception prior to the Board meeting. Dr. Buckner presented each Board member with a Certificate of Appreciation and commended them for their strong fiscal management which allowed the District to operate under a balanced budget for the last four years and receive a high bond rating. All schools met Safe Harbor. The Board has set high expectations for academic assessment and safe and secure schools.

RECOGNITION OF
SCHOOL BOARD
MEMBERS

Mr. Gress presented the tentative tax levy in the amount of \$65,220,000, which has increased by 4.99% from last year and explained the legal requirements under the Truth in Taxation Act. In response to the Board, Mr. Gress stated that other sources of revenue include state and federal aid and charges for services. Mr. Gress will be asking for approval of the 2008tax levy at the December 10, 2008 Board meeting.

PRESENTATION OF
TENTATIVE 2008
TAX LEVY

Dr. King moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to **Approve the Budget Reallocation** as presented by Mr. Gress. Several departments requested to reallocate dollars from within the original approved budget in the total amount of \$23,000. The total impact to the department budget is zero. The Finance Committee has recommended approval of the transfers. The Finance Committee will meet to realign the purchasing power for supplies. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
BUDGET
REALLOCATION

Mr. Burton moved, Dr. King seconded, to **Approve the Resolution Abating the Working Cash Fund** to the Education Fund to cover costs related to capital improvements. The Finance Committee has recommended approval of this transfer. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
RESOLUTION
ABATING WORKING
CASH FUND

Mr. Burton moved, Dr. Penman seconded, to Approve the Resolution for the Sale of \$50 Million in Working Cash Bonds. This will not increase property taxes within the District. The Finance Committee has recommended approval of the resolution. Dr. King stated he is looking forward to building new schools rather than repairing existing schools. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
SALE OF \$50
MILLION IN
WORKING CASH
BONDS
RESOLUTION

The agreement with T-Mobile to install a cell tower on Thornwood property was tabled in order to allow time to meet with legal counsel regarding the lease structure.

APPROVAL OF T-
MOBILE CELL
TOWER AT
THORNWOOD

Dr. Dague reported on the first quarter progress of the students in relation to initiatives in the District Improvement Plan. The data was presented by building; the overall results are:

DISTRICT
IMPROVEMENT
PLAN REPORT

Reading: Freshmen Pretest - 52%

English Interim Assessments:

Freshmen Test 1 – 56%, Test 2 – 58% (2% gain)

Sophomores Test 1 – 33%, Test 2 – 45% (12% gain)

Juniors Test 1 – 42%, Test 2 – 45% (3% gain)

Algebra: Freshmen Pretest – 34%

Math Interim Assessments:

Freshmen Test 1 – 45%, Test 2 – 40% (-5% loss)

Sophomores Test 1 – 31%, Test 2 – 37% (6% gain)

Juniors Test 1 – 34%, Test 2 – 39% (5% gain)

Mr. Truesdale reported on the first quarter coursework progress under the District Improvement Plan by building; the overall results are:

Total # of Students with F's = 3,192

Total # of Students with D's = 3,430

Building Principals and staff are developing plans how to reach out to struggling students. In response to the Board, Mr. Truesdale stated the following:

- The percentage of students who will graduate and be eligible for PSAT based on the current data will be provided at a later date.
- Student progress is being communicated to parents by various methods: Below C weekly progress checks; personal correspondence asking for their attendance at parent/teacher conferences; letter grades being sent every three weeks with progress reports rather than pass/fail notification; teachers call the parent.
- Homework is accountable for different percentages of the grade depending on the course, teachers, etc. This will be addressed at future curriculum meetings.

The Board had the following concerns:

- The redo policy, the pacing of coursework, communication period, and other concerns which Mr. Truesdale said will be addressed at future curriculum meetings.
- The data on D's and F's should be posted in the buildings for students to see.
- Is there more or less classroom disruption and does this negatively impact student learning? The three Principals stated that classroom disruptions are less frequent.
- It is the Board's position that something must be done to motivate and improve student achievement. It was suggested to look at districts in the country that are succeeding with similar demographics as District 205.
- Dr. Buckner asked for guidance from the Board regarding the Grading Committee recommendation, i.e., should a final grade be given at the end of first semester or not until the end of the school year in May.

DISTRICT
IMPROVEMENT
PLAN REPORT,
Con't.

SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT

At 8:30 p.m., Mr. Burton moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to go into **Executive Session**. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNED
TO EXECUTIVE
SESSION

At 10:12 p.m. Mr. Banks moved, Dr. King seconded, to **Return to Regular Session**. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RETURNED TO
REGULAR SESSION

Mr. Banks moved, Dr. King seconded, to **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance** for Student Case #4-0809-01 for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year and recommended placement in the Second Chance Alternative School. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
NO. 4-0809-01

Mr. Banks moved, Dr. King seconded, to **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance** for Student Case #4-0809-02 for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year and recommended placement in the Second Chance Alternative School. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
NO. 2H-0809-02

Mr. Banks moved, Dr. King seconded, to **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance** for Student Case #4-0809-03 for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year and recommended placement in the Second Chance Alternative School. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
NO. 2H-0809-03

Dr. King moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to repay teachers who suffered financial hardship due to receiving one week of pay on the first payday of the school year. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King and Penman voted aye; Member Lawrence voted nay; motion passed.

FACULTY
ASSOCIATION
REPAYMENT

Dr. King moved, Dr. Penman seconded, to accept Julius Patterson's resignation from the Thornton Township High School Dist. 205 School Board. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RESIGNATION OF
BOARD MEMBER

Dr. King moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to appoint Rev. Victor Coriano to fill the vacancy left by Mr. Patterson's resignation. On roll call, Members Banks, King and Penman voted aye; Members Burton and Lawrence passed; nay, none; motion passed.

BOARD VACANCY
FILLED

Mr. Burton moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to extend Superintendent Dr. J. Kamala Buckner's contract until the year 2012. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

SUPERINTENDENT
CONTRACT
EXTENSION

At 10:18 p.m. Dr. King moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Adjourn the Meeting**. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

President

Secretary

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REGULAR SESSION