

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. On roll call, Members Banks, Bradley, Burton, King, Lawrence and Penman answered. Member Williams 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 Mr. Brian Crowley, District 205 Legal Counsel, were also present.

ROLL
CALL

At 6:11 p.m., Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to go into **Executive Session** to discuss student discipline issues. On roll call, Members Banks, Bradley, Burton, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

At 7:12 p.m., the Board returned to Regular Session.

RETURNED TO
REGULAR SESSION

Mrs. Lawrence offered a moment of silence in memory of the late Mrs. Marilyn King, wife of Dr. Carl E. King, Sr., District 205 Board President. Dr. King thanked everyone for their condolences.

MOMENT OF
SILENCE

Dr. Buckner spoke of Mrs. Aretha Muse, Thornton English Teacher, who recently passed away.

Report from Curriculum Committee (Mrs. Lawrence and Dr. Penman). Mrs. Lawrence stated that a Curriculum Meeting will be scheduled for next month.

COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE

Report from Policy Committee (Mrs. Banks and Dr. King). Dr. Buckner stated the Board will need to review the policy regarding the PSAE (Prairie State Achievement Exam). Past policy has been if a student did not take the test as a Junior, they could take it as a Senior. In the past, Senior test scores did not count toward AYP. Effective April 2011, the scores will count toward AYP. Effective July 1, 2011, a student cannot be promoted to senior status unless they have taken the Prairie State Exam.

Report from Finance Committee (Mrs. Bradley, Mr. Burton and Mr. Williams) Mr. Gress reported that the District has been actively seeking any and all grants available for the capital projects. One grant is for up to \$250,000 for energy efficiency relative to the Thornton window project. The Finance Committee had requested: 1) renderings of the Thornton auditorium which were on display at the Board meeting, and 2) a Board discussion of bid results and alternates available.

Tom Szurgot of Tria Architecture described the features of the auditorium renovation as a complete renovation, as the original theater was built in 1965. The new overall look includes: all new chairs, stage, acoustics and a new mechanical system in the attic including OSHA requirements for catwalks, etc. This was an intense project and included mechanical, electrical, audio, video, plumbing and theatrical consultants. The lobby, restrooms and auditorium including backstage, will be ADA accessible. The completion date according to bid specifications is July 15, 2011. The renderings will be available on the District website.

Through a one-time grant with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the District was able to allocate \$1,078,205 to this grant for some of the ongoing construction projects including the Thornton window replacements and auditorium and the cafeterias at all three schools.

Previously Board-approved funds in the amount of \$677,000 for life safety repairs on the HVAC system will be available for allocation, in view of the new HVAC system being installed. If the renovation of the girls' swimming pool, which is not competition size, is eliminated from the project list, \$885,000 will also be available. There are two swimming pools at Thornton; one is competition size. A discussion was had concerning competition-size pools.

COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE, Con't.

On November 3, 2010 the Board approved the installation of an electric heating and air conditioning system in the amount of \$13,838,290 with a peak shaving generator (\$2,139,733) for Thornton Township High School for a total amount of \$15,978,653. This generator provides heat and air conditioning only to the building; no power for lighting, computers, etc. To increase the capacity of the co-gen so that instruction may continue without ComEd power will require an additional \$1,500,000. The District's architect and engineer, Mr. Szurgot and Mr. O'Higgins, gave a system cost comparison of the air source and the water source heat pump system. The equipment life of the approved electric system is 12-15 years. The water pump system has a 28-30 year life expectancy, nearly twice the amount of the electric system. A complete life cycle cost analysis over 30 years, including utility and maintenance, shows the savings for the water pump system is approximately \$6.4 million even though initially it will cost \$2,505,000 more than the electric system. The pros and cons of the systems were discussed. In approximately 15 years, the additional cost of the water source system would be recouped. The water source system is more energy efficient. Dr. Buckner asked the Board to consider moving from the electric system to the water system co-gen that includes lighting, so instruction can continue. For clarification, Mr. Gress stated there would be individual room heating and cooling of the entire A building at Thornton High School, including the "T" building for Navistar and the "OT" building for Culinary Arts. The Field House would not have air conditioning. Mr. Gress stated that more grants are based on energy efficiency (green); therefore more eligibility would be obtained from the water system. Mr. Szurgot stated that the great installation cost for solar panels would not offset any energy cost savings.

The Thornton window project and all three cafeteria projects renderings were on display at the Board meeting.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- The minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of January 12, 2011.
- The District 205 bills as presented for payment.
- The ECHO bills as presented by payment.
- Resignations: See Director of Human Resources
- Release: See Director of Human Resources
- Leave of Absence: See Director of Human Resources
- Employment: See Director of Human Resources

MINUTES:
JANUARY 12, 2011

BILLS

ECHO BILLS

RESIGNATIONS

RELEASE

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

EMPLOYMENT

On roll call, Members Banks, Bradley, Burton, King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; motion passed.

Mr. Burton moved, Dr. Penman seconded to approve the Reassignment and Reclassification of Principal Kim Waller-Echols as presented by Dr. Lyke. On roll call, Members Banks, Bradley, Burton, King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
RECLASSIFICATION
OF PRINCIPAL

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: employee listing for time worked; two for contract information; 2010 and 2011 budgets; student accident coverage and District enrollment numbers.

FOIA

Mr. Doss reported the following:

COMMUNICATIONS

- Congratulations to Thornton students Brianna Sullivan and Desmond Shuford of the Pre-pharmacy program who were named semi-finalists for two scholarships.
- Thornton Band performed recently in the Chinese New Year Parade.
- Thornridge Freshmen participated in the "Reading Buddies" program with Dolton elementary students.
- Under the direction of Mr. Lee Talley, the Thornridge Bagpipe Newspaper placed second in layout & design and photography at the Southwest Suburban Conference Newspaper Competition; Whitney Johnson earned first place in sports writing.
- Michelle Quiroz of Thornwood Class of 2011, is the recipient of the 2011-2012 Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarship, based on academic achievement, community service and leadership. It is a 4-year scholarship.
- With the assistance of principals and staff, over 50 students district wide have met the requirements for the Gates Scholarship.
- Thornwood Speech Team is the champion for their IHSA Performance in the Round of *Sarafina*.
- Student Board is working with Arbor to research new menu items for the student cafeteria; working with Tria and District administration on the cafeteria plans; the Law and Social Justice Committee is working on the Schaumburg Student Exchange; a month-to-month community service project to enhance their resumes for scholarships; the Afghanistan Aid Project is underway.
- Thank you to the Buildings & Grounds staff for their work during the Blizzard of 2011 to ensure that the parking lots and walkways as well as the heating system were maintained and ready for the students and staff to return to school.

Upcoming events:

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| • February 10 | Parent/Teacher Conferences |
| • February 11 | Parent/Teacher Conferences – No School |
| | SAT Registration deadline for March 12 test |
| • February 12 | ACT Test |
| • February 16 | Late Start |
| • February 18 | Progress 2-Q3 Reporting period Ends |
| • February 21 | Presidents' Day – No School |
| • February 23 | Progress 2-Q3 Grades Due |
| • March 2 | Late Start |
| • March 3 | ACT Registration Deadline for April 9 |
| • March 7 | Casimir Pulaski Day – No School |
| • March 8 | Student Board of Education Meeting |
| • March 9 | Board of Education Meeting |
| • March 16 | Curriculum Committee Meeting |

Dr. Buckner added that the current calendar will need to be extended to make up for the 2 snow days used in February 2011.

Thornwood Principal, Mrs. Darcelle Williams, notified the Board of Education of an opportunity for four Thornwood band students to participate in the All-Star Band Weekend at Butler University, Indianapolis, Indiana. The students would spend the weekend in rehearsals for a public concert performance with the University Symphonic Band. The band director, Mr. Paul Anderson, would also attend. Ratification will occur at the next Board meeting. No action was taken.

NOTIFICATION OF
OUT-OF-STATE
FIELD TRIP

Mr. Williams moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to open the Public Hearing of the 2011-2012 School Calendar Modification. On roll call, Members Banks, Bradley, Burton, King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; motion passed. Dr. Lyke provided the following options for observing Lincoln's Birthday: Option #1: Observe Lincoln's Birthday as a school holiday on Friday, February 10, 2012 due to the fact that his actual birthday falls on Sunday February 12, 2012; Option #2: Observe Lincoln's Birthday as a school holiday on Monday, February 13, 2012 due to the fact that his actual birthday falls on Sunday, February 12, 2012, or Option #3: Not observe Lincoln's Birthday as a school holiday but acknowledge Lincoln through school-wide activities on either Friday, February 10, 2012 or Monday, February 13, 2012. The hearing was opened for public questions or comments. There were no questions or comments from the public.

PUBLIC HEARING
OF THE 2011-2012
SCHOOL
CALENDAR
MODIFICATION

Mr. Williams moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to close the Public Hearing of the 2011-2012 School Calendar Modification. On roll call, Members Banks, Bradley, Burton, King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; motion passed.

Mr. Gress introduced Mr. John George and Mr. Mike Zagar of McGladrey & Pullen who gave an overview of the District's finances and responded to questions from the Board. The detailed financial statements were reviewed with the Finance Committee on January 11, 2011. They presented the financial highlights of the audit including revenues and expenditures and the fund balance position of the District compared with last year's figures. Expenditures have increased by approximately \$4 million. The other large increase is for capital outlay. Payments to Echo have increased; although there is a decrease in overall enrollment, there is an increase in special education students. The cost of instruction is increased due to \$11 million the State owes to the Teachers Retirement System; the District is required to report that the payment has been made. Also included in the increase in instruction cost is the addition of seventh period for sophomores due to changing from block schedule to periods. The fund balance was reduced by approximately \$7.6 million, which was in accordance with the District's 5-year plan.

PRESENTATION OF
2010 FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS

In recap, Mr. George stated the financial statements were on a modified cash basis; the opinion of the auditors was an unqualified opinion, meaning there were no issues regarding the accounting principles of District 205 management. He explained the decreases in the fund balance as it relates to capital improvements.

Mr. Burton moved, Mrs. Bradley seconded to **Approve the Thornton Auditorium Renovation Bid** to Construction Solutions of Illinois, Inc. for the base bid of \$3,342,723 including Alternate #1—the extended warranty to include two years for an additional \$20,000. The Finance Committee had made no previous recommendation. A discussion took place concerning the alternates and Alternate #1 was selected. Alternate #2 omits selected audio/video equipment; Alternate #3 would revise all handrail and guardrail material for a savings of \$30,000. On roll call, Members Banks, Bradley, Burton, King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
THORNTON
AUDITORIUM
RENOVATION BID

- Dr. King stated that the Board policy regarding Public Participation will be implemented including a sign-up sheet. Personal issues should be addressed in executive session. Persons repeating comments previously made may be restricted from speaking. Future public participation will require individuals to sign in and include their town of residence and topic.
- Edward Crayton (Dolton) offered his condolences to Dr. King and his family. He asked: 1) will money received from grants will offset the \$50 million set up for capital improvements; 2) for an update of the allocation of the \$50 million, and 3) who takes PSAE, Juniors or third-year students. Mr. Gress responded: 1) a portion of the IDEA/AARA funding was allocated to capital improvement based on special ed population; 2) it will be on the website by the end of the week; 3) Dr. Buckner responded that any student who has 10 credits is considered a junior and is eligible to take the PSAE.
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PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION

- Peggy McDonald (Dolton) asked: 1) are the boundaries being changed and 2) what is being done about the special needs students. Dr. King responded: 1) the process has begun and will include input from the public. Dr. Buckner responded: 2) the special education meeting has been rescheduled to February 23.
- Rose Taylor (Dolton) asked: 1) has the District submitted a waiver about the requirement of a 4-year institution for participation in IHSA athletics; 2) how many Board members asked students about the change. Dr. Lyke responded: 1) an explanation was sent to IHSA; 2) Dr. King stated that the Board was not mandated to talk to students.
- Brian Hannah (Dolton) stated that a Freshman Center will create problems and asked if the Board would be seeking more money from the taxpayers. Dr. King stated that there will be no extra money coming from the taxpayers.
- Shelton O'Lidge (Dolton) stated he does not appreciate the District experimenting with the children and the Board should start the meetings on time.
- Trustee Harris (Dolton Trustee) stated: 1) the Freshman Center will affect property taxes in Dolton; 2) Dolton is owed money for their policemen at Thornridge; 3) there is also grammar school closing in Dolton; 4) there will be problems at the Freshman Center; there is not enough manpower, and 5) asked the Board to inform the taxpayers what is going on.
- Jeanita Eaves (Harvey) 1) commended the Board for approving the Thornton Auditorium work to include the bells and whistles and is glad money is being spent on the children, and 2) asked if Public Participation can be later on the agenda so those needing to leave can hear the entire agenda. Dr. King stated it would be taken into consideration.
- Patricia Jones (South Holland) offered condolences to Dr. King and: 1) agrees with Trustee Harris that the community did not have knowledge about the proposed freshman center and that was wrong; 2) asked if the District received and spent the \$18 million from the grant; 3) asked if the money can be returned? Dr. Buckner responded: 2) yes; that it is a reimbursable program; and 3) the District is moving forward with the grant. The high schools need to communicate with the feeder schools.
- Ms. Hollins (Harvey) stated: 1) she has heard many rumors, and 2) asked how she will get information about the changes. Dr. Buckner responded that newsletters have been sent to all District 205 households; boundary lines are being discussed; parent advisory committee meetings are held every second Wednesday of the month.
- Girard Jenkins (Harvey) stated that students should be given the opportunity to work with the architects, contractors, engineers in the construction renovation projects for insight into possible careers. Dr. Buckner responded that three students have met and worked with the architects during this process.

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION
Con't.

None.

MISC/SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT

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

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE

Student Case #3H-1011-04: **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance** through June 2013 and recommended placement in Academy for Learning.

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

At 9:08 p.m., Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Banks 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

rp(brd.mins 2-9-11)
REGULAR SESSION