

MINUTES OF A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE 2011-2016 DRIVER EDUCATION WAIVER OF THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2010, IN THE AUDITORIUM AT THORNRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL, DOLTON, ILLINOIS, BEGINNING AT 5:30 P.M.

The Public Hearing was called to order at 5:30 p.m. Present at the hearing were: Dr. Carl E. King, Sr., Board President; Board Members Dr. Sallie Penman and Vanessa Bradley; Dr. J. Kamala Buckner, Superintendent; Mr. Steven Gress, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, Mr. Jerry Doss, Director of Public Relations; and Mr. Tim Truesdale, Director of Curriculum and Instruction.

ROLL
CALL

Mr. Gress opened the Public Hearing and introduced Mr. Jerry Styrsky, Student Services Area Instructional Leader and Mr. Gerald Potacki, Driver Education Instructor, who explained the waiver request. Mr. Potacki stated that driver education students currently receive 30 hours of classroom time and 6 hours of behind the wheel training. To enhance the program, 3 hours of simulation would be introduced to take the place of 3 hours of behind the wheel. The rationale is that it is a safer environment for students, there will be more individual time with students, and it is a better educational tool for students to incorporate driving skills. Mr. Styrsky added that the waiver will increase the opportunity for participation so more students could get their license. The class size would be raised.

PUBLIC HEARING
FOR DRIVER
EDUCATION
WAIVER FOR 2011-
2016

Dr. King asked if the cost of the program would increase. Mr. Gress stated that by reducing the number of one-on-one behind the wheel instruction, students would get more time on the simulator which would reduce instructors for behind the wheel. Mr. Potacki stated that simulator participation does produce better drivers and that statistics show a 5-10% reduction in major collisions.

The hearing was then opened for public participation.

- Felita Crayton (Dolton) asked: 1) is this a decrease in 101 instructional; 2) will the fee increase or decrease; 3) what was the fourth phase; 4) is this adequate from what we have right now and will it still cost \$250; 5) will the one-on-one instructional expense increase; 6) What was the cost of the 4-phase program; 7) is this a better program, and 8) does the language in the contract need to be changed? Mr. Gress responded: 1) it is a decrease from 6 to 3 hours behind the wheel but will increase simulation hours from 1 to 3 hours. Overall, it increases exposure to students and the 50 hours practice with adults would remain the same; 2) it will remain the same; 3) the range; 4) Mr. Styrsky stated that the State changed Driver Ed to a 2-phase program. A waiver would make for a better program and decrease teaching time by using simulator in a safer environment; 5) Mr. Gress responded that the overall cost for one-on-one instructors will be reduced per student; more students will be serviced; 6) Dr. Buckner responded that she did not have the numbers available and that there is an analysis of all programs. Mr. Gress stated that reimbursement has not been affected by budget cuts. The District is reimbursed \$250 per student from the State; the net cost to the district on the proposed 3-phase program is approximately \$1,500. The current 2-phase program is approximately \$17,000; 7) Mr. Potacki stated yes because there is more training for students with simulation; 8) only the number of students would change to 48 per class with 2 instructors.

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION

Mr. Gress added that the goal of the program was to provide more thorough driver education to students, not to just reduce the number of hours behind the wheel.

Dr. King asked about discussions with the Faculty Association. Mr. Potacki does not anticipate any problems as this recommendation is being made by Faculty Association members and District Administration.

At 5:54 p.m., the Public Hearing was closed.

ADJOURNMENT

President

Secretary