

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2010** IN THE AUDITORIUM AT THORNBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL, SOUTH HOLLAND, ILLINOIS, BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. On roll call, Members Banks, Bradley, King, Lawrence and Penman answered. Members Burton and Williams were absent. Dr. J. Kamala Buckner, Superintendent; Mr. Tim Truesdale, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and External Funding; 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. Steve Valant and Mr. Al Pearson, Assistant Principals of Thornridge High School; Mr. Tony Ratliff, Principal of Thornton High School; Mrs. Darcelle Williams, Principal of Thornwood High School; and Ms. Shelli Anderson, District 205 Legal Counsel, were also present.

ROLL  
CALL

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

EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

On roll call, Members Banks, Bradley, Burton, King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams answered.

RETURNED TO  
REGULAR SESSION

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- The minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 3, 2010. 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.
- 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
- On roll call, Members Banks, Bradley, Burton King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; Williams passed; motion passed.

MINUTES;  
NOVEMBER 3, 2010

BILLS

ECHO BILLS

RESIGNATIONS

RELEASE

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Gress reported that since the last Board meeting, ten Freedom of Information Act requests were received and responded to within five days as follows:

FOIA

- Historical information for Thornton High School;
- Transportation costs;
- Historical information for Thornton High School;
- Board governance information;
- School Improvement Grant information;
- Historical information for Thornton High School;
- Transportation costs;
- Contractor information;
- Transportation costs, and
- Budget information.

Mr. Doss reported the following:

COMMUNICATIONS

- The world-renowned Synergy Brass Quintet visited District 205 on November 15, 2010. The group provided musical performance and clinics for District music students and feeder school music students. This was underwritten by the Academic Enrichment Foundation.
- District 205 has entered into a partnership with AT&T to provide cultural activities for 205 students through the United Nations Summer Leadership Academy. The AT&T Foundation will donate \$50,000 to the Foundation.
- The Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) will partner with District 205 in a pilot program—pathways to College, that will provide career opportunities for students in engineering, medicine, science and technology through mentoring, counseling and financial aid.
- Congratulations to the Dolton Bears who placed first in the National Football and Cheerleading Competition held in Daytona Beach, Florida.
- Upcoming events:

Dec. 11	ACT Test
Dec. 23	SAT Registration deadline for Jan. 22
Dec. 23 – Jan. 5	Winter Break
Jan. 3	District 205 facilities open
Jan. 6	Late Start, beginning of 2 <sup>nd</sup> semester
Jan. 7	ACT Registration deadline for Feb. 12
Jan. 12	Board of Education meeting, Thornton High School
- Mrs. Lawrence congratulated the Dolton Bears and the coach, Board member Kenneth Williams, who led them to victory.
- Mr. Banks added that 3 young men from District 205 are in the playoffs for the North Dakota Bison.
- Mr. Williams congratulated the Dolton Bears and added that the cheerleaders also took first place and gave kudos to Jerry Jones, the athletic director.

Mr. Williams moved, Mr. Burton seconded to **Approve the Extension of the Markham TIF** with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) from the Municipality. The MOU will be prepared between District 205 and the City of Markham's legal counsels for the 12-year extension through 2029. Markham Mayor Webb, the city's attorney along with a TIF consultant attended the District 205 Finance Committee meeting on November 30 to answer questions. The city attorney explained the details of the TIF regarding new developers and answered questions presented by the Board. Mayor Webb stated that the extension would help build the District for the future. The Finance Committee recommended approval of the extension to include the MOU. On roll call, Members Banks, Bradley, Burton, King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF CITY  
OF MARKHAM TIF  
EXTENSION

Dr. Penman moved, Mr. Burton seconded to **Approve the Driver's Education Modification** of the Illinois School Code as presented by Mr. Gress. A public hearing was held on December 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. to allow for public comment. The modification will allow the District to consider a three phase program by reducing the number of behind the wheel hours from 6 hours to 3 hours. Simulator hours would include 20 hours. The cost of the program would decrease from \$17,353 to \$1,367 largely due to the reduction in salary for behind the wheel instructors. The option would be available for the 2011-2012 school year and the waiver must be submitted by January 7, 2011. On roll call, Members Banks, Bradley, Burton, King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF THE  
2011-2016  
DRIVER'S  
EDUCATION  
MODIFICATION

Mr. Williams moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded to **Approve the Out-of-State Field Trip** as presented by Mr. Ratliff for 48 Thornton ELL (English Language Learners) students and 6 staff members to travel to Washington D.C. from May 12-15, 2011 to visit historical monuments and attend informational programs. 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

Mr. Williams moved, Mr. Burton seconded to **Approve the Out-of-State Field Trip** as presented by Mr. Ratliff for 22 Thornton cheerleaders to participate in the National Cheer Competition in the Wisconsin Dells from February 11-14, 2011. They will chaperoned by six coaches and parents. 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

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Dr. Penman seconded to **Approve the Food Allergy Management Program Policy 7:185** as mandated by the Illinois State Board of Education. All Illinois school districts must have a policy which provides guidance on the management of food allergies. A food allergy management committee consisting of parents, teachers, nurses, cafeteria workers, Board members and administrators submitted the proposed policy to comply with the mandate as presented by Dr. Lyke and Mrs. Dorene Habecker, District 205 School Nurse. On roll call, Members Banks, Bradley, Burton, King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
FOOD ALLERGY  
MANAGEMENT  
PROGRAM POLICY  
7:185

Mrs. Bradley moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Approve the Thornton Window Replacement Bid** as presented by Mr. Gress be awarded to 3F Corporation in the amount of \$2,863,500 which includes three alternate options. The Finance committee has reviewed the bids and recommends approval to 3F Corporation. On roll call, Members Banks, Bradley, Burton, King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
THORNTON  
WINDOW  
REPLACEMENT BID

Mr. Burton moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Approve the 2010 Tax Levy** as presented by Mr. Gress in the amount of \$60,076,440, representing a 4.99% increase. The tax levy was presented at the November Board meeting and has been on display for more than 20 days. There have been no changes and no inquiries on the levy presented. The Finance Committee recommends approval of the Tax Levy and the Resolution to Apportion the Tax Levy. The resolution instructs the County Clerk how to reduce the tax levy should the District receive less than a 4.99% increase. Mr. Williams requested the presentation of the 5-year fiscal projection before voting on the tax levy.

APPROVAL OF  
DISTRICT 205  
2010 TAX LEVY

Mr. Rob Grossi of Crystal Financial Consultants presented the **5-year Fiscal Projection**. Mr. Grossi referred to the detailed report provided to the Board and gave an analysis of the District's historical financial operations over the last ten years, the financial threats to the District, the financial projections over the next five years and a financial plan or options to stabilize the District's finances. Concerning the total revenue and expenditures (excluding debt service fund and major capital expenses) from 2001-2004, the District incurred significant deficits. Beginning 2005, the district started realizing surpluses through 2008. The primary reasons were: significantly reduced expenditures and revenue grew because the state changed the state-aid formula for low-income students. In 2009-2010 small deficits were realized but that was due to the State delaying payments to all school districts. Mr. Grossi gave a breakdown of the primary sources of revenues of 2010 as 51% coming from real estate taxes and 26% from general state aid. He gave a breakdown of expenditures, pointing out that out-of-district tuition is the fastest growing expenditure at the average annual rate of 11%. Low inflation rates and increasing foreclosures are impacting real estate tax revenue growth. The State's financial woes and declining enrollment are impacting State revenue growth. With a projected decline in revenue growth over the next five years, even a projected expenditure growth of 1% will dramatically erode the District's financial condition. This means that the District must consider developing a plan immediately that will deliver a quality education to its students in a more cost effective manner.

PRESENTATION OF  
5-YEAR FISCAL  
PROJECTION

In response to the Board, Mr. Grossi stated that 4 years from now, expenditures are projected to exceed revenues by about \$8.5 million. This number could be changed positively or negatively. A cut of ½ million dollars next year, could add to \$2.5 million in 5 years. A reduction in spending would result in savings over the next 5 years. A decrease in enrollment would cause the District to lose money. Money received from the state based on average daily attendance is spread throughout the district and is not school-specific. Is there a cost savings based on how the buildings are structured? Yes. After 3 years, where are we then? After 3 years, most of the Professional Development expenses and one-time purchases of supplies would be gone. It is anticipated that 1.5 million would continue beyond year 3 with no grant money coming in. However, it is anticipated the District would save approximately \$2.4 million in staffing costs; savings should offset additional expenses. It is crucial to keep expenditures in line with revenue. On roll call, Members Banks, Bradley, Burton, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; Mr. Williams voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
DISTRICT 205  
2010 TAX LEVY,  
Con't.

- Mr. Barry (community member) asked how much money would be lost to bus students to a freshman only campus. Mr. Gress responded that the transportation impact is minimal.
- Cheryl Hill (Thornridge parent) stated that the Board's decisions affect families. She wants her voice to be heard and the Board needs to listen to the community.
- Taylor McDonald (Thornridge parent) asked: 1) what is the plan if we don't meet benchmarks; 2) what happens after 3 years, and 3) how can your plan work without community support. Dr. Buckner responded: 1) one grant component is that it must be sustainable; 2) Mr. Truesdale stated if we do not meet the benchmarks, we would not receive additional years funding; and 3) there is support. Administration and parents can disagree but a common ground is that the students must be taught.
- Tracy Brown (Dolton) asked: 1) which Board seats are up for election in April; 2) if a Thornridge freshman center fails, what will happen to the students; 3) if there is no high school in Dolton, residents and businesses will move out; 4) Mr. Truesdale to repeat grant information; 5) there are no funds going to education or vocational classes; 6) where did Mr. Grossi get his information from, and 7) will Thornridge football and band students be considered Thornridge students if they are moved to another building. In response: 1) Dr. King said the names will be on the ballot; 4) Mr. Truesdale stated for the first year there are fewer months of implementation; 5) career programs have been increasing annually; 6) Mr. Gress responded in Mr. Grossi's absence that his information came directly from the District. The projections were developed by Mr. Grossi, and 7) Dr. Buckner stated it cannot be discussed at this time.
- Vivienne Williams (Dolton) asked 1) for Mr. Grossi's phone number and if she needs to submit a FOIA to him to get information, and 2) how does the closing of a high school affect property values. Dr. King stated her question will be forwarded to him.
- Doug Allen (South Holland) stated that transportation costs will be affected. Mr. Gress' statement is inaccurate that the transportation cost difference is minimal. You cannot say that the District will not make AYP. Dr. Buckner replied that 636 students read below 5<sup>th</sup> grade level.
- Anita Watkins (Calumet City) is the parent of three Thornwood graduates. Everyone needs to find a way to work together. She reviewed the alternative solutions from the financial analysis and stated that adult decisions need to be made.
- Tiffany doesn't understand busing students to other communities which would cost more money but yet cutting teachers. Teachers should have a refresher course. The Board is not resolving problems and needs to listen to the people.

PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION

- Kimberly Brown (Thornridge parent) 1) stated that she is told the voices of the community would be heard but doesn't believe people vote, only the Board; 2) why don't we allow the State to come in and take over to save the 4-year high school; 3) is the Board unbending, and 4) what meeting took place on November 29. Dr. King replied: 1) the people elect the Board and the Board votes on behalf of the people. Sub-committees exist, hold public meetings and anyone is allowed to attend. At the last public meeting held on the evening of November 29, only 10 or 15 community members attended. Mr. Gress stated that a lengthy discussion took place with community members who recommended a reduction in expenditures, not to request a referendum or close a building; 2) Dr. King stated that the state is unyielding and openly said it does not care about community input; he stressed that the Board does care about the community, and 3) there will be no response due to the current pending litigation.
- Ed Crayton (Dolton) stated: 1) there was not enough participation at the November 29<sup>th</sup> meeting because lack of notice and it conflicted with other meetings; 2) when were the benchmarks of the School Improvement Grant shared with the community; 3) is concerned about communication regarding the amendment to the grant; 4) why has a group to work collaboratively not been formed, and 5) it is insensitive to taxpayers not to inform them of the Board members up for re-election. Dr. Buckner stated: 2) the sections will be broken out from the 500-page grant, and 4) Dr. King stated it is part of litigation and cannot be commented on at this time.
- Lenora Lewis (South Holland) is a new resident and is concerned about her two 8<sup>th</sup> grade students attending Thornwood.
- Michele West Gant (South Holland) mentioned the Fenger student incident and stated District 205 is doing the same thing because of the bus transportation situation. Analysis shows we will be in a deficit. We are \$7 million behind owed from the State. Is the District doing this to be on the national map to in order to say that it worked.
- Felita Crayton (Dolton): 1) stated this is not a done deal; 2) has there been a transportation contract signed for 2011-2012; 3) the Board did not represent the taxpayers relative to the grant and there is no communication; 4) did the teachers' contract expire in June, 5) consider salary freezes; 6) how is the money being spent; 7) has the Board approved in totality to accept the grant; 8) teachers have told students not to attend Board meetings, and 9) is it part of the 5-year projection to close Thornridge. In response: 2) Mr. Gress stated it cannot be done without a proposed schedule for 2011-2012; 3) public participation is a time for the public to speak, partnering is done with sub-committees; 4) the District has entered negotiations with the teachers union; 6) the grant money has been approved by the federal government; 7) the discussion is not meant for this forum, 8) Dr. King responded no.
- Debra Smith (Thornridge parent) extended an invitation to everyone to attend the winter concert this Sunday at 3:00 p.m. Tickets cost \$5.00. There are four All State musicians and other great things happening at Thornridge including scholarships.
- Vivienne Williams (Dolton): 1) requested another copy of the financial plan; 2) what are the specific names of the vocations available; 3) why were the principals not fired from schools not meeting AYP; 4) are teachers and students included in curriculum discussions, and 5) opportunities for more vocational careers are needed. Dr. Buckner and Mr. Truesdale responded: Navistar, Project Lead the Way (Engineering), Culinary Arts, Pre-pharmacy, entrepreneurship program, certified medical assistant, fine arts (speech and theater) and world languages programs, auto shop, woods, and computer programming; 3) the District is in compliance.; 4) the teachers give recommendations.

- Tracy Brown (Dolton) 1) asked for a meeting with the Board to discuss keeping Thornridge a 4-year high school prior to the court date of December 22; 2) a South Holland meeting only included people who were on a list; 3) will buses be added; 4) is the Board dedicated to their decision about the freshman center, and 5) don't listen but start doing what we are asking. Dr. King 1) informed her to contact Dr. Buckner to set up a meeting with two board members in order not to be in violation of the Open Meetings Act; 2) contact the South Holland Mayor; 3) bus scheduling has not begun, and 4) the Board is committed to the children, parents, students and taxpayers of the community.
- Mrs. Lawrence stated that the allegation that students are discouraged from attending board meetings will be addressed to all staff to encourage attendance.

None.

MISC/SUPERINTENDENT  
REPORT

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Banks seconded to approve the following disciplinary actions:

STUDENT  
DISCIPLINE

Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance for Student Case #2F-0910-18 through June 2011 and recommend placement in Second Chance.

Uphold the Suspension for Student Case #2F-1011-10S.

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

- An unidentified man stated that the community does not want the freshman center. If the Board is representing the community and the judge is asking us to come together, it seems like the Board is doing what the Board wants to do and not what the people want.

PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION,  
Con't.

At 9:50 p.m., Mr. Burton 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

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President

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Secretary

MINUTES OF AN **EXECUTIVE SESSION** OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, 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 6:00 P.M.

Redo all

At 6:01 p.m., Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to go into **Executive Session** to discuss student discipline issues and Board issues. On roll call, Members Banks, Bradley, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed. A copy of the meeting and certification by the Secretary are a part of the official minutes.

EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

The meeting convened at 6:07 p.m. On roll call, Members Banks, Bradley, King, Lawrence and Penman answered. Members Burton and Williams were absent. Dr. J. Kamala Buckner, Superintendent; Mr. John Relias, Legal Counsel; Ms. Wanda Russell, Thornton Assistant Principal, and Mr. Al Pearson, Thornridge Assistant Principal, were also present.

ROLL CALL

Building Leadership reviewed Student Case Nos. 2F-0910-18 and 2F-1011-10(S) and responded to questions from the Board.

STUDENT  
DISCIPLINE

At 6:11 p.m., Mr. Pearson, Ms. Russell and Dr. Buckner left the meeting.

ADMINISTRATION  
LEFT MEETING

Dr. King informed the Board members that Member Kenneth Williams might be illegally on the School Board because he was a convicted felon.

BOARD  
DISCUSSION

At 7:00 p.m., Mr. Banks moved, Dr. Penman seconded, to **Return to Regular Session**. Members Banks, Bradley, King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RETURNED TO  
REGULAR  
SESSION

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President

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Secretary

rp(brd.mins. 12-8-10)  
**EXECUTIVE SESSION**