

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2009** IN THE AUDITORIUM AT THORNTRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL, DOLTON, ILLINOIS, BEGINNING AT 7:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. On roll call, Members King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams answered. Members Banks, Burton and Ware were absent. Dr. J. Kamala Buckner, Superintendent; Mr. Tim Truesdale, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and External Funding; Mr. Rick Shields, Director of Human Resources; Mr. Jerry Doss, Director of Public Relations; Dr. Betheny Lyke, Thornton Principal; Ms. Kim Waller, Thornridge Principal; Mrs. Darcelle Williams, Thornwood Principal; Mr. Scott Savage, Thornton Assistant Principal; and Mr. Ken Wendorff, Faculty Association President were also present.

ROLL
CALL

In the absence of the Secretary, Dr. King, President, appointed Mrs. Lawrence to serve as Secretary Pro Tem.

SECRETARY
PRO TEM

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- The minutes of the regular meeting and the abbreviated minutes of the Executive Session(s) of the Regular meeting of October 14, 2009. The minutes of the Executive Session(s) of this meeting(s) 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.
- Resignations: See Director of Human Resources
- Leave of Absence: See Director of Human Resources
- Employment: See Director of Human Resources

MINUTES:
October 14 , 2009

BILLS

RESIGNATIONS

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

EMPLOYMENT

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

The podcast presentation highlighted the following information:

COMMUNICATIONS

- In recognition of Illinois School Board Members Day, the District 205 Board of Education was thanked for their diligent service to the school community.
- The Grand Opening of the Thornton Township Academy of Truck and Diesel Technology powered by Navistar, which will train sophomores, juniors and seniors to become certified diesel engine technicians.
- District 205 hosted the "We The People" mock congressional hearings, which is a nationally acclaimed civic education program.
- Thornridge Marching Band took first place in the Battle of the Bands Competition.
- Thornridge was honored to have Actress LisaRaye visit the students and her former teacher, Mr. David Eanes.
- Brian Sievers and the biodiesel students are participating in an international project with Haiti.
- Congratulations to David Konkol, Thornridge, who was named the 2009 Community Educator for the State of Illinois by the Illinois Director of the Student Activities Association. Brian Sievers, Erin Fort and Rob Nerijs were also honored.
- Thornridge Marching Band, Cheerleaders and Jammers performed at the grand opening performed of Food 4 Less in Dolton. Food 4 Less donated \$2500 to Thornridge.
- Thornton graduate Jeremy McDowell was awarded a Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship which program encourages science and math majors to become K-12 math and science teachers.

- Thornton graduate, Ashley Sneed, accepted a basketball scholarship to Northern Illinois University.
- Sophomore Tamara Byrd will represent Thornton at the upcoming Illinois Music Educators Association's Senior Festival Band Concert. More than 2,400 students auditioned to be part of the concert.
- On October 27 at the Central Committee meeting held in South Holland, a 12-minute CD produced by Thornwood of the schools activities and successes was shown. A brief viewing was shown at this evening's Board meeting to showcase Thornwood students and activities.

COMMUNICATIONS,
Con't.

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION

- Michael Smith (Dixmoor Trustee) stated that he recently visited Thornton High School and wished to show his support to the District and to the Board for a job well done.
- Bernadette Lawrence (Board member) thanked Michael Smith and stated that at the age of 19, he is one of the youngest elected officials in the State of Illinois.
- Ken Wendorff (Faculty Association President) stated that the teachers' voices have not been heard and they were not involved in the creation of the District Math Program. He would like the District to meet students where they are academically, not move them on to the next level, open the dialogue regarding mastery and be successful developers of District 205.
- Felita Crayton (Dolton) asked if there was anything on the executive session agenda for this evening that the public should know about. Dr. Buckner and Dr. King responded no.
- Pamela Moss-Jones (South Holland) 1) applauded the Board for adding the 7th period; 2) stated that more students need to start out in pre-algebra; 3) would like the Board to offer more entry level courses across the curriculum; 4) commended the Board for posting the 2009-2010 Board goals on the District website and asked for the indicators used to measure Goal #3 and when they will be reported; 5) asked for an active roster of volunteers per school, and 6) asked the District to consider posting volunteer opportunities on the website, reinstituting the Parent Teacher Association and instituting a citizens advisory committee. Dr. Buckner stated: 2) Mr. Truesdale will address algebra this evening; 4) the indicators and timelines are contained in the Superintendent's Work Plan which will be shared, and 5) the roster lists will be provided. Dr. King asked for Dr. Moss-Jones's research on citizens' advisory committees.

Mr. Williams moved, Dr. Penman seconded to **Approve the Thornton Tennis Courts Completion** to CMM Group as presented by Mr. Gress and recommended by the Finance Committee for the additional cost of \$48,237 over the contract price of \$216,000. On roll call, Members King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
THORNTON TENNIS
COURTS
COMPLETION

Dr. Buckner announced that November 15, 2009, was Illinois School Board Members Day. The District 205 Board of Education was recognized with a public reception at Thornridge High School prior to the Board meeting. The Board serves a diverse population of over 47,000 households, 13 communities and 9 K-8 partner districts that translate into the high schools of 6300 students and 700 staff members. Dr. Buckner commended the Board on the Code of Conduct and Oath of Office they follow and thanked each member for their years of dedicated and committed service.

RECOGNITION OF
SCHOOL BOARD
MEMBERS

Dr. Penman moved, Dr. King seconded, to **Approve the Out-of-State Field Trip** date change to February 25 through March 1, 2010 for the Thornwood cheerleaders to compete in the National Contest of Champions in Orlando Florida. On roll call, Members King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
OUT-OF-STATE
FIELD TRIP DATE
CHANGE

Mr. Williams moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to **Approve the Out-of-State Field Trip** for ten Thornridge students and two chaperones to attend a day field trip to Michigan State University on December 5, 2009 and interact with professors and graduate students on designing a solar powered biodiesel processor. On roll call, Members King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
OUT-OF-STATE
FIELD TRIP

Mr. Williams moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to **Approve the Out-of-State Field Trip** for one Thornridge student and one football coach to travel to San Antonio, Texas for the 2010 Football Combine from January 7 through January 9, 2010. On roll call, Members King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
OUT-OF-STATE
FIELD TRIP

Mr. Truesdale provided rationale and data to address the concerns the Faculty Association presented at the October Board meeting concerning the District's math program. Four years of math are required for graduation. Algebra is the standard for grade 9. To delay algebra to grade 10 would have significant impact on students' future opportunities. The college algebra benchmark ACT score is 22 and 40% of the ACT is algebra. Students who take the recommended core score an average of 2.5 points higher than those who only complete Algebra II. Students who take less than 3 years of math cannot expect to meet state standards. Information on the year-long Algebra I class and Double Dose Algebra I and Geometry was presented. Results suggest that students in the Double Dose Algebra class are learning at the same pace as those in regular classes. The success rate in repeat courses has been low. It was suggested to continue to refine the double dose courses.

PRESENTATION OF
DISTRICT 205 MATH
PROGRAM

Mr. Gress presented the **2009 Tentative Tax Levy** in the amount of \$59,836,513, and explained the legal requirements under the Truth in Taxation Act. The economy does impact the District budget. In view of a decrease in state funding, the District will need to be conservative in budgeting for the 2010-2011 school year. A 20% reduction in funding would mean a decrease of approximately \$6 million in the 2010-2011 budget. Mr. Gress cited several local businesses that have been negatively impacted by the economy that will affect the District as well as the decrease in property tax collections. In response to Mr. Williams, Mr. Gress stated that homeowners may see an increase in assessments for 2009. There will be a decrease in property tax revenue for 2010. The District will continue to budget prudently and review all expenditures to ensure no programs will be cut. Mr. Gress will ask for approval of the 2009 Tax Levy at the December 9, 2009 Board meeting.

PRESENTATION OF
2009 TENTATIVE
TAX LEVY

Mr. Williams moved, Dr. Penman seconded, to **Approve the Snow Removal Bid** with the caveat of the acquisition of in-house snow removal equipment for the 2010-2011 school year as presented by Mr. Gress. The low bid was awarded to Four Seasons in the amount of \$133,906 for a one-year contract for 2009-2010. The Finance Committee has reviewed the bid and recommends approval. Mr. Williams asked if the entire \$133,906 will be spent. Mr. Gress stated that the contract is based on last year's figures and the District will only pay for removal of actual snowfall. To purchase equipment and hire employees would cost approximately \$100,000. Dr. King asked for an update at the next Board meeting. On roll call, Members King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
SNOW REMOVAL
BID

Dr. Penman moved, Dr. King seconded, to **Approve the Inclusion of Attorneys at Board Meetings** as presented by Dr. King in view of upcoming events including, but not limited to, negotiations and capital improvement issues. On roll call, Members King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL TO
INCLUDE
ATTORNEYS AT
BOARD MEETINGS

Dr. Buckner and Mr. Shields provided information from the Cook County Department of Public Health regarding the H1N1 Vaccination Program. The Department of Public Health is offering vaccinations at all area schools and is currently addressing the elementary schools. The District 205 H1N1 Intervention Plan currently being implemented is posted on the website. The potential liability if the District participates in this program appears to be very minimal; however, the District's legal counsel will review the document. A shortage of the vaccine could result in it not being available to high schools as elementary schools are serviced first. One confirmed case has been reported in District 205 schools. A survey can be done to determine if the community is interested in this program.

MISCELLANEOUS

State Representative, William Davis, arranged for State Superintendent, Dr. Christopher Koch, to meet with Dr. Buckner and District Office Administration on November 16, 2009 regarding Race to the Top funds. The Faculty Association leadership was also present. District 205 is concerned how the State is going to assist a non-unit school district and is trying to ascertain information about a K-12 curriculum and instruction system. There are 9 schools that feed into the District. How is the State going to assist the non-unit school districts to ensure they provide a continuous education for the children? This question was not definitively answered. A K-12 data system is needed to have as much data as possible in order to meet students' needs academically when they enter high school. The District asked about funds for extended school day, extended school year and instructional coaches. Six billion dollars is available in Race to the Top funds. It is very competitive. The State must apply for the money. As the State is writing the grant for these funds, we urged them to remember the non-unit school districts that need assistance. The first schools to receive the funds are the lowest 5% in the State, i.e., those with the lowest 5% in test scores. There must be partnerships between the elementary and high schools to ensure a continuous education for students. The District has offered to assist the State the Race to the Top grant. Regarding the budget, the State is five months behind in issuing vouchers and the District must budget conservatively. Dr. Buckner thanked the Faculty Association, Mr. Truesdale and Mr. Gress for their participation in this meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT

At 8:31 p.m., Mrs. Lawrence moved, Dr. Penman seconded, to go into **Executive Session**. On roll call, Members King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNED
TO EXECUTIVE
SESSION

At 10:57 p.m., Mr. Williams moved, Dr. King seconded, to **Return to Regular Session**. On roll call, Members King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RETURNED TO
REGULAR SESSION

Dr. Penman moved, Mr. Williams seconded, to **Uphold the Suspension** for Student Case #2F-0910-01S. On roll call, Members King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
NO. 2F-0910-01S

Dr. Penman moved, Mr. Williams seconded, to **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance** for Student Case #2F-0910-01 for the remainder of the 2009-2010 school year and the 2010-2011 school year and recommended placement in the RISE Program, pending availability. On roll call, Members King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
NO. 2F-0910-01

Dr. Penman moved, Mr. Williams seconded, to **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance** for Student Case #3F-0910-05 for the remainder of the 2009-2010 school year and the 2010-2011 school year and recommended placement in the RISE Program, pending availability. On roll call, Members King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
NO. 3F-0910-05

The Board set a Special Board meeting for December 1, 2009 for the purpose of personnel.

SET SPECIAL
BOARD MEETING
DATE

At 11:05 p.m., Dr. Penman moved, Mr. Williams seconded, to **Adjourn the Meeting**. On roll call, Members King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

President

Secretary *Pro Tem*

rp(brd.mins.11-18-09)
REGULAR SESSION