

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2009** 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, King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams answered. Member Ware was absent. Dr. J. Kamala Buckner, Superintendent; Mr. Tim Truesdale, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and External Funding; Dr. Paige Dague, Assistant Superintendent for Accountability, Research, Freshman Academy & TTTLTP; 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

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- The minutes of the regular meeting and the minutes of the Executive Session(s) of the Regular meeting of September 16, 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 minutes of the Public Hearing for the 2009-2010 Budget held on September 16, 2009.
- 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:  
September 16, 2009

MINUTES:  
September 16, 2009

BILLS

RESIGNATIONS

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

EMPLOYMENT

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

Mr. Doss gave a podcast presentation of the following:

COMMUNICATIONS

- The Thornridge Speech Team was recognized by the National Forensics League for being in the top 10% of the National Forensics League Chapters and qualified for the National Forensics League 100 Club.
- In partnership with the Jefferson Awards Program, Brian Sievers will be working on a community service project at the Warren Sharpe Community Center where students will learn skills in the remodeling field as they repair bathrooms and lunchrooms at the center.
- A Wall of Fame has been created at Thornton High School funded with money from the Class of 2008, the Thornton Alumni Legacy Fund (TALF) and the school. Over 30 pictures of famous alumni are on display in the mail hallway consisting of NFL players, actors, singers, etc.
- Over 60 Thornton students are taking advantage of the new Twilight school PLATO credit recovery program after school. Thirty sophomores and ten freshmen are also enrolled in the Explore South Suburban College Program.
- Students from the Thornton chapter of S.A.V.E. met with Fenger High School students to discuss solutions to increasing violence in the Chicagoland area. This meeting was broadcast on Channels 7, 9 and 66.
- The Thornton Speech Team was recognized by the National Forensics League for being in the top 10% of the National Forensics League Chapters and qualified for the National Forensics League 100 Club.
- The National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) was piloted at Thornton last year and is now coming to Thornwood. The program teaches financial literacy and is in partnership with the South Suburban Chapter of The Links, Inc.

- Thornwood Speech Team were recognized by the National Forensics League for being in the top 10% of the National Forensics League Chapters and qualified for the National Forensics League 100 Club.
- Thornwood Marching Band was invited to perform in the 2009 McDonald's Thanksgiving Day Parade in Chicago on Thanksgiving morning, November 26, 2009, which will be broadcast on WGN, Channel 9 and nationally on WGN America for distribution to 75 million households across the country.
- Upcoming events
 

|         |                                                        |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Oct. 16 | First quarter ends                                     |
| Oct. 21 | Late Start                                             |
| Oct. 23 | Report cards mailed home                               |
| Oct. 30 | SAT registration deadline for the December 5 test date |
| Nov. 4  | Late Start                                             |
| Nov. 5  | Family Reading Night, Thornwood                        |
| Nov. 6  | ACT registration deadline for the December 6 test date |
| Nov. 11 | Veterans Day – School Holiday                          |
| Nov. 18 | Late Start                                             |
- Dr. King commended all 3 schools and stated there will be a communications meeting at the South Holland Community Center to showcase District 205's success stories.

The following individual spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION

- Felita Crayton (Dolton) asked if the athletic and band booster club is a parent-driven organization. Dr. King replied that she would receive a response in writing.

Mr. Doss gave a podcast presentation of the UN Academy's recent trip to New York City for the International Day of Peace observance. The students spoke words of peace in seven different languages and talked about ways they learned to aid in world peace. This trip was in conjunction with the South Suburban Chapter of The Links, Incorporated who also provided a chaperone. Other sponsors who paid for lodging and transportation were the Academic Enrichment Foundation, the W Hotel and the FBI.

UN ACADEMY  
PRESENTATION

Dr. Penman moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Approve the Out-of-State Field Trip** to Indianapolis, Indiana on November 14, 2009 for the Thornwood Band to participate in the finals of the Grand National Marching Band Championship. The adult chaperones will be subject to a complete background check. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
OUT-OF-STATE  
FIELD TRIP

Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Approve the Modification of the 2009-2010 School Calendar** to reflect 178 attendance days. April 1, 2010, the day before Spring Break, would be a non-attendance day. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed

APPROVAL OF  
MODIFICATION OF  
THE 2009-2010  
SCHOOL  
CALENDAR

Mr. Shields presented the **Fall Housing Report for the 2009-2010 School Year**. The current enrollment at District 205 is 6,215 representing a decrease of 90 students from last year. Since the 2006-2007 school year, the enrollment has dropped by approximately 300 students due to residency requirements. Dr. Buckner added that the special education population in the schools will be monitored to ensure proper support.

2009-2010 FALL  
HOUSING REPORT

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Approve the District Improvement Plan** for submission to the State as presented by Mr. Truesdale and Dr. Dague. Mr. Truesdale presented the **District Report Card** data and the request to submit the District Improvement Plan. The District has not received formal notification from the state on the academic progress final results. An overview of revisions to the plans that have resulted from the most recent Prairie State Achievement Exam results and from evaluating the plans since they have been implemented was shown. The Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Data is as follows:

PRESENTATION OF  
DISTRICT REPORT  
CARD AND  
APPROVAL OF  
DISTRICT  
IMPROVEMENT  
PLAN

|                 |                                                  |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Reading         | 42.4% of students meeting or exceeding standards |
| Math            | 32.1% of students meeting or exceeding standards |
| Graduation Rate | 85.6%                                            |

PRESENTATION OF  
DISTRICT REPORT  
CARD AND  
APPROVAL OF  
DISTRICT  
IMPROVEMENT  
PLAN, Con't.

A 3-year performance history shows a 10.8% increase in reading and a 10.5% increase in math. The differences in 2009 include a transition to a new schedule, a communication period and a decrease in WorkKeys reading and math performance. The District Status is Academic Watch and the schools remain in Restructuring Implementation status.

In Illinois, 34% of high schools made AYP in 2008. 12% of high schools in Cook County made AYP. The average EXPLORE scores for the class of 2013 were less than those for the class of 2010. The Board would like to contact schools with similar issues as District 205 that made AYP in order to identify where we might make improvements.

Mr. Truesdale presented data published by ISBE showing the correlation between ISAT at grade 8 and the prediction of how students would perform on the PSAE. Dr. Buckner stated that we have 9 feeder schools with 9 different curriculums. More articulation with our K-8 partners is needed. The possibility to become a K-12 consortium school district was approached with State Superintendent Christopher Koch as an experiment to increase the dialogue between the feeder schools and high schools.

Dr. Dague provided results on the interim assessments. The largest growth in English and Reading was in the freshman class at a 5% gain. This continued in their sophomore year to a 4% gain. Dr. Dague stated this may be due to the freshman reading course implemented last year. Math scores also improved. Freshman made a 2% gain, sophomores made a 5% gain and juniors made a 2% gain.

Interim assessment gains did not translate into the PSAE scores. Juniors made gains in all areas of interim assessments except for WorkKeys Level 4, which was a 22% decline. This translated to not enough students scoring 5 or better on the WorkKeys portion of PSAE and the District not to have enough students meeting or exceeding standards. Students scoring 5 or higher on WorkKeys are more likely to meet standards on PSAE. The WorkKeys results are:

|         | <u>2008</u> | <u>2009</u> | <u>Difference</u> |
|---------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Reading | 56%         | 52%         | - 4%              |
| Math    | 53%         | 46%         | - 7%              |

The District Improvement Plan was implemented in the 2008-09 school year. The revised plan is due October 2009. Plan revisions and public meetings began in May 2009.

Objectives in Reading strategies include:

- Reading Course for freshmen and sophomores
- Cambridge is replacing Princeton Review
- Increased participation in summer boost programs
- Training with literacy coaches
- Aligning curriculum, instruction and assessments to ACT and WorkKeys standards
- Use of PowerSchool to create electronic portfolios of student data
- Parent academies for methods to assist students with reading
- Increased articulation participation with K-8 partners

In response to the Board, Mr. Truesdale stated that PSAE preparation shows results quickly; whereas, curriculum changes take more time.

Objectives in Math strategies include:

- Double dose Algebra I and Geometry
- Increased student participation in summer boost programs
- Math coaches to provide recommendations to improve instruction
- Parent/community member resources on the district website
- Provide math support at regular parent meetings

Special Education strategies:

- The District is working hard on the Special Ed resource room where parents can pick up information to take home
- Special Ed students to participate in Upper House elective courses
- Co-teaching
- Provide training to teachers to share reading and math strategies
- Implement lesson plans that reflect appropriate accommodations to students.
- Resource rooms available for parents
- Continue Special Ed parent support groups
- Participation with TTTLP partners

PRESENTATION OF  
DISTRICT REPORT  
CARD AND  
APPROVAL OF  
DISTRICT  
IMPROVEMENT  
PLAN, Con't.

Safe and Supportive Learning Environment strategies:

- Provide clear expectations
- Continue the freshman reading course
- The safe and secure committee to find a character education program more appropriate for high school
- Attendance and discipline data shows enforcement of policies is working
- Reduced number of discipline infractions
- Require parent meetings at registration to communication behavior expectations
- Host parent academies for creating positive relationships
- The District aims to provide support to students before they need credit retrieval

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

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Burton seconded to **Approve the School Improvement Plans** as presented by the Principals. The schools did not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). The school report card data is as follows:

PRESENTATION OF  
STATE REPORT  
CARDS AND  
APPROVAL OF  
SCHOOL  
IMPROVEMENT  
PLANS

Thornton Township High School:

|                 | <u>2009</u> | <u>Difference from 2008</u> | <u>Safe Harbor</u> |
|-----------------|-------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Reading         | 40.5%       | + 4.5%                      | Yes                |
| Math            | 27.7%       | - 13%                       | No                 |
| Graduation Rate | 80.2%       |                             |                    |

School Report Card data for Thornwood:

|                 | <u>2009</u> | <u>Difference from 2008</u> | <u>Safe Harbor</u> |
|-----------------|-------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Reading         | 44.3%       | + 5.4%                      | Yes                |
| Math            | 36.0%       | - 5.9%                      | No                 |
| Graduation Rate | 86.9%       |                             |                    |

School Report Card data for Thornridge:

|                 | <u>2009</u> | <u>Difference from 2008</u> | <u>Safe Harbor</u> |
|-----------------|-------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Reading         | 42.0%       | + 12.9%                     | Yes                |
| Math            | 31.6%       | + 3.0%                      | No                 |
| Graduation Rate | 92.0%       |                             |                    |

Each Principal talked about the main key factors regarding (AYP) as being students entering high school below level in reading and math, and a high mobility and chronic truancy rate. Students also moved from a block schedule to a 7-period day. The objective for students to meet and exceed standards in reading and math on the Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE) include the following strategies:

Student strategies include modifying instruction to include double doses in math; pre and post assessments in all courses; 6-week interim assessments and a new initiative which includes 26 single-gender classes at Thornton. Extra support is provided to students for WorkKeys preparation as well as PSAE prep programs; Plato credit recovery; extra-curricular reading clubs; mandatory reading course for freshmen; the sophomore support teacher and literacy coach, and the summer boost program.

PRESENTATION OF  
STATE REPORT  
CARDS AND  
APPROVAL OF  
SCHOOL  
IMPROVEMENT  
PLANS, Con't.

Professional Development strategies include redesigning the curriculum aligned to ACT/WorkKeys standards; enhancing lessons to the advanced level; provide math coach to improve test scores; understanding the Plato computer program; interdisciplinary projects within Smaller Learning Communities; meetings to analyze interim assessment data, and providing Professional Development workshops.

Parent/Community strategies offer seminars to parents specific to their student's grade and courses as well as how to understand test scores; Plato training sessions; parent academies in the areas of technology and academic support; involvement in building level committees; implementation of phone information hotline and online access to students' grades through PowerSchool. Notification of parent academies will be sent via robo call.

The administrative and leadership teams will monitor students' progress through interim assessment scores; Explore, Plan and ACT results; credit recovery and benchmarks mastery as well as the percentage of students on track for graduation. Thornridge has piloted a program modeled from Chicago Public Schools called the Half Cap Ceremony wherein tenth grade students on track for graduation will be celebrated.

The Board had some questions regarding if tests and/or homework can be signed off by parents. This is currently being done by some teachers and the Principals will report back to the Board. The Board would like to address raising ACT scores to afford students the opportunity to be admitted to a good school and asked how are students being referred to the freshmen and sophomore support person? Dr. Buckner stated that according to Title I laws, students with the greatest need are the first to receive support. Need is based on test scores and attendance data. Freshmen who did not have enough credits to be sophomores are automatically identified.

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

Mr. Ken Wendorff, Faculty Association President, discussed the issue of students struggling in math; asked for better ways to reach our students as incoming freshmen and stressed that "one size does not fit all". The Faculty Association would like to work on the following options for the Math program: additional entrance tests; offering a restart at semester for struggling students; the effectiveness of double dose Algebra and Geometry; not pushing students on to the next level if they fail the first level, and allowing them to retake courses during the school year instead of waiting for twilight or summer school. He believes extra-curricular activities help raise student achievement.

FACULTY  
ASSOCIATION

At 9:30 p.m., the Board President called for a 5-minute recess. The meeting resumed at 9:35 p.m.

RECESS

Mr. Gress provided information that the District is in **Compliance with Public Acts 096-0434 and 096-0266**, which require school districts to post specific salary information on the District website for certified employees working in an administrative role. No action was taken.

NOTICE OF  
COMPLIANCE WITH  
PUBLIC ACTS

Mr. Burton moved, Mr. Williams seconded, to **Ratify the Rayalco Resolution** which was signed by the District on October 8, 2009 regarding software and equipment installation. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RATIFICATION OF  
RAYALCO  
RESOLUTION

Mr. Burton moved, Mr. Banks seconded to **Approve the Snow Removal Bid from Dutch Valley Landscaping** in the amount of \$109,207. As there was no recommendation from the Finance committee, Mr. Gress presented two options: 1) accept the bid from Dutch Valley Landscaping, or 2) rebid the snow removal contract to include more detailed breakdown of equipment pricing. Mr. Williams had concerns that Dutch Valley submitted their bid in the format they have used for the last 5 years and did not follow the current bid specifications precisely. Dr. Penman asked what options were available if there is a snowfall and the District does not have a contract with a snow removal vendor. Mr. Gress stated that a company could come out on a one-time basis and charge the District for those services based on their current rates. On roll call, Members Burton and King voted aye; Members Penman and Williams voted nay; Members Banks and Lawrence passed; motion failed.

APPROVAL OF  
SNOW REMOVAL  
BID

Mr. Williams moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded to **Rebid the Snow Removal Contract** immediately. Dr. King advised Mr. Gress to instruct bidders that all bid specifications must be met precisely. On roll call, Members Banks, King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; Member Burton passed; nay, none; motion passed.

MOTION TO REBID  
SNOW REMOVAL  
CONTRACT

None.

SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT

Mr. Gress provided an update on the tennis courts. Thornton: Asphalt has been removed and a temporary fence installed surrounding the site. CMM Group will hold their pricing if the project is completed in Spring 2010. Thornridge: District 205 has located an expert that does not work for a tennis construction company to evaluate the condition of the courts and a report should be available within the next week.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mrs. Lawrence requested that a Discipline Committee meeting be scheduled. Dr. Buckner stated that Mr. Savage will set up the meeting.

At 9:56 p.m., Mr. Burton moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to go into **Executive Session**. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence, Penman and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNED  
TO EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

At 11:00 p.m., the Board returned to **Return to Regular Session**.

RETURNED TO  
REGULAR SESSION

The Board took the following action on student discipline cases:

**Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance** for Student Case #3B-0910-01 for the remainder of the 2009-2010 school year and recommended placement in the Academy for Learning, pending availability.

STUDENT  
DISCIPLINE CASE  
NO. 3B-0910-01

**Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance** for Student Case #3B-0910-02 for the remainder of the 2009-2010 school year and recommended placement in the Academy for Learning, pending availability.

STUDENT  
DISCIPLINE CASE  
NO. 3B-0910-02

**Reinstate the Student on a Probationary Status** for Student Case #1F-0910-02. The student will be placed on Citizenship Probation for one calendar year and be required to complete 25 community service hours throughout the 2009-2010 school year.

STUDENT  
DISCIPLINE CASE  
NO. 1F-0910-02

At 11:25 p.m., the **Meeting was Adjourned**.

ADJOURNMENT

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President

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Secretary