

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2009** IN THE AUDITORIUM AT THORNTON HIGH SCHOOL, HARVEY, ILLINOIS, BEGINNING AT 7:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. On roll call, Members Burton, King, Lawrence and Penman answered. Members Banks, Coriano and Ware were absent. Dr. J. Kamala Buckner, Superintendent; Mr. Steven Gress, Director of Business; Dr. Paige Dague, Director of Accountability, Research and Information Service; Dr. Betheny Lyke, Thornton Principal; Ms. Kim Waller, Thornridge Principal; Mrs. Darcelle Williams, Thornwood Principal; Mr. Rick Shields, Thornridge Assistant Principal; Mr. Tony Ratliff, Thornton Assistant Principal; Mrs. Dorith Johnson, Thornwood Assistant Principal; and Mr. Ken Wendorff, Faculty Association President, were also present.

ROLL
CALL

In Mr. Banks' absence, Mr. Burton assumed the role of President *Pro Tem*.

PRESIDENT *PRO TEM*

The minutes of the regular session and the minutes of the executive session of the regular meeting of March 11, 2009. 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.

MINUTES:
March 11, 2009

Dr. King moved, Dr. Penman seconded, to **Approve the Minutes for March 11, 2009**. On roll call, Members Burton, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

Dr. King moved, Dr. Penman seconded, to **Approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting on March 24, 2009**. On roll call, Members Burton, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

MINUTES:
March 24, 2009

Dr. King moved, Dr. Penman seconded, to **Approve the District 205 Bills**. On roll call, Members Burton, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

DISTRICT 205
BILLS

None

EMPLOYMENT

At 7:08 p.m., Mr. Banks joined the meeting.

MR. BANKS JOINED
MEETING

Dr. Buckner reported on the following:

COMMUNICATIONS

- District 205 mourns the loss of Mr. John H. Blakey, former Interim Director of Business Operations who passed away on April 1, 2009. Mr. Blakey retired from Bremen School Dist. 228 in 2006 and has since served at District 205 and Riverdale District 133. He was an active community member and served on the Brookwood District 167 Board of Education for 27 years. All are invited to a special tribute to him on April 18, 2009 at 12:00 noon at Villa DeBruno, Lynwood, Illinois.
- The Student Board election was held on April 2, 2009. The results were certified at the Student Board meeting on April 7 meeting. The new Student Board will be sworn in at the May 12th meeting and will be formally introduced to the Board of Education at the May 13th Board meeting.
- The Student Board is piloting a Jefferson Award Program at Thornridge, which is based on community service and academics. Thornridge Jefferson Award Committee members defeated defending champions Gage Park High School and were invited to compete at the national level in Washington, D.C.
- The Academic Enrichment Foundation Star Gala was held April 4, 2009 and honored four individuals: Barbra Green-Kenan, Wanda Russell and Dr. Charles Siegel, Star Teachers and Mr. Dan Ustian for Community Service. William Mosel and Billie Shaw-Griggs were honored for their accomplishments and were entered into the Illinois Football Coaches Hall of Fame and Illinois Cheerleading Coaches Hall of Fame.

- At 7:08 p.m., Mr. Banks joined the meeting and assumed his role as President. MR. BANKS JOINED MEETING
- The Thornton Alumni Legacy Fund and District 205 have partnered to begin operating a community diesel education program at Thornton Township High School funded in part by Navistar International. COMMUNICATIONS, Con't.
- Congratulations to the Thornridge Biodiesel Team who won the \$50,000 grand prize in the 2009 Lexus Eco Challenge #3. \$35,000 in scholarships will be divided among the seven students on the team, Mr. Sievers will receive a \$5,000 grant toward supplies and the Thornridge Principal will receive \$10,000 which will be used for physics equipment.
- The Thornton Wildcats competed in the 2009 IHSA Final Four Tournament and placed third in state. Troy Jackson, Thornton Varsity Basketball Head Coach, was selected Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Boys' Class 3A/4A Coach of the Year for 2009.
- The Recycling Program at Thornton is ongoing under Project Lead the Way program director, Michael Sinde, and has collected over 4,000 lbs. of paper for recycling as of March 27, 2009.
- The National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) Business Plan Expo first place winner, Chaquita Thompson, will compete at the regional level and is eligible for a \$2000 scholarship. Program sponsors are Ricardo Johnson and Mike Sinde and was funded in part by the Academic Enrichment Foundation.
- Congratulations to the Thornwood Drama team who won first place in the 2009 IHSA Group Interpretation State Tournament for their performance of "The Bluest Eye".
- The Village of South Holland Spring Break Week activities will be held at the Faith, Family, Future Center Monday, April 13 – Friday, April 17 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For more information contact the Village of South Holland, 708.331.2940 or visit www.southholland.org.
- The Superintendent's Annual Report Tour will conclude with the Village of Dolton on April, 20, 2009. The Superintendent and Administrative Team will have visited all 20 municipalities and school districts in District 205 to present the 2008-09 Annual Report and progress made during the 2007-08 school year.
- During Spring Break, all schools will be closed the week of April 13-17, 2009. The District Office hours will be 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Appointments will be necessary due to reduced staff.
- Important Dates:

April 9	Grade/Progress Reports
April 13 - 17	Spring Break
April 22 & 23	PSAE
May 4	Interim Grading Period Ends
May 5	Cinco De Mayo Holiday
May 6	AP testing
May 8	ACT registration deadline for June 13th test date
- The regular Board of Education meetings will be held at the Thornwood High School Performing Arts Center for the months of May, June, July and August, 2009, at 7:00 p.m., pending Board reorganization and establishment of Board meetings.
- District 205 welcomes newly elected Board member, Mr. Kenneth Williams, a South Holland resident.

- After meetings with the Student Board food service committee and Arbor Management, Mr. Gress addressed the three student lunch issues from the March 11, 2009 Board meeting, which were:
 1. Menus are not posted in the cafeteria. Response: Menus were not posted in 2 of the 3 schools because they were not being followed.
 2. Menus distributed are not being followed. Response: Menus were not being followed because items sell differently at each school so some items were switched. The menus will be building specific instead of district-wide.
 3. All menu items are not available during the last lunch period. Response: No problem was detected.
- The Student Board will keep the Board informed about student satisfaction with the menu. Cafeteria equipment replacement will occur during the spring and summer at all three buildings. There are three years remaining on the 4-year contract with Arbor Management.
- Dr. King commended the Student Board for their excellent board meeting protocol and a job well done.

Mr. Truesdale presented the percentage of students with failing grades at the end of the first semester vs. at the end of the 3rd quarter:

GRADES AND
INTERIM
ASSESSMENT
REPORT

	1 st semester	3 rd quarter
Freshmen	20%	22%
Sophomores	22%	31%
Juniors	17%	19%
Seniors	15%	13%

He presented the percentage of failing grades issued by core subject:

	1 st semester	3 rd quarter
English	25%	26%
Math	28%	34%
Science	23%	28%
Social Studies	16%	22%

He stated the District Improvement Plan team will reconvene this summer to review the implementation of the District Improvement Plan so the curriculum committee can plan for the next school year. In view of the transition from block to a traditional schedule, pacing may need to be re-examined as a reason some students struggled.

Dr. Dague reported on the interim assessments as follows:

English

Freshmen: -2% (expected to go back up the next round of assessments)
 Sophomores +12%
 Juniors +17%

Math

Freshmen: +10%
 Sophomores +11%
 Juniors +5%

Dr. Dague pointed out that students' grades are not reflective of their test scores.

The Board was concerned that the benchmarks are clearly defined to parents. Dr. Dague replied that teachers are now able to clearly convey students' status. Reading is improving within the District and needs to continue. There is a math articulation meeting set for later this month with the 7th and 8th grade teachers from our feeder schools. Counselors are looking at support systems for incoming Freshmen. The District team is working on strengthening the TTLP Partnership in grades 7-9 for a smoother adjustment into high school and provide students with better foundational skills—socially, emotionally and academically. The Special Ed evaluation process is also being reviewed with ECHO.

The following individuals spoke during public participation:

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION

- Edward Crayton (Dolton) 1) congratulated the new and re-elected Board members; 2) asked for clarity on the assessment report and a document showing the grades at the end of each marking period; 3) asked how to present questions, if any, regarding the booster club changes on the agenda; 4) asked when he will receive the grade report. Dr. Buckner responded: 2) The percentage of failed grades is based on grades given, not the number of students who failed, which will be further addressed at the upcoming curriculum meeting; 3) a special exception will be made for public questions after the presentation prior to Board voting; 4) Mr. Truesdale will talk with him after the Board meeting.
- Jacqueline Franklin (South Holland) stated that on March 18 or 19 there was a fight on 170th & South Park Avenue involving 200-300 students. She contacted the Police Department who responded. She is enlisting the Board and administration to stop this behavior among students. The Principal stated that discipline action was taken.
- Deborah Smith (Thornwood parent) asked for the curriculum meeting dates and if they are on the website. Dr. Buckner stated the curriculum meeting date has not yet been set and when available, it will be posted on the website and the community will be notified by robocall.
- Felita Crayton (Dolton) 1) congratulated the new and re-elected Board members and asked: 2) is there is a back-up plan for IP's; 2) are we passing on students without mastering the skills; 3) is there a policy in the District Improvement Plan to address that question, and 4) recited the 8 keys of success. Dr. Buckner replied that the team is constantly working on IP's and there may be some Summer School changes. IP's will be addressed at the curriculum meeting and the community will have input.

Mr. Truesdale amended the 2008-2009 School Calendar to reflect June 3, 2009 as the last day of school due to two emergency days used in January 2009. No further action was required.

AMEND 2008-2009
CALENDAR

Mr. Burton moved, Dr. King seconded, to **Approve the Booster Club Procedure Changes** as presented by Mr. Gress which requires all booster club funds to be processed through the District office. A special allowance was made for public questions prior to Board vote. Mrs. Felita Crayton asked the Board to table voting on the changes until the Board meets with the booster clubs for their input. The Board added that the reason for the changes is to have accurate checks and balances. All District employees are bonded, so any misappropriation of funds would be reimbursed to the booster clubs. If the procedure changes are not approved, any misappropriation of funds would be a loss to the booster clubs. The Finance Committee has reviewed these changes and recommends approval. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, and Penman voted aye; Member Lawrence passed; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
BOOSTER CLUB
PROCEDURE
CHANGES

Mr. Burton moved, Dr. King seconded, to **Approve the Thornton Stage Curtains Bid** as presented by Mr. Gress. The low bid was awarded to Grand Stage in the amount of \$23,750.00, who has provided good service in the past. The Finance Committee recommends approval of this bid. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
THORNTON STAGE
CURTAINS BID

Mr. Burton moved, Dr. King seconded, to **Approve the Thornton Outdoor Track Resurfacing Bid** as presented by Mr. Gress. The low bid was awarded to Track Surfaces Co. in the amount of \$62,000.00, the project to be completed over the summer. The Finance Committee recommends approval of this bid. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
THORNTON
OUTDOOR TRACK
RESURFACING BID

Mr. Burton moved, Dr. King seconded, to **Approve the Bid for General Trades Work** as presented by Mr. Gress for locker replacement at 2 schools and door replacement at 3 schools. The low bid including alternates was awarded to Construction Solutions in the amount of \$501,514.00. Life Safety funds will be used for this project if permitted; otherwise the capital improvement fund will be used. The Finance Committee recommends approval of this bid. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
GENERAL TRADES
WORK BID

Mr. Burton moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Approve the Asbestos Abatement Bid** as presented by Mr. Gress for asbestos removal and replacement in all three schools based on the report of Hygieneering, Inc. The low bidder is NES in the amount of \$124,820.00. The dates when the work will be done will be posted in the buildings and on the website. The Finance Committee recommends approval of this bid. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
ASBESTOS
ABATEMENT BID

Mr. Burton moved, Mr. Penman seconded, to **Approve the Gym Floor Refinishing Bid** as presented by Mr. Gress. Alternate bids were received and the Finance Committee recommends the bid be awarded to Gym Floor Services, Inc. in the amount of \$69,097.92 for the refinishing of the gym floors in all three schools. Capital improvement funds will be used for the project. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF GYM
FLOOR
REFINISHING BID

The Board will hold a Special Meeting on Tuesday, April 28, 2009 for the purpose of Board reorganization. The meeting will take place at 6:00 p.m. at the District Office Conference Room.

SET SPECIAL
BOARD MEETING
DATE

Mr. Ken Wendorff, Faculty Association President, spoke about the challenges of the In Progress grading system and the concern that so many of the students are failing a course. The Faculty Association would like to work collaboratively with the administration and all stakeholders to solve this problem. He also spoke of the many achievements of the District 205 students.

FACULTY
ASSOCIATION:
ADDRESS TO
BOARD OF
EDUCATION

Dr. Buckner announced that at the May Board meeting, the Student Board will report on their initiatives. Students achievements will be recognized at the meeting; students and parents are encouraged to attend. Public finance and curriculum meeting dates will be forthcoming.

MISCELLANEOUS

Special consideration was given to allow Nina Graham, South Holland, to speak. Her three sons, who graduated from Thornwood, were in sports. As a booster club parent, she stated that communication with the Booster Club president is important.

PARENT COMMENT

At 8:36 p.m., Mr. Burton moved, Dr. King seconded, to go into **Executive Session**. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNED
TO EXECUTIVE
SESSION

At 11:45 p.m. Dr. King moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Return to Regular Session**. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RETURNED TO
REGULAR SESSION

Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance** for Student Case #3RISE-0809-10 for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year and the 2009-2010 year and recommended placement in the Second Chance Program at the Markham Courthouse, contingent upon a seat being available. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
NO. 3RISE-0809-10

Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance** for Student Case #3F-0809-11 for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year and the 2009-2010 year and recommended placement at the Academy for Learning, contingent upon a seat being available. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
NO. 3F-0809-11

Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance** for Student Case #2F-0809-16 for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year and the 2009-2010 year and recommended placement in the RISE Program pending availability. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
NO. 2F-0809-16

Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance** for Student Case #2B-0809-17 for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year and the 2009-2010. Should the student wish to return to a District 205 school after the expulsion, a meeting with the administration will determine the most appropriate placement. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
NO. 2B-0809-17

Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance** for Student Case #2H-0809-18 for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year and the 2009-2010 year and recommended placement in the Second Chance Program at the Markham Courthouse, contingent upon a seat being available. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
NO. 2H-0809-18

Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance** for Student Case #2H-0809-19 for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year and the 2009-2010 year and recommended placement in the Second Chance Program at the Markham Courthouse, contingent upon a seat being available. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
NO. 2H-0809-19

Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance** for Student Case #2F-0809-20 for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year and the 2009-2010 year and recommended placement in the RISE Program pending availability. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
NO. 2F-0809-20

Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Uphold the Expulsion** for Student Case #2B-0809-21 for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year and the 2009-2010 year. Should the student wish to return to a District 205 school after the expulsion, a meeting with the administration will determine the most appropriate placement. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
NO. 2B-0809-21

Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance** for Student Case #2F-0809-24 for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year and the 2009-2010 year and recommended placement in the RISE Program pending availability. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
NO. 2F-0809-24

Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance** for Student Case #1A-0809-02 for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year and the 2009-2010 year and recommended placement in the Second Chance Program at the Markham Courthouse, contingent upon a seat being available. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
NO. 1A-0809-02

Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance** for Student Case #1A-0809-03 for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year and the 2009-2010 year and recommended placement in the Second Chance Program at the Markham Courthouse, contingent upon a seat being available. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
NO. 1A-0809-03

At 11:50 p.m. Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Adjourn the Meeting**. On roll call, Members Burton, Coriano, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

President

Secretary

rp(brd.mins.4-8-09)
REGULAR SESSION