

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 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, Coriano, Lawrence and Penman answered. Members Banks, King 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; Mr. Jerry B. Doss, Director of Public Relations; Dr. Betheny Lyke, Thornton Principal; Mrs. Darcelle Williams, Thornwood Principal; Mr. Rick Shields, Thornridge Assistant Principal; Mr. Tony Ratliff, Thornton 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 February 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:
February 11, 2009

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

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

DISTRICT 205
BILLS

Dr. Penman moved, Rev. Coriano seconded, to **Approve the Resignation List**. On roll call, Members Burton, Coriano, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RESIGNATIONS

None.

LEAVE OF
ABSENCE

Dr. Penman moved, Rev. Coriano seconded, to **Approve the Employment List**. On roll call, Members Burton, Coriano, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

EMPLOYMENT

At 7:05 p.m., Dr. King joined the meeting.

DR. KING JOINED
MEETING

Mr. Doss reported on the following:

COMMUNICATIONS

- All three schools competed in the IHSA State Speech tournament. The outcome was Thornridge: 6th place with two state champions; Thornwood: 9th place and Thornton: 29th place.
- The Thornton Speech Team was featured in two Chicago Tribune articles.
- Thornton graduates Sharonda Frye, Lena Moore and Diwante Shuford graduated from Northwestern's premedical program for high school students. Diwante Shuford was awarded a \$5,000 scholarship for his oral presentation of his medical project.
- Thornridge students qualified for the final round of the Lexus Eco Challenge for their biodiesel fuel project. The grand prize totals \$50,000 in scholarships and a monetary award for the school.
- Thornwood Cheerleading Team competed in Orlando, Florida for the National Championship and won the first place title for the sixth consecutive year.

- Thornwood Speech Team had several students qualify for the National Forensic League tournament to be held in Birmingham, Alabama.
- Thornton Cheerleaders also competed in Orlando, Florida for the first time at the National level and came in second place.
- Thornwood Varsity and Sophomore Track Team hosted an invitational, winning over East St. Louis and Lockport High Schools.
- Bill Mosel, Thornton Varsity Football Head Coach since 1986, will be inducted into the Illinois High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame on April 4, 2009. Coach Mosel coached Thornton football for 23 seasons with 154 wins and numerous successful players who advanced to collegiate and professional levels.
- Leo Conry of Thornridge, was the winner of the Prix Du Chapitre award as the outstanding foreign language teacher in the Chicago/Northern Illinois area for 2009.
- The Superintendent and Mr. Doss have visited 14 town and school board meetings to present the District 205 2008-2009 Annual Report.
- Important Dates:

March 20	U.S. Hispanic Leadership Institute College Fair
March 25	Late Start
March 26	6:30 p.m. Academy For Learning High School Dedication Ceremony
	*RSVP to Ms. Antonia Salters, 708.985.4401 by March 23
March 27	Grade/Progress Reports
April 7	Student Board of Education Meeting, Thornton High School

COMMUNICATIONS,
Con't.

The following individuals spoke during public participation:

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION

- Edward Crayton (Dolton) asked: 1) are students' grades are improving and 2) what is the measure for their progress. Dr. Buckner responded by instructing the building Principals to gather the data and stated that a written report would be sent to him.
- Felita Crayton (Dolton) asked: 1) the process for students taking electives outside their assigned House; 2) can a course selection made by a parent and student be superseded and if so, by whom, and 3) stated there are no menus posted in the Thornridge cafeteria and no food is left for the last lunch period. Dr. Buckner stated: 1) she will meet with the Principals and provide a written response; 2) the process will be sent to her in writing; 3) Mr. Gress and Mr. Doss will visit the cafeteria, the Principals will investigate and the results presented to the Board for review.
- Helen Randall (Harvey) stated that she was very pleased with the behavior of the students in the school buildings. She gave a special thank you to Gina Collier for her work with the students and community.

Dr. King moved, Dr. Penman seconded, to **Approve the Transfer of Funds Between Accounts Within the Education Fund** as presented by Mr. Gress. The transfer is between different line items to meet the needs for the beginning of the school year in the approximate amount of \$75,000. The Finance Committee has reviewed the transfer and recommends approval. On roll call, Members Burton, Coriano, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
TRANSFER OF
FUNDS

Dr. King moved, Dr. Penman seconded, to **Approve Charging Stop Payment Fees for Lost Checks** as presented by Mr. Gress. The Finance Committee recommends the approval for reimbursement of stop payment fees when lost checks need to be reissued. The District incurs approximately \$300 per month in stop payment fees. On roll call, Members Burton, Coriano, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
CHARGING STOP
PAYMENT FEES

Dr. King moved, Dr. Penman seconded, to **Approve Allowing Employees to Participate With Secondary Insurance Companies** as presented by Mr. Gress. The pre-tax payroll deduction for secondary medical insurance would be at no cost to the District and the District is not endorsing any plan. The Finance Committee recommends Board approval. On roll call, Members Burton, Coriano, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
PARTICIPATION
WITH SECONDARY
INSURANCE
COMPANIES

Dr. King moved, Dr. Penman seconded, to **Approve the Bid Policy Change** as presented by Mr. Gress. The current bid policy of \$10,000 coincided with the Illinois School Code, which increased to \$25,000 in December 2008. This does not include major construction projects which have a limit of \$50,000. The Finance Committee recommends the bid policy be increased to \$25,000 to be in line with the Illinois School Code. On roll call, Members Burton, Coriano, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF BID
POLICY CHANGE

Rev. Coriano moved, Dr. King seconded, to **Approve the Summer 2009 Life Safety Pre-purchase Bids**. Bids were received for various life safety construction work and equipment installation for the total amount of \$227,978. The Finance Committee has reviewed all of the bids and recommends their approval. On roll call, Members Burton, Coriano, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
SUMMER 2009 LIFE
SAFETY PRE-
PURCHASE BIDS

Mr. Gress presented an overview of the 5-year financial projection based on current economic conditions. He showed the net assets with projected revenues and expenditures. The following are highlights of his presentation.

OVERVIEW OF 5-
YEAR PLAN AND
ECONOMIC
UPDATE

- The projection shows a net income for 2009 of \$1,603,000 which drops to a net loss in 2011 of \$934,000. The net loss continues to increase over the next two years.
- Revenue assumptions are based on the major resources of real estate taxes and general state aid which account for over 75% of the District's annual revenue. Real estate taxes account for just over 50% and will grow by 3.5% for 2009-2010.
- For 2011, the consumer price index will increase by only 0.1%, which is the limit of the property tax increase. After 2010, property taxes will remain flat. Similarly, 2009 general state aid will increase by \$2.2 million but because of the financial crisis in the State of Illinois, no additional money is available for schools so the projected increase is only 1% annually. Federal and state dollars are projected at zero growth because of the economic conditions.
- Expenditure assumptions are based on the salaries increase of 3% and employee benefits are projected to grow at 5% per year.
- Capital expenses will be reduced from almost \$3.0 million in 2009 to \$1.0 million starting in 2010 because of improvements paid for out of the capital improvement bond issue.
- The following economic factors are out of the District management control: record high local unemployment rates and home foreclosures; many businesses are going out of business; the State of Illinois is over 70 days behind in distribution of State revenues; the consumer price index increase was only 0.1%; interest earnings are decreasing; the District's largest revenue sources are decreasing. The District can, however, control its spending.

Dr. King commented that Mr. Robert Grossi said that District 205 had the most phenomenal financial turnaround he has ever seen and commended Dr. Buckner. Mr. Grossi is the Bloom Township Treasurer and works with the State of Illinois to assist financially troubled districts in returning to financial stability. Dr. Buckner thanked the Board, staff, students and the community.

Dr. Buckner ended the presentation by stating that new regulations are received every day concerning the stimulus money which is for 27 months. With the money received from Title 1 and Special Ed and she stressed that the District must show improvement in those areas according to the State's system of accountability and assessment.

ECONOMIC
UPDATE,
Con't.

Rev. Coriano moved, Dr. King seconded, to **Approve the 2009-2010 School Calendar**. The calendar was approved with a beginning date of August 14, 2009 and ending date of June 4, 2010. The first semester will end before the Winter Break. On roll call, Members Burton, Coriano, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
2009-2010 SCHOOL
CALENDAR

The Board will hold a Special Meeting on Tuesday, March 24, 2009 for the purpose of personnel. The meeting will take place at 5:00 p.m. at the District Office Conference Room.

SET SPECIAL
BOARD MEETING
DATE

At 7:42 p.m., Dr. Penman moved, Dr. King seconded, to go into **Executive Session**. On roll call, Members Burton, Coriano, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNED
TO EXECUTIVE
SESSION

At 8:56 p.m. Mr. Burton moved, Dr. King seconded, to **Return to Regular Session**. On roll call, Members Burton, Coriano, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RETURNED TO
REGULAR SESSION

Dr. King moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance** for Student Case #3H-0809-09 for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year and the 2009-2010 year and recommended placement in the Second Chance Program, contingent upon a seat being available. On roll call, Members Burton, Coriano, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
NO. 3H-0809-09

Dr. King moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance** for Student Case #1B-0809-01 for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year and the 2009-2010 school year and recommended placement in the Second Chance Program, contingent upon a seat being available. On roll call, Members Burton, Coriano, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
NO. 1B-0809-01

Dr. King moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance** for Student Case #2B-0809-15 for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year and the 2009-2010 year and recommended placement in the Second Chance Program, contingent upon a seat being available. On roll call, Members Burton, Coriano, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
NO. 2B-0809-15

At 8:58 p.m. Mr. Burton moved, Dr. Penman seconded, to **Adjourn the Meeting**. On roll call, Members Burton, Coriano, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

President *Pro Tem*

Secretary