

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2009** IN THE AUDITORIUM AT THORNTON HIGH SCHOOL, HARVEY, ILLINOIS, BEGINNING AT 7:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, and Lawrence answered. Members Coriano, Penman 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; Ms. Maria Brunson, Director of Technology and Information Services; Dr. Betheny Lyke, Thornton Principal; Mrs. Darcelle Williams, Thornwood Principal; Ms. Kim Waller, Thornridge Principal; Mr. Ken Wendorff, Faculty Association President; and Mr. Brian Guastella of McGladrey & Pullen were also present.

ROLL
CALL

The minutes of the regular session and the minutes of the executive session of the regular meeting of December 10, 2008. 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:
December 10, 2008

Mr. Burton moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to **Approve the Minutes for December 10, 2008**. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King and Lawrence voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

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

DISTRICT 205
BILLS

Mr. Burton moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to **Approve the Resignation List**. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King and Lawrence voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RESIGNATIONS

None.

LEAVE OF
ABSENCE

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Approve the Employment List**. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King and Lawrence voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

EMPLOYMENT

At 7:10 p.m., Dr. Penman joined the meeting.

DR. PENMAN
JOINED MEETING

Dr. Buckner made the following correction: At the December 10th Board meeting, the unemployment figures were given as state figures. The figures are the unemployment figures for the entire country, not the state of Illinois.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Doss reported on the following:

- District 205 launched a new website on January 5, 2009. The upgraded site features a revised design with links and information about the three schools, parent and teacher resources, an interactive calendar, current news and more. Faculty, staff and community members are encouraged to register to receive e-alerts and text messages regarding late starts, school closings, etc.
- The Superintendent and the Administrative team will visit all 20 municipalities and school districts within District 205 to present the 2008-2009 Annual Report and the District's progress made during the 2007-2008 school year. The first community meeting was in Blue Island on Tuesday, January 12, 2009.
- District 205 is going green. To help the Thornridge biodiesel project, please drop off your used cooking oil on Saturday, January 17 and 24, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. To schedule a pick-up, you may contact Mr. Brian Sievers at 708.271.4640 or email him at Sievers.brian@district205.net.

- Another going green project involves Thornton Project Lead The Way students with a grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and the Illinois State Board of Education's pilot program called Illinois Innovation Talent Energy Reduction Challenge Program. The project includes collecting paper and plastic for recycling. The collection is ongoing in the school building and there is a community collection container in the Technical Building Parking lot. Thornwood students are also collecting paper and plastic for recycling.
- Thornwood Senior Tiffany Norris received a scholarship from Comcast Leaders and Achievers Program; Senior Joshua Singleton received the Evans Caddie Scholarship.
- Thornwood Sophomore Cherjuan Williamson will travel to Washington, D.C. for five days to attend the inauguration and historical workshops via the People to People Leadership Summit.
- Thornton Senior Roberto Landin, valedictorian of this class, has received offers for full admission and scholarships from MIT and the California Institute of Technology. Dr. Buckner added that Harvard, Yale, Princeton and Brown Universities have also offered Roberto full scholarships.

COMMUNICATIONS
Con't.

At 7:20 p.m., Rev. Coriano joined the meeting.

REV. CORIANO
JOINED MEETING

- Project Lead The Way (PLTW) coordinator, Mike Sinde, met with Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) representatives on Friday, January 9, 2009 to solidify a partnership with Thornton's PLTW students. IDOT will be sending a civil engineer to the Civil Engineering and Architecture class twice a month. That representative is a 1988 Thornton alum who is currently working on the Manhattan-Monee construction projection on I-57.
- Thornton Township and District 205 will host its annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration at South Suburban College on Monday, January 19, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. All three bands, speech and drama students will perform.
- The Village of South Holland will host its annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration at Covenant United Church of Christ on Saturday, January 17, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. Dr. Buckner will be the keynote speaker.
- Upcoming events:
 - January 17 10:00 a.m. Covenant United Church of Christ
Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration
 - January 19 No School – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
 - January 19 10:30 a.m. South Suburban College
Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration
 - January 23 Grades/Progress Reports mailed
Second semester begins
 - January 31 Interim Grading period ends
 - February 5-6 Parent / Teacher Conferences
- Dr. Buckner welcomed Mr. Bob Moulesong, The Times Newspaper (Hammond) correspondent, to the meeting.
- Mr. Burton added that South Suburban College is hosting a Basketball Tournament on March 15, 2009 in which the Thornton Girls Basketball Team will be participating.

COMMUNICATIONS,
Con't.

The following individuals spoke during public participation:

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION

- Felita Crayton (Dolton) asked (1) what are student activity funds used for, and (2) what is money from sports ticket sales used for. Mr. Gress responded (1) the District is a fiduciary party for those funds and sponsors can only request dollars that are generated through their activity. Any money remaining would roll over into next year's account; (2) ticket sales proceeds could be used for warm-ups for the team or an out-of-town trip. Ticket sales revenue is not for student activities; it is general revenue for the District and is used for many types of district expenses.
- Dr. King (Board member) asked if there is a balance kept of all activity accounts at each school to which Mr. Gress responded yes.

Mr. Brian Guastella of McGladrey & Pullen presented the **2008 Audited Financial Statements** of the District and responded to questions from the Board. An overview included the last five years comparison. In 2004 The District's debt was \$48 million; for 2008 it is \$21 million. Correspondingly, the net assets were negative \$16 million in 2004 and are now \$21 million positive in 2008, which is a \$37 million swing in net assets over a 5-year period, putting the District in a strong financial position. All required reports have been filed with the State of Illinois. The Finance Committee met with McGladrey representatives in November 2008 and at that time the Board received the audited financial statements. The Board commended the Superintendent for moving the District in the right direction to make it fiscally sound.

PRESENTATION OF
2008 AUDITED
FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS

Dr. King moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Approve the Number of Bags for Travel Plans** as presented by Mr. Gress. In view of recent changes in the airline industry, the District will reimburse employees for one bag only. The Finance Committee recommends approval of this plan. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Coriano, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
NUMBER OF BAGS
FOR TRAVEL
PLANS

Dr. King moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Approve the Mileage Reimbursement for Travel Plans** as presented by Mr. Gress. Requests for exceptions must be received in advance in writing and approved by the Superintendent. The Finance Committee recommends approval of this plan. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Coriano, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
MILEAGE
REIMBURSEMENT
FOR TRAVEL
PLANS

Mr. Burton moved, Dr. King seconded, to **Approve the Summer 2009 Projects** as presented by Mr. Gress. The total cost is approximately \$3.1 million and includes renovations inside and outside of all three buildings, new kitchen equipment, student cafeteria seats, bathroom stalls and security cameras. Approximately one-half of the \$3.1 million would be paid through the Life Safety account, or the maximum amount allowable. The balance will be from the operations and maintenance fund. The Finance Committee has reviewed and recommends approval of these projects. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Coriano, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF 2009
SUMMER
PROJECTS

Dr. King moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Approve the 403(b) Plan Changes** as presented by Mr. Gress. As of January 1, 2009, the District is required to follow IRS changes to 403(b) Plans. In order to ensure IRS compliance, a plan document was developed by TSA Consulting and reviewed by legal counsel. TSA Consulting would be responsible for any IRS penalties if the District does not follow IRS regulations. The District will explore purchasing insurance for any liabilities relating to the 403(b) Plan. Legal counsel and the Finance Committee recommend approval of the Plan. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Coriano, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
403(b) PLAN
CHANGES

Mr. Burton moved, Dr. King seconded, to **Approve the Transfer of Funds** from the Education to the Operations and Maintenance Fund at the recommendation of legal counsel, which was approved by the Finance Committee. In response to the Board, Mr. Gress stated that entire \$50 million bond issue must be spent within the next five years. Legat Architects, the District architects, received a call from the American Institute of Architects on January 14, 2009 to alert the District that a national survey was due immediately to submit to President Elect Obama's team to determine how much money is needed for school projects. Legat recommended and the District requested \$200 million for capital improvement to renovate buildings, build new buildings and technology. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Coriano, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
TRANSFER OF
FUNDS

Mr. Burton moved, Dr. King seconded, to **Approve the 2009-2010 Driver Education Program** as presented by Mr. Gress. The Finance Committee reviewed three different proposed schedules and is recommending a two-phase program with five classes per school, which will allow 870 students to enter the program each year, while containing costs. Each student will be charged \$250 for the program. No governmental funding is available as Driver Ed is an elective. The Finance Committee has reviewed this program change and recommends approval. On roll call, Members Burton, Coriano, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; Member Banks passed; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
2009-2010 DRIVER
ED PROGRAM

Dr. Dague stated that Response to Intervention (Rtl) is a new state mandate that requires all school districts to submit an Rtl plan to the state by January 1, 2009. The purpose is to provide strategies and immediate intervention to struggling students prior to identification for special education services. This mandate is the result of the over-identification of special education students nationwide. Rtl reading and math services will begin in the 2009-2010 school year; in 2010-2011 behavioral interventions will be introduced. The District will compare Plans with the nine feeder schools. There are three levels of intervention, the last being highly individualized, before a student will receive a special education referral. The Rtl will not put extra burden on teachers and there will be an Rtl Specialist at each school. The Board concluded that this is a much needed program that could greatly benefit students.

Rtl PRESENTATION

Mr. Truesdale reported that \$50 seats for Summer School will be available only to incoming freshmen and current first-year freshmen. Funding for reduced-tuition summer school is needed to support the In Progress (IP) Program for students who earned IP grades in the first semester, and it is unlikely that additional external funding will be available to support any summer programs.

REPORT ON
SUMMER SCHOOL
2009

Dr. Buckner requested a Special Board meeting to showcase the exemplary academic programs which will be presented by students and staff members. The Special Board meeting will be held on Monday, January 26, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the Thornton Auditorium.

SET SPECIAL
BOARD MEETING
DATE

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Dr. King seconded to **Approve the Review of the Board Policy** by the Superintendent and the Policy Committee. Four new sections will need to be added to the existing policy. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Coriano, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL TO
REVIEW BOARD
POLICY

At 8:25 p.m., Mr. Burton moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to go into **Executive Session**. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Coriano, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNED
TO EXECUTIVE
SESSION

At 9:41 p.m. Dr. King moved, Rev. Coriano seconded, to **Return to Regular Session**. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Coriano, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RETURNED TO
REGULAR SESSION

Mr. Burton moved, Rev. Coriano seconded, to **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance** for Student Case #1AC-0809-01 for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year and recommended placement in the Academy For Learning as presented to the Board by Mr. Ratliff. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Coriano, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
NO. 1AC-0809-01

Dr. King moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Uphold the Suspension** for Student Case #3FA-0809-03S. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Coriano, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
NO. 3FA-0809-03S

Dr. King moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance** for Student Case #3FA-0809-05 for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year and the 2009-2010 school year and recommended placement in the Academy For Learning as presented to the Board by Mrs. Johnson. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Coriano, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
NO. 3FA-0809-05

Dr. King moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance** for Student Case #3FA-0809-06 for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year and the 2009-2010 school year and recommended placement in the Academy For Learning as presented to the Board by Mrs. Johnson. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Coriano, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
NO. 3FA-0809-06

At 10:22 p.m. Dr. King moved, Dr. Penman seconded, to **Adjourn the Meeting**. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, Coriano, King, Lawrence and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

President

Secretary