

MINUTES OF THE **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2008**, IN THE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER AT THORNWOOD HIGH SCHOOL, SOUTH HOLLAND, ILLINOIS, BEGINNING AT 7:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. On roll call, Members Banks, King, Lawrence and Patterson answered. Dr. J. Kamala Buckner, Superintendent; Mr. Steven Gress, Director of Business Operations; Dr. Paige Dague, Director of Accountability and Research; Dr. Betheny Lyke, Thornton Principal; Mr. Tony Ratliff, Thornton Assistant Principal; Mrs. Darcelle Williams, Thornwood Principal; Ms. Kim Waller, Thornridge Principal; Ms. Maria Brunson, Interim IT Coordinator; Mr. Ken Wendorff, Faculty Association President; and Mrs. Suzanne Garcia, Faculty Association Executive Director, were also present.

ROLL
CALL

The minutes of the regular session and the minutes of the executive session of the regular meeting of July 9, 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:
JULY 9, 2008

Dr. King moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to **Approve the Minutes for July 9, 2008**. On roll call, Members Banks, King, Lawrence and Patterson voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

Dr. King moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to **Approve the Minutes for the Special Board Meeting on July 29, 2008**. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence and Patterson voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

MINUTES:
JULY 29, 2008

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

DISTRICT 205
BILLS

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

RESIGNATIONS

None.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Dr. King moved, Mr. Patterson seconded, to **Approve the Release Agreement**. On roll call, Members Banks, King, Lawrence and Patterson voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RELEASE
AGREEMENT

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

EMPLOYMENT

Dr. Buckner commended Jerry Doss, Information Officer and External Grants Coordinator, for his work in making the Thornridge Ribbon Cutting and Sharon Voliva Memorial Ceremony a huge success.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Doss spoke about the following:

- The Thornridge Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was attended and enjoyed by the District 205 community. The Thornridge band led the ceremony into the TR auditorium. The legacy of Sharon Voliva was celebrated by the District with the community and the Voliva family. Mayor William Shaw was thanked for his support during the fire restoration process of the Thornridge auditorium. Shelby Rogers, Vice President of the Student Board, gave a slide presentation on the history of Thornridge and there were performances by the Thornridge Jazz Band, the Drama and Thornwood Speech teams. Illinois State House Representative, William Q. Davis, gave a moving speech about Mrs. Voliva, the founder of Better Funding for Better Schools, and her dedication to the organization. Letters of regret were read from Representative Jesse Jackson, Jr. and Senator Barack Obama's offices that they were unable to attend the event due to their busy schedules.

- The Ministers Conference of South Cook County will present an Education Summit on September 20, 2008 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Thornridge Auditorium. The theme of the summit is A Village Living and Learning Together. When available, more information will be provided to the District 205 communities, mayors and schools.
- Registration and schedule pickup information is posted on the District 205 website. School will begin on August 19 for Freshmen only. All students will be in attendance on Wednesday, August 20, 2008. For specific information, visit your building's main office.
- Dr. Buckner was congratulated on her nomination for the prestigious Superintendent of the Year Award.
- In response to Mr. Patterson's inquiry, Mr. Doss stated that the District S.A.V.E. representative is Brittany Jackson from Thornton.

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION

- Edward Crayton (Dolton) gave accolades to Jerry Doss and everyone involved in the August 11th celebration at Thornridge Auditorium. He stated that the local government officials were impressed and publicly thanked Principal Waller. He questioned the change in the agenda regarding Public Participation.
- Thelma McWoodson (South Holland) stated her student is on the boundary borderline to receive bus transportation and asked the Board for an exception to receive transportation. She would be willing to pay a nominal fee. Mr. Patterson stated that the matter would be investigated and she would be notified.
- Felita Crayton (Dolton) asked: 1) if the Volunteer Policy would be tabled at this meeting; 2) if the Attendance Policy would be tabled at this meeting and 3) had there been a committee meeting regarding it. Dr. Buckner responded: 1) Yes; 2) No; and 3) Yes, there was input from the committee. She also stated that based on parent request, it is the recommendation to the Board to eliminate the incentive for students not to take final exams. Dr. Buckner said the Public Participation is now prior to the meeting to allow public comment on agenda items before the Board votes on them. Any proposed changes to a policy will be posted on the District website.
- Mr. Patterson (Board member) had questions about the impact of final exams on a student's GPA and was concerned that if a student failed a final, they would fail the course. Dr. Buckner stated that final exams are not new material but a recap of the year's work. Gina Collier explained grades leading up to the final exam. Mr. Carr stated that it is written in policy as 40% for the first half, 40% for the second half, and 20% for the final). Dr. Buckner said a grading committee will be formed regarding mastery, learning, consistency, etc. The Board asked that the grading system be explained at parent meetings so parents and students will have clarity.
- Tom Porter (Math Area Instructional Leader) stated that a good student can opt out of finals for all 4 years. Some of his students have come back to him and said they weren't trained well in high school because a final exam in college can count for as much as 25–50% of their grade.
- Jeanita Eaves (Harvey) asked to be placed on the robocall list as a community member and asked why the Board meetings are now rotated between the schools. Mr. Banks responded that rotating the meetings makes it easier for everyone to attend.
- Mr. Crayton (Dolton) suggested placing the Board meeting locations on Dolton's local cable TV station. Dr. Buckner stated it would be done.

The **Volunteer Policy** was **tabled** until meetings can be scheduled for parent and community input.

TABLE VOLUNTEER
POLICY

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Dr. King seconded, to **Approve the Attendance Policy Change** as presented by Dr. Lyke to remove the Attendance Incentive Section in its entirety. This elimination is part of each School Restructuring Plan; was recommended by many parents and staff members during Restructuring meetings. Mandating final exams will better prepare students for college and allow the District to gather pertinent data and to create more relevant attendance incentives. On roll call, Members Banks, King, Lawrence and Patterson voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
ATTENDANCE
POLICY CHANGE

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Dr. King seconded, to **Approve the Graduation Requirements Exceptions for the Class of 2009**. Dr. Lyke responded to questions from the Board and explained that because of the new schedule this situation affects a very small number of graduating seniors and is a one-time emergency provision. With the new schedule, Economics and Speech 1 were reduced from 1 credit to ½ credit. Graduating seniors would receive the full credit for these courses previously taken so they would not be short of any credits for graduation. On roll call, Members Banks, King, Lawrence and Patterson voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
GRADUATION
REQUIREMENTS

Dr. King moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to **Approve the Revision to the Heat Policy** as presented by Dr. Lyke and Mr. Carr. The procedure to implement the Heat Policy has not changed but because the schedule has changed from a Block Schedule to a 6/7 Period Day, the policy needs to be altered to accommodate the new bell schedule. On roll call, Members Banks, King, Lawrence and Patterson voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
HEAT POLICY
REVISION

In order to allow the 2008-2009 Budget to be available for public inspection for the required thirty (30) days before it can be approved by the Board of Education, the September Board meeting date is changed to September 17, 2008. The public will be notified by robocall, website update and newspaper publication.

CHANGE DATE OF
SEPTEMBER 2008
BOARD MEETING

Mr. Patterson moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to **Approve the SCOPE Annual Dues** for the 2008-2009 school year in the amount of \$2,120.00. SCOPE (South Cooperative Organization for Public Education) is continually attempting to change the State education funding formula and is putting pressure on the State. On roll call, Members Banks, King, Lawrence and Patterson voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
2008-2009 SCOPE
ANNUAL DUES

The Tentative Budget was presented by Mr. Gress. Mr. Gress talked about the key factors of revenue (property taxes were projected at 87%; other revenue was projected to remain consistent with the 2007-08 collections including State and Federal sources) and expenses (salaries, employee benefits and purchased services have been budgeted for increases). The budget will be on public display for 30 days. It will be available on the District's website (www.district205.net), in each building's main office and in the District Office in South Holland. A public hearing will be held at the September 17, 2008 Board meeting before submitting the Final Budget for approval. The budget must be adopted by the State by September 30, 2008. Dr. King added that he is excited the District is presenting a balanced budget.

PRESENTATION
OF 2008-2009
DISTRICT 205
BUDGET

Dr. King moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to approve the **Digital Divide Intergovernmental Agreements** which consist of a \$50,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Development for a community partnership with the Harvey Public Library, the Village of Phoenix and the Dixmoor Public Library to operate Community Technology Centers at each high school and at locations within the communities of Harvey, Phoenix and Dixmoor. Mr. Doss explained the low-income status provisions of this grant. On roll call, Members Banks, King and Lawrence voted aye; Member Patterson passed; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
DIGITAL DIVIDE
INTERGOVERN-
MENTAL
AGREEMENTS

Dr. Buckner:

SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT

- Congratulated the students and staff of all three schools for making Safe Harbor in Reading and Math, one of the goals under the Restructuring Plan. The official scores will be available on the ISBE website on August 19, 2008. She also thanked the staff for preparing the schedule under a strenuous timeline;
- Stated that parent rooms are now available at all three schools;
- Suggested inviting a Parent Advisory representative to report updates to the Board at the regular monthly Board meetings.

Mr. Patterson asked what measures the District is taking to get parents more involved in Parent Advisory. Dr. Lyke stated that each school has a parent recruiter for volunteers. During registration at each building there was a parent sitting at a sign-up table for volunteers; parents could provide their email addresses to be put on the list.

Mr. Ratliff reported on Safe and Secure and talked about the positive effects of the enhanced security, i.e., roving officers vs. regular security in a fixed position. The roving officers are better trained, more professional and better equipped to respond. They also will meet with the deans on a regular basis.

Dr. King asked about capital outlay to which Dr. Buckner responded a report will be provided at the Finance Committee meeting on September 9, 2008.

At 9:02 p.m., Dr. King moved, Mr. Patterson seconded, to go into **Executive Session**. On roll call, Members Banks, King, Lawrence and Patterson voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNED
TO EXECUTIVE
SESSION

At 9:22 p.m., Mr. Patterson moved, Dr. King seconded, to **Return to Regular Session**. On roll call, Members Banks, King, Lawrence and Patterson voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RETURNED TO
REGULAR SESSION

At 9:23 p.m., Mr. Patterson moved, Dr. King seconded, to **Adjourn the Meeting**. On roll call, Members Banks, King, Lawrence and Patterson voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

President

Secretary

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REGULAR SESSION