

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2008**, IN THE AUDITORIUM AT THORNRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL, 15000 S. COTTAGE GROVE AVE., DOLTON, ILLINOIS, BEGINNING AT 7:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence, Patterson and Penman answered. 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; Mrs. Darcelle Williams, Thornwood Principal; Ms. Kim Waller, Thornridge Principal; Ms. Ebonie Williams, Thornton Assistant Principal; Mrs. Dorith Johnson, Thornwood Assistant Principal; Mr. Rick Shields, Thornridge Assistant Principal; 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 August 13, 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:  
August 13, 2008

Mr. Burton moved, Dr. King seconded, to **Approve the Minutes for August 13, 2008**. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence and Patterson voted aye; Member Penman passed; nay, none; motion passed.

Mr. Burton moved, Lawrence seconded, to **Approve the Minutes for the Special Board Meeting on August 19, 2008**. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence and Patterson voted aye; Member Penman answered present; nay, none; motion passed.

MINUTES:  
August 19, 2008

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

DISTRICT 205  
BILLS

None for this meeting.

RESIGNATIONS

None for this meeting.

LEAVE OF  
ABSENCE

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

EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Patterson asked that everyone keep Greg Jenkins in their prayers, the Thornwood football player who sustained a serious neck injury. He is recuperating.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Jerry Doss spoke about the following:

- Mexican Independence Day was September 16, 2008. District 205 will celebrate national Hispanic Heritage Month through October 15, 2008. More information will be forthcoming.
- The Ministers Conference of South Cook County will present an Education Summit on Saturday, September 20, 2008 at Thornridge High School Auditorium from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The theme will be *A Village Living and Learning Together*. Keynote speakers are NEA President, Reg Weaver and Phillip Jackson, Executive Director of the BlackStar Project. Parents, community members, school officials and clergy are welcome.
- The Thornton Alumni Legacy Fund:
  - 2008 Wildcat Open Golf Outing will be held on Monday, September 22, 2008 at Calumet Country Club. All proceeds will support the Foundation's endowment and current needs at Thornton High School;
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COMMUNICATIONS  
CONT.

- A \$3,000 matching grant was awarded for computers, graphing calculators and CBL2's to create a Technology lab for all Biology classes;
  - \$5,000 grant for theatre revitalization;
  - \$5,000 grant for Athletic Video Technology for performance evaluation;
  - With assistance from TALF, The National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship will receive a grant award from First Midwest Bank to fund opportunities for Thornton High School students.
- District 205 Student Board of Education presented to the Board for review and approval their S.A.V.E. (Students Against Violence Everywhere) assignment. Shelby Rogers, S.A.V.E. sub-committee chair and Student Board Vice President presented the new District-wide S.A.V.E. Program, its goals, mission and vision, programmatic needs and structure.
  - South Suburban College AIM Program – During Summer 2008, several District 205 students took an 8-week course at South Suburban College to improve their skills in math or English and upon successful completion, they will be eligible to take a college level course. More student participation is anticipated for Summer 2009.
  - A funeral for Thornridge Graduate and NBA athlete Kevin Duckworth was held in the Thornridge High School Gym on September 6, 2008. Thornridge Administration and many others were thanked for planning this event in just four days. District 205 will retire the jersey and number of Kevin Duckworth on December 6, 2008. An alumni basketball game is being planned and the Duckworth family is working with the District to conduct annual community basketball camps.
  - Thomas C. Dantzler, Jr., 1988 Thornwood graduate, will compete in the Summer Olympics in China. He is a five-time World Olympic Qualifier and ranks fifth in the world in wrestling. He is a native of Harvey, Illinois.
  - The new District 205 calendar and resource book was mailed to all parents. It includes registration information and everything needed to be successful in District 205.
  - Superintendent's State of the District Tour – Dr. Buckner will visit all municipalities and feeder school districts to present the District's annual performance report, the plan for capital improvements and the 2008-2009 strategic goals and objectives as well as the new calendar and resource book which includes specific college and scholarship information.
  - Dates to Remember:  
September 18 & 19, 2008 – Parent Teacher Conference, all schools  
September 24, 2008 – All School Test Day and Early Dismissal  
September 25, 2008 – Interim Grading Period Ends  
September 26 & 27, 2008 – College Career Expo at South Suburban College
  - Dr. Buckner honored students and the Social Studies staff members for their voter registration project. On Sept. 18 and 19 they will inform students of their citizenship right and responsibility to vote and encourage them to take it seriously.
  - Mrs. Lawrence welcomed Dr. Sallie D. Penman to the Board and commended Dr. Buckner for encouraging the athletic coaches to strive for excellence and raising the GPA requirement to 2.0.
  - Mr. Patterson welcomed Mayor William Shaw and Dolton officials to the Board meeting.

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION

- Felita Crayton (Dolton) questioned the copying of ID's as people enter Thornridge. Mr. Gress responded that in light of homeland security and child predator concerns, ID's are not copies but scanned through a data base and returned before visitors are allowed in the building. This detail was not part of the package presented at the Discipline Committee meeting.
- Maurice Roberson (Dolton resident and Director for Village of Dolton) invited the public to visit the Dorchester Senior Complex and the Village of Dolton facilities for school proms, etc. He presented \$1300 to the Thornridge Athletic Booster Program which Ms. Waller accepted with thanks. Mr. Banks thanked him and Mayor Shaw for their generous donation.
- Mayor William Shaw (Dolton) spoke about children who fight on the way home from school and the heavy gang recruitment and gang activity seen in the Thornridge vicinity. He stated this is a very serious issue and has asked the Dolton Police to take the I.D. of any student fighting on the way home from school to the Thornridge Principal so the student may be suspended or expelled. He asked the Board to direct the administration to send a letter to every parent informing them of this course of action for the protection of students.

Dr. King moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Approve the Resource Persons and Volunteer Policy** (formerly known as Volunteer Policy) as presented by Dr. Buckner. The policy was presented at the Parent Advisory meetings at all three schools for input and was recommended by the Policy Committee for approval. All applicants will be fingerprinted and the turnaround time for application approval will be approximately one week. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence, Patterson and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
RESOURCE  
PERSONS AND  
VOLUNTEER  
POLICY

Mr. Patterson moved, Dr. King seconded, to **Approve the 2008-2009 District 205 Budget** as presented by Mr. Gress. The tentative budget was available for public inspection for more than 30 days and a public hearing was held. Total revenues are just above \$99,000,000; total expenses are just above \$98,000,000 and projected surplus is just above \$1,000,000. The Finance Committee recommended approval of the tentative budget and commended Mr. Gress for presenting a balanced budget and a breakdown by school. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence, Patterson and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
2008-2009 DISTRICT  
205 BUDGET

Mr. Burton, Dr. King seconded, to **Approve the Travel Meal Allowance Change** as presented by Mr. Gress from \$25.00 per day to \$39.00 per day for students and faculty, to agree with the current federal rate for non-high cost locations. The Finance Committee recommended approval of the change. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence, Patterson and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
TRAVEL MEAL  
ALLOWANCE  
CHANGE

Dr. King moved, Mr. Patterson seconded, to **Approve the Intent to issue \$50 Million in Working Cash Bonds Resolution** to be used for renovations for the three schools. The Finance Committee has reviewed and recommended approval of the resolution. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence, Patterson and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
INTENT TO ISSUE  
WORKING CASH  
BONDS  
RESOLUTION

Mr. Burton moved, Dr. King seconded, to **Approve the Resolution for a Public Hearing Regarding the Issuance of \$50 Million in Working Cash Bonds** for October 8, 2008 during the regular scheduled meeting of the District 205 Board of Education. Mr. Patterson stressed the need for improvements at all three schools. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence, Patterson and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
PUBLIC HEARING  
FOR WORKING  
CASH BONDS

Dr. Buckner asked the Thornton Administration and Faculty Association Leadership to review the **Thornton Heat Policy** concerning two items presented to the Policy Committee based on parent feedback. These items are parent notification the day before and assuring lunch will be served to students.

THORNTON HEAT POLICY

Dr. Buckner presented the first reading of the **Parental Involvement Policy 2.50**. It will be presented to the Policy Committee and parents for input and also will be available for review for 30 days on the District website before it is presented to the Board for approval.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY 2.50

Dr. Buckner presented the first reading of the **Title I Parent Involvement Policy 2.51**. Under No Child Left Behind, a separate Parent Involvement Policy must be available to only parents of identified Title I students. The policy will be available for review for 30 days on the District website before it is presented to the Board for approval.

TITLE I PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY 2.51

Mr. Burton moved, Mr. Patterson seconded to **Approve the Application for Recognition of Schools** for 2008-2009. Every year, school districts must submit a Board-approved application to the Regional Office of Education. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence, Patterson and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF APPLICATION FOR RECOGNITION OF SCHOOLS

Mr. Patterson moved, Mr. Burton seconded to **Approve the Resolution Supporting the Acquisition of EJ&E Railroad by Canadian National Cooperation**. Mr. Doss attended a South Holland public hearing concerning the \$300 Million acquisition of EJ&E by Canadian National from U.S. Steel. If approved by the Surface Transportation Board, more than 60 suburban communities will see rail traffic reductions. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence, Patterson and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF EJ&E RAILROAD ACQUISITION RESOLUTION

Mr. Ken Wendorff, Faculty Association President, thanked the Board for their increased involvement in collaboration to solve District problems such as making safe harbor and looks forward to working together on such items as the Thornton Heat Policy, safety and security in all buildings, implementation of the new attendance centers; monitoring the District Improvement Plan and Restructuring Plans. It is Critical to have trust, communicate with good purpose, and follow through in order to improve the educational opportunities for students. Educational success requires everyone's involvement.

FACULTY ASSOCIATION: ADDRESS TO BOARD OF EDUCATION

In response to Mr. Patterson's request for a schedule update, Dr. Buckner stated that moving from a Block to a 6-7 period day schedule had many challenges, including the ordering of textbooks. The process that normally takes 6 months to produce was accomplished in ten weeks. Dr. Lyke reported that Thornton had some hard times during the transition but the parents have been supportive. Mrs. Williams stated that the Thornwood parents were patient and everyone adjusted well. Ms. Waller said students appreciate the opportunity to take more classes. Dr. Buckner said that quarterly reports will be provided for status updates. In response to the Board, Dr. Buckner stated that parent rooms are in the process of being completed. Also, people feel safer in the buildings.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

At 8:20 p.m., Mr. Burton moved, Dr. King seconded, to go into **Executive Session**. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence, Patterson and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:04 p.m., Dr. King moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Return to Regular Session**. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence, Patterson and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RETURNED TO REGULAR SESSION

At 9:06 p.m. Dr. King moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Adjourn the Meeting**. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence, Patterson and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

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President

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Secretary

rp(brd.mins 9-17-08)  
**REGULAR SESSION**