

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2008**, IN THE AUDITORIUM AT THORNBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL, DOLTON, ILLINOIS, BEGINNING AT 7:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. On roll call, Members Banks, King, Lawrence and Penman and answered. Members Burton, Patterson and Ware were absent. Dr. J. Kamala Buckner, Superintendent; Mr. Tim Truesdale, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; 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; Mr. Jim Beckwith, Thornwood Assistant Principal; Mr. Tony Ratliff, 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

At 7:05 p.m., Mr. Patterson joined the meeting.

MR. PATTERSON  
JOINED MEETING

The minutes of the Public Hearing of September 17, 2008. The minutes of the executive session(s) of this meeting(s) 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:  
PUBLIC HEARING  
SEPTEMBER 17,  
2008

Dr. King moved, Dr. Penman seconded, to **Approve the Minutes for the Public Hearing on September 17, 2008**. On roll call, Members Banks, King, Lawrence, Patterson and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

Dr. King moved, Dr. Penman seconded, to **Approve the Minutes for September 17, 2008**. On roll call, Members Banks, King, Lawrence, Patterson and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

MINUTES:  
SEPTEMBER 17,  
2008

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Dr. King seconded, to **Approve the District 205 Bills**. On roll call, Members Banks, 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

Dr. King moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to **Approve the Employment List**. In response to Dr. King, Dr. Buckner stated that paraprofessionals are evaluated by the teacher they work with, using the union evaluation form. On roll call, Members Banks, King, Lawrence, Patterson and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Jerry Doss spoke about the following:

COMMUNICATIONS

- The Education Summit held on September 20, 2008 at Thornridge High School was attended by over 150 parents, faculty and clergy from the District 205 community. The new District Honors Band performed under the direction of Mr. David Eanes and two seminars on violence prevention in school were given by the S.A.V.E. students.
- On September 30, 2008 Thornwood High School hosted the Illinois House of Representatives Hearing on Education Funding Reform which was attended by over 300 faculty and community members, the focus of which was the need for public education funding reform in the State of Illinois. Also present were State representatives Will Davis, David Miller and Al Riley. Mr. Patterson asked if any information was given regarding additional funding from the State. Mr. Doss replied that only suggestions were given regarding how to reform funding.

At 7:10 p.m. Mr. Burton joined the meeting.

MR. BURTON  
JOINED MEETING

- Illinois State Treasurer, Alexi Giannoulias will hold a free workshop entitled "Opportunity Knocks" on Friday, October 10, 2008 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. To register, contact Debbie Meyers-Martin at 312-814-1252.
- South Suburban PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter) offers free overnight shelter between October 1, 2008 and April 30, 2009. Specific information can be obtained from the social workers' office at each school.
- Mr. Hector Arista, representing LifeSource Blood Centers, donated \$1,000 to Thornton Township High School for the Annual Blood Drive. There were four blood drives at Thornton this year. The Board thanked LifeSource for this donation.
- The 2008 Fall Parent Teacher Conferences held on September 18 and 19 were attended by the following number of parents: Thornton: 967; Thornwood: 800; Thornridge: 1099.
- Dates to remember:
  - October 13, 2008 Columbus Day – No school
  - October 17, 2008 Grade/Progress Reports
  - October 24, 2008 National College Fair at Navy Pier
  - October 25, 2008 PSAE Retake, Day 1
  - October 28, 2008 PSAE Retake, Day 2
  - November 11, 2008 Veterans Day – No school
- Hispanic Heritage Month will present the Chicago Mexican Ballet Folklorico on October 15, 2008 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. which is open to community members free of charge.
- Congratulations to Coach Bill Mosel who was named Chicago Bears Coach of the Week. This honor is given to outstanding Illinois high school coaches who develop players' football skills and knowledge, character, leadership, discipline and teamwork abilities as well as contribute to players' long-term success on and off the field. There are currently nine NFL players that he has coached. He will be presented with an award at the next Chicago Bears football game.
- Dr. Buckner announced that the District has received an invitation for 6 students and 4 adults to attend a leadership conference. The guest speaker will be Bishop Tutu.

The following individuals spoke during public participation:

PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION

- Edward Crayton (Dolton) asked 1) what PADS stands for, and 2) that the Board reconsider the position of public participation on the agenda. Dr. Buckner stated that PADS stands for Public Action to Deliver Shelter.
- Felita Crayton (Dolton) asked 1) that the Board reconsider the position of public participation on the agenda; 2) if the floor would reopen after unfinished and new business; 3) questioned the tabling of the Parental Involvement Policy; 4) Thanked the Board for the parent room and asked that its availability be expedited; Issue about the floor, a new rug has been ordered. 5) who is the new SCOPE representative; 6) why there was no finance meeting; 7) about the District Improvement Plan; 8) She thanked the Board for the new scoreboards and PA system at Thornridge. Dr. Buckner stated that all 3 schools will receive new outdoor scoreboards. Mr. Banks stated: 2) the floor would not reopen. Dr. Buckner stated: 3) it will be tabled to allow time for parent involvement before it is presented again; 4) a new rug has been ordered; 5) it has not yet been decided; 6) there was no new business; 7) it will be discussed later at this meeting; 8) all 3 schools will receive new outdoor scoreboards.

- Julius Patterson (Board member) asked if the public is allowed to question agenda items that have not yet been discussed at the meeting. Mr. Banks replied yes, absolutely.
- Christina Blandin and Porshey Beavers (Thorndridge students) addressed the Board concerning an invitation to a cheerleading camp in London from December 26, 2008 through January 2, 2009. They asked for donations for the trip. It was suggested that they apply to the Academic Enrichment Foundation and also do fundraising. Mr. Doss will assist them in the application process.
- Ellen Anderson (Thornton parent) was concerned that for the second year her daughter who is a special education student, has no textbooks. She stated this is not limited to special education students. Dr. Buckner stated that this issue will be addressed immediately.

PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION.  
Con't.

Dr. Buckner stated that the Parental Involvement Policy will be tabled to allow meetings for input from parents and the Policy Committee.

TABLE PARENTAL  
INVOLVEMENT  
POLICY

Dr. Buckner stated that the Title I Parent Involvement Policy will be tabled to allow meetings for input from parents and the Policy Committee. The Policy Committee will meet one week prior to the next Board meeting.

TABLE TITLE I  
PARENT  
INVOLVEMENT  
POLICY

Mrs. Lawrence stated that advertising in our schools will also be addressed at the Policy Committee meeting. Mr. Patterson added that any revenue derived from advertising should be shared equally for various programs among the three schools.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Banks recited the proposal to sell \$50 Million Limited Tax Working Cash Fund Bonds for the purpose of increasing the working cash fund of the District. The purpose of the proposed issuance of bonds is for capital improvement to the three buildings within the District. Detailed plans have not yet been developed, but there will be improvements at each of the three buildings. He asked for comments from the Board.

PUBLIC HEARING:  
ISSUANCE OF \$50  
MILLION IN  
WORKING CASH  
BONDS

Dr. Carl E. King, Sr. (Board member) asked for Mr. Gress' perspective on the success of selling the bonds based on the current financial conditions. Mr. Gress responded that market conditions can change over the next month and there is a window of opportunity to sell the bonds from November 20, 2008 until the end of February 2009.

No written testimony was received for presentation. Mr. Banks then opened the hearing for public comment.

Felita Crayton (Dolton) questioned that nothing specific had been designated for the use of the bonds. Mr. Gress replied that over the next 10 years, \$160 million in building Life Safety upgrades are needed. She asked if there will there be any further discussion with the public about how the bond money will be spent. He stated that after the issuance of the bonds, the District has 3 years to spend the money. During finance committee and capital improvements meetings it will be determined how the money will be spent, which will be open meetings to the public.

Mr. Patterson moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to adjourn the Public Hearing. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence, Patterson and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

Mr. Patterson moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to designate Rose Papaleo, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, and Henrietta Bakker, Administrative Assistant to the Director of Business Operations, to accept nominating petitions for the April 2009 School Board Election on behalf of the Board of Education Secretary, Bernadette Lawrence. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence, Patterson and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

BOARD  
SECRETARY  
DESIGNATION

Dr. Buckner stated that in view of Mrs. Sharon Voliva's passing, a volunteer is needed to be the SCOPE representative. Mr. Patterson recommended the appointment of the representative be done during Executive Session of this evening's meeting.

APPOINTMENT OF  
S.C.O.P.E.  
REPRESENTATIVE

Dr. King moved, Mr. Patterson seconded, to **Approve the Thornwood Cheerleading Out-of-State Field Trip** to Orlando, Florida from February 26 through March 2, 2009 to compete in the annual "Contest of Champions" cheerleading competition. Fundraisers and sponsorships will fund the trip, which consists of 20 cheerleaders and 2 adult chaperones. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence, Patterson and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

THORNWOOD  
CHEERLEADING  
OUT-OF-STATE  
FIELD TRIP

Mr. Patterson moved, Dr. King seconded, to **Approve the Thornton Cheerleading Out-of-State Field Trip** to Orlando, Florida from February 26 through March 2, 2009 to compete in the annual "Contest of Champions" cheerleading competition. This is the first year Thornton will be competing. Fundraisers and sponsorships will fund the trip, which consists of 20 cheerleaders and 2 adult chaperones. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence, Patterson and Penman voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

THORNTON  
CHEERLEADING  
OUT-OF-STATE  
FIELD TRIP

Dr. Dague presented the April 2008 PSAE scores. There was a district-wide 5.6% increase of students who met or surpassed the standards in Reading and a 17.5% gain in Math. The Principals shared the increased scores of their individual schools as follows:

PSAE SCORES  
PRESENTATION

- Thornwood – Reading 38.6% (5.1% gain); Math 40.1% (15.8% gain)
- Thornridge – Reading 35.5% (4.0% gain); Math 36.0% (15.3% gain)
- Thornton – Reading 36.0% (6.8% gain); Math 40.9% (21.8% gain)

Dr. Lyke recited the strategies the schools will use to achieve the state goal of 70% for 2009 including creating a safe and secure learning environment, a rigorous curriculum, interim assessments, PSAE preparation activities, professional development for teachers and continued support from parents and community members.

The District Improvement Plan update included an overview of the progress being made since the Plan was submitted.

DISTRICT  
IMPROVEMENT  
PLAN

- Summer Boost Programs were offered to students needing support in English and Reading.
- A new Freshman Reading Program was implemented in all three schools. Dr. Buckner stated that a pacing plan about reading across the curriculum will be followed but it is critical during the first quarter that the freshman program is solid.
- Literacy Coaches will support the reading program across all content areas and provide training and support to teachers. The coaches will participate in the development of math program evaluations to improve the program each year and collaborate with the English AIL and Superintendent to develop materials for the Parent Academy.
- Per the District Improvement Plan, the yearlong double period of Algebra was reformatted.
- Numeracy Coaches will provide support for math teachers across the district. There are 27 non-tenured math teachers. The coaches will continue to support articulation with feeder schools and collaborate with the Math AIL and Superintendent to develop materials for the Parent Academy.

- The reading and math data sources include interim assessment data; pre and post tests on courses; grade distributions; summer program results and parent involvement activities.

DISTRICT  
IMPROVEMENT  
PLAN, Con't.

In response to inquiries from the Board, Mr. Truesdale stated:

A uniform way to communicate Interim Assessments to parents will be developed by the Curriculum Committee. Currently, teachers use various ways to communicate information to parents, including notes on reports being sent home, emails and phone calls.

The major contributors to the students' progress are heightened awareness of the standards needed for students to be successful on the PSAE; being more attentive to the skills of the ACT readiness standards and WorkKey standards; taking advantage of software programs such as PLATO (which allows administration to set up curriculum based on ACT standards); and Key Train which helps students train for WorkKeys. The results for WorkKeys improved on this PSAE. Dr. Buckner stated the Site Leadership Team worked very hard to motivate students to take responsibility.

The homework hotline initiative has not yet been taken on. Currently, teachers send assignment sheets home for parents to sign; some teachers have sites parents can visit on the web. A homework hotline is not easy to put into place. A subcommittee would need to review all the details as there is no one model. To be effective, it must be maintained and monitored and there are expenses. The Board believes it would be a good investment so parents can be aware of homework assignments.

Dr. Dague provided the Special Education Progress update.

- A resource room has been developed at each school for Special Ed students.
- IEPs are currently being evaluated regarding the impact of the new bell schedule on students.
- Co-teaching Coordinators (one in each building) provide support to the co-teaching team, identify Professional Development opportunities and develop a system for evaluating the effectiveness of the co-teaching model.
- Improving continuum of services by adding instructional classes to Special Ed program.
- Data sources available were presented similar to those of Reading and Math.

Regarding the Safe and Supportive Learning Environment:

- Attendance centers have been created to shift daily attendance away from the Deans' Offices.
- FAST (Freshman Academy Support Teachers) works with an identified group of freshmen for improved attendance and academic progress as well as supports the freshman deans and counselors.
- Improvements in building security have been made. Security personnel are better trained and improved procedures are in place for visitors to the buildings.
- Available data will be student attendance, discipline, expulsions, professional development relative to CPR (Creating Positive Relationships) training.
- Parent Involvement Activities.

The first quarter ends on October 17, 2008. The data will be presented at the November Board meeting,

Mr. Truesdale shared some initiatives taking place in the schools describing how schools are more than AYP.

SCHOOL  
INITIATIVES

- In Social Studies, students will participate in the Chicago Metro History Fair, which incorporates Illinois learning standards in social sciences and language arts. Prizes include monetary awards and college scholarships.

- The Voter Registration Drive has concluded with the registration of 300 students and adults. Teachers and parents assisted in this drive. The League of Women Voters and United States Hispanic Leadership Institute will assist us in running a mock election on October 21, 2008.
- Senator Emil Jones will visit Thornton High School on October 28, 2008 in response to a letter sent to him by Thornton student, Andrea Rogers.
- District 205 is working with UIC for their faculty to visit our schools and talk about the current economic crisis. A partnership is being explored to conduct programs similar to this summer's pharmacy program.
- Social Studies AIL, Mr. Fickes, is working to articulate with other local school districts' social studies leaders to share instructional strategies, project ideas and collaborate on initiatives in social studies.

SCHOOL  
INITIATIVES, Con't.

At 8:24 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 9:23 p.m., Dr. King moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Return to Regular Session**. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence, Patterson, Penman and Ware 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 #2H-0809-01 for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year and recommended placement in the Academy for Learning. The Board also highly recommends substance abuse counseling sessions with follow through. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence, Patterson and Penman voted aye; nay, none motion passed.

STUDENT  
DISCIPLINE CASE  
NO. 2H-0809-01

Dr. King moved, Mr. Burton seconded, to **Uphold the Suspension** for Student Case #2H-0809-02S for the 2008-2009 school year. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence, Patterson and Penman voted aye; nay, none motion passed.

STUDENT  
DISCIPLINE CASE  
NO. 2H-0809-02S

Mr. Burton volunteered and was appointed as the SCOPE representative for the District. The position was left vacant by the passing of Board member, Sharon Voliva.

APPOINTMENT OF  
S.C.O.P.E.  
REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Burton moved, Dr. King seconded, to follow the guidelines regarding an administrative retirement contract and not respond to opposing counsel. On roll call, Members Banks, Burton, King, Lawrence, Patterson and Penman voted aye; nay, none motion passed.

PERSONNEL:  
LEGAL ISSUE

At 9:25 p.m. Mr. Patterson moved, Mr. Banks 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