

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2015** IN THE AUDITORIUM AT THORN RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL, 15000 SOUTH COTTAGE GROVE AVENUE, DOLTON, ILLINOIS, BEGINNING AT 6:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. President Lawrence made the following announcement: Any person may record or broadcast an open Board meeting. Special requests to facilitate recording or broadcasting an open board meeting such as seating, writing surfaces, lighting and access to electrical power shall be directed to the Superintendent at least 24 hours before the meeting. Recording meetings shall not distract or disturb Board members, other meeting participants, or members of the public. The Board President may designate a location for recording equipment, may restrict the movement of individuals using recording equipment or may take such other steps as are deemed necessary to preserve decorum and facilitate the meeting. Please know if you participate in public participation, you are part of the Board meeting and you may be taped.

ANNOUNCEMENT
BY BOARD
PRESIDENT

On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham and Lawrence answered. Members Gibbs, Whittington and Williams were absent. Dr. Leotis D. Swopes, Interim Superintendent; Mr. Brett Fickes, Director of Curriculum; Mr. Thomas Porter, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; Mr. John Arrington, Director of College and Career Partnerships; Mrs. Maria Brunson, Director of Information Technology; Mr. Tony Ratliff, Principal of Thornton Township High School; Mr. James Walton, Principal of Thornridge High School; Mr. Dennis Willis, Principal of Thornwood High School, Mr. Rob Grossi, Financial Consultant and James Petrungaro, legal counsel, were also present.

ROLL
CALL

In the absence of the Secretary, President Lawrence appointed Member Nina Graham to act as Secretary *Pro Tem*.

SECRETARY PRO
TEM

Report from Curriculum Committee: Ms. Graham reported that the next Curriculum meeting will be posted. Future agenda items will include updates on the AVID and IB programs.

COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE

Report from Finance Committee: Mr. Butler reported a Finance Committee meeting was held on November 3, 2015. Discussion included securing loans for major capital projects.

Report from Policy Committee: Mrs. Lawrence stated that there are policies on tonight's agenda.

Report from Discipline Committee: No report.

Report from Facilities Committee: Mr. Banks reported that the Facilities Committee met to discuss future projects as well as the transition from the previous architect, Tria, to the newly appointed Planera Architects. Building priorities were also discussed.

Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the Consent Agenda**, which includes the following:

CONSENT AGENDA

- The minutes of the Special Meeting and Executive Session of July 13, 2015.
- The minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of September 9, 2015. Mrs. Lawrence pointed out a typographical error under the Finance Committee report, stating the security cameras cost of \$203 million should be \$203,000.
- The minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of October 14, 2015.
- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated October 16, October 22, October 30 and November 6, 2015.
- Personnel dated November 12, 2015 (Resignations, Leave of Absence and Employment) See Director of Human Resources.

MINUTES:
JULY 13, 2015

SEPT. 9, 2015

OCTOBER 14, 2015

BILLS

PERSONNEL

On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham and Lawrence voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA,
Con't.

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION

- Troy Ross (Dolton) presented a petition to the Board regarding the Athletic Director at Thornridge High School.
- Lena O'Lidge (Dolton) stated the community should have a vote regarding the appointment of the parent coordinator. It should not be at the sole decision of the principal.
- Felita Crayton (Dolton) stated regarding Amendment to Policy 6:170, she hopes the importance of all taxpayers is kept in mind. She wants to keep the meetings in place as they currently are. She asked the Board to read the information presented by Troy Ross.
- Raymond Laux (South Holland) has been a youth baseball coach in the community for 20 years. He thanked the Board for the use of the field house during the winter to coach baseball, along with professional trainers. They have won several tournaments and were invited to the Central Division of the World Series. He introduced some youth baseball players to the Board.

Mr. Doss reported that since the last scheduled Board meeting, there have been four completed Freedom of Information Act requests with none pending.

FOIA

- American Education Week will be celebrated in the buildings next week. Various activities are planned.
- Strategic Planning Community Meetings will be held on November 30, December 1, and December 2, 2015 to address the financial decisions made that will impact the District during the next 6 months.
- National Honor Society students from all three schools traveled to the Northern Illinois Food Bank to help package food items for dispensary to food banks across Illinois.
- The Illinois Track and Cross Country Association is proud to announce that Monica Dawson has been selected for induction into the ITCCCA Hall of Fame on January 9, 2016.
- Thornridge's Falcon Band was selected to the 2015 Illinois Music Educators Association District 1 Honor Bands.
- On November 11, 2015 Thornton's Marching Band performed in the Chicago Veterans Day Parade and at the Folds of Honor and Strings Concert Gala at the Chicago Theater.
- Thornton's Marching Band took first place in the division 1AA Rich Central High School 11th Annual Olympian Marching Band and Drumline Festival; also 1st place in overall show style band.
- 583 Wildcat students achieved academic honors during the first grading quarter and will be recognized during celebrations next week.
- Congratulations to Mr. Jonathan Roth, science instructor, for being selected out of 4,100 applicants as one of the 5 state finalists for the State of Illinois in the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow contest. He was rewarded with two Samsung Galaxy Tabs for his classroom and is qualified to move to the second phase of the contest.
- Thornwood Student Activities invites the community to *Step with the Thunderbirds* on November 15, 2015 at the Dorchester in Dolton.
- Congratulations to the Thornwood Special Olympic Basketball team who placed 1st at the Homewood Flossmoor Viking Invitation.

COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Swopes announced that November 15 is officially designated as School Board Members' Day in the State of Illinois. He thanked the Board on behalf of the District, community and students for their time, commitment and contributions to the school district to ensure the children in Thornton Township High School Dist. 205 are afforded an equal opportunity to a quality education.

RECOGNITION OF
BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Butler moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Approve the Overnight Field Trip** as presented by Mr. Willis for 14 Civil Air Patrol cadets and 3 staff members to travel to Bloomington, Illinois from November 20 to November 22, 2015 to attend the Illinois Wing Conference. In response to the Board, Mr. Willis stated the students pay a nominal fee and has requested the Academic Enrichment Foundation for support. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham and Lawrence voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
OVERNIGHT FIELD
TRIP

Mr. Fickes, Director of Curriculum, updated the Board regarding **Project Inspire**, which is the working title for the charge issued by the Board to determine a successful credit recovery program by Fall 2016. There has been discussion to house the program in vacant areas of Thornridge. The program is designed to provide classroom instruction and employment. 69% of our total student population needs some form of help in credit retrieval at some point in their 4 years of high school. Project Inspire would need to operate as a fourth school as the estimated enrollment could be 300. Non-traditional options beyond summer school are needed to meet the needs of our students. Without options, the number of senior dropping out or not graduating will continue to increase each year. Maria Gonzalez, Thornridge teacher and committee member, spoke on behalf of the Latino community and the opportunities afforded to District 205 students. Pat Malopsy-Fortier, Thornridge teacher and committee member, added that in the past after summer school, some students were still ½ credit short to graduate. This program will enable students to graduate on time. She asked the Board to continue to issue Ventracards to needy students for transportation to Saturday classes. The committee's goal is to give a full presentation to the Board in February 2016.

PROJECT INSPIRE
PRESENTATION

Mr. Butler moved, Ms. Graham seconded to **Approve the Resolution Expressing the Intent of the Board to Reimburse Certain Capital Expenditures with Bond Proceeds** as presented by Dr. Rob Grossi. He explained that the district is considering issuing up to \$65 million in bonds to address long-term major capital projects at all 3 schools. It is beneficial that interest rates are at historically low levels. As part of the stimulus package in 2010, billions of dollars were allocated by the federal government for school districts but the State of Illinois has not allocated the \$496 million. If made available by the State, the District may be able to issue its bonds under the Qualified School Construction Bond Program, which would provide a federal tax subsidy to recover most of the interest expense associated with the borrowing and could save the District and its taxpayers millions of dollars over the life of the borrowing. Further action by the Board in the future will be required in order to complete the funding process. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham and Lawrence voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
RESOLUTION
EXPRESSING
INTENT TO
REIMBURSE
CAPITAL
EXPENDITURES
WITH BOND
PROCEEDS

Mr. Butler moved, Ms. Graham seconded to **Approve the Resolution Expressing Intent to Issue Working Cash Fund Bonds in the amount not to exceed \$2,380,000** as presented by Mr. Grossi. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham and Lawrence voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
RESOLUTION
EXPRESSING
INTENT TO ISSUE
WORKING CASH
FUND BONDS

Ms. Graham moved, Mr. Butler seconded to **Approve the Resolution of Intent to Issue General Obligation Bonds of the District in the amount not to exceed \$65,000,000 for the purpose of major structural renovation projects and upgrading school buildings and facilities** as presented by Dr. Grossi. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham and Lawrence voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
RESOLUTION OF
INTENT TO ISSUE
GENERAL
OBLIGATIONS
BONDS

Dr. Grossi presented information on the 2015 Tentative Tax Levy. The levy totals \$68,002,000. The maximum tax levy increase by law is 0.8%. He presented a breakdown showing that 59% of budgeted revenues come from real estate taxes; 25% from general state aid; 6% from restricted state funds; 5% from restricted federal funds and 6% from other local funds. The total increase to the district is approximately \$970,000. The total annual increase is estimated to be \$10 versus the previous tax year. The 2015 Tax Levy will be presented for approval at the December Board meeting and must be filed with the County Clerk by December 29, 2015.

PRESENTATION OF
2015 TENTATIVE
TAX LEVY

Mr. Butler moved, Mr. Banks seconded to **Approve the Amendments to Board Policies Nos. 2:110, Board Officers Policy; 2:220, Board Meeting Procedures; 3:40, Superintendent Duties; No. 4:60, Purchases and Contracts; No. 4:190, Network Security (New); No. 5:30, Hiring, and No. 6:170, Parent Coordinator AP** as presented by Mr. Doss who stated the amendments were presented at the October 2015 Board meeting, a public hearing was held for community input and the policies were on the District website for public review. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham and Lawrence voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
AMENDMENT TO
BOARD POLICIES

Dr. Swopes made the following report:
The District is working on the ADA (Average Daily Attendance) numbers within the schools and monitoring the information making sure the low income numbers are accurate.

SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT

At 7:39 p.m., Mr. Butler moved, Mr. Banks seconded to go into **Executive Session** pursuant to Section 2C of the Illinois Open Meetings Act to consider:

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

- The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity;
- Collective negotiating matters, and
- Litigation, when an action against the District, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent.

On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham and Lawrence voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

At 9:22 p.m., the meeting ended.

President

Secretary *Pro Tem*