

MINUTES OF A **SPECIAL MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2016** IN THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES, 465 EAST 170<sup>TH</sup> STREET, SOUTH HOLLAND, ILLINOIS, BEGINNING AT 4:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington answered. Members Banks, Gibbs and Williams were absent. Dr. Leotis D. Swopes, Interim Superintendent, were also present.

ROLL  
CALL

None.

PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded to **Open the Public Hearing of the 2016-2021 Driver Education Waiver**. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARING  
OF 2016-2021  
DRIVER ED WAIVER

The public hearing was then opened for questions. Mr. Jerry Styrsky, Area Instructional Leader for Student Services (Physical Education, Health, Drivers Ed, Athletics and Activities) responded to the following questions:

Question: Jeanita Eaves (Harvey resident)

What is the difference, how has the program changed over the years?

Response:

Years ago, the district had a 4-phase program: classroom, simulation, range and behind the wheel (BTW). Due to budget constraints, it was reduced to a 2-phase program. The State declared unless a waiver was applied for, all driver education classes would be 30 hours of classroom time and 6 hours of BTW. In 2011, the District applied for a waiver, for a 3-phase: 30 hours classroom, simulation for 30 hours and 3 hours BTW.

Question: Dr. Leotis Swopes (Dist. 205 Interim Superintendent)

What is the difference between range and BTW time?

Response:

There currently is no range time. The simulator allows students to practice in a safe environment without going out on the road. The computer system records 16 different driving functions. Simulation will be 30 hours and BTW will be reduced from 6 hours to 3 hours which training includes right and left-hand turns, driving suburban driving, highway or city driving and expressway driving.

Question: Ms. Nina Graham (Dist. 205 Board member)

Is this enough time out on the streets?

Response:

6 hours recommended by the State is not enough time to teach how to complete turns, properly brake, etc. New simulators are phenomenal and record many more functions.

Question: Jeanita Eaves (Harvey resident):

Does on the road include range?

Response:

We do not have range anymore. But the first BTW lesson includes forward and backward driving, making a loop around the parking lot range allowing teachers to erect stop signs and cones to do 3-point turn maneuvers.

Question: Dr. Leotis Swopes (Dist. 205 Interim Superintendent)

Is the 3 hours BTW inclusive of range time?

Response:

3 hours includes some range time (approximately 1 hour or less depending on driving experience) and some BTW time. Drivers licensing by the state is on a graduated program. Parents and students must spend time together in the car. Permits are in force for 2 years and includes 50 contact hours with their parent/guardian in the car.

Question: Mr. Albert Butler (Dist. 205 Board member)

In the past, was the number of Drivers' Ed phases determined by the District's finances?

Response:

Yes, the 4-phase program required 4 teachers per hour. A 3-phase program requires 2 teachers per hour.

PUBLIC HEARING  
OF 2016-2021  
DRIVER  
EDUCATION  
WAIVER, Con't.

Question: Dwayne Bearden (Dist. 205 teacher)

Does the district receive a reimbursement from the State?

Response:

Yes, approximately \$123.00 is reimbursed for each student who passes the classroom phase. \$100-\$123 is also received for those completing the BTW phase. These reimbursements cover expenses such as gas, wear and tear.

At 4:11 p.m., Mr. Banks joined the meeting.

MR. BANKS JOINED  
MEETING

Question: Annette Whittington (District 205 Board member)

How many simulators are at each school?

Response:

Sixteen. Class load is 32; 16 students attend class and 16 students go to the simulation.

PUBLIC HEARING  
OF 2016-2021  
DRIVER  
EDUCATION  
WAIVER, Con't.

Question: Dr. Leotis Swopes (Dist. 205 Interim Superintendent)

What generates the reimbursement?

Response:

Mr. Styrsky submits the student's driver's license number once they pass the class. The money comes back to the school to cover the costs of the car, maintenance, wear and tear, gas, the teachers and simulator maintenance.

At 4:20 p.m., Mrs. Whittington moved, Mr. Butler seconded to **Close the Public Hearing of the 2016-2021 Driver Education Waiver.** On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

Mrs. Whittington moved, Mr. Butler seconded to **Approve the 2016-2021 Driver's Education Modification of the Illinois School Code.** On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
2016-2021  
DRIVER'S  
EDUCATION  
MODIFICATION OF  
THE ILLINOIS  
SCHOOL CODE

At 4:21 p.m., Mr. Butler moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Adjourn the Meeting.** On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

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President

rp(brd.mins special 1-19-16)

REGULAR SESSION

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Secretary