

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2016** IN THE AUDITORIUM AT THORNTON HIGH SCHOOL, 15001 BROADWAY AVENUE, HARVEY, ILLINOIS, BEGINNING AT 6:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. President Lawrence made the following announcement: Any person may record or broadcast an open Board meeting. Recording meetings shall not distract or disturb participants. Please know if you participate in public participation, you are part of the Board meeting and may be taped.

ANNOUNCEMENT  
BY BOARD  
PRESIDENT

On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington answered. Members Gibbs and Williams were absent. Dr. Leotis D. Swopes, Superintendent; Dr. Jerry Doss, Director of Human Resources; Mr. Toriano Horton, Director of Business Operations; 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, Thornton Principal; Mr. James Walton, Thornridge Principal; Mr. Dennis Willis, Thornwood Principal and Mr. James Petrungaro, legal counsel, were also present.

ROLL  
CALL

**Report from Curriculum Committee:** Ms. Graham reported that the next Curriculum meeting will take place on April 25, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in Room T-107 where Mr. Fickes stated the shift from ACT to SAT will be discussed in detail as mandated by the State of Illinois. The Outlook Academy initiative and Machine Tool Technology Program will be on the agenda.

COMMITTEE OF  
THE WHOLE

**Report from Finance Committee:** Mr. Butler reported that at the last meeting items included the findings of the auditors' report and the rebidding of the transportation and food service contracts.

**Report from Policy Committee:** Dr. Doss reported that the Policy Committee met on April 4, 2016 and reviewed policy sections 4, 5 and 6 (business operations, buildings and grounds and human resources). Two sections remain for the comprehensive review and when complete (including the new SB100 law), the policy manual will be presented for Board review.

**Report from Discipline Committee:** No report.

**Report from Facilities Committee:** No report.

Ms. Graham moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Approve the Consent Agenda**, which includes the following:

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of February 10, 2016.
- Minutes of the Special Meeting and Executive Session of March 1, 2016.
- Minutes of the Special Meeting and Executive Session of March 4, 2016.
  
- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated March 18, March 25, April 1 and April 8, 2016.
  
- Personnel dated April 13, 2016 (Resignations, Leave of Absence and Employment) including:
  - Non-certified employment: Lawrence Goffer, Paraprofessional  
Anthony Malopsy, Paraprofessional
  - Resignation: Susan Kocinski, Nurse  
Cynthia Lane, Nurse
  - Termination: Sherry Jackson, Athletic Director  
Porscha Mazzarri, Exempt Administrative Assistant  
Janette Morales, Manager of School Performance

MINUTES

BILLS

PERSONNEL

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

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION

- Charlene McFadden (Dixmoor) spoke about school bus safety. Her granddaughter boarded a bus to go home from an afterschool activity and she told the bus driver he was going in the wrong direction, but he continued driving and dropped her off at the wrong location, which was very unsafe. It was dark and she was frightened. It was brought to school administration and the bus company. The Board will follow up on the matter.
- Felita Crayton (Dolton) asked: 1) what does a Curriculum audit entail; 2) why is graduation on a Sunday; 3) what is the Board's discretion regarding the lack of funds from the State, and 4) since 2008 the district has been saying "where are we now". The Board responded: 1) it will be addressed later in the agenda and 2) it was determined last year.

Dr. Doss reported that since the last scheduled Board meeting, there have been eight Freedom of Information Act requests completed with none pending. All requests were responded to within the allotted period of time.

FOIA

Mr. Arrington asked for a moment of silence for Mr. Otis Dunn, Thornridge Truant Officer, who recently passed away. He then presented the following information:

COMMUNICATIONS

- District 205 welcomes Dr. Leotis D. Swopes as the Superintendent of Thornton Township High School Dist. 205.
- The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Reading Night and Poetry Slam took place on April 21, 2016 at Thornridge. Everyone is invited.
- The Jefferson Awards Ceremony will take place on April 24, 2016 at Thornton High School. Nominations are being accepted for the Thunderfalcet award.
- Congratulations to Fonda Moyer from Thornridge, Terri Redick-McClendon from Thornton and George Zalewski from Thornwood as recipients of the 2016 Star Award for Teaching Excellence. Rose McGill received the Ed Van Kley Award.
- Congresswoman Robin Kelly will present the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Youth Job and Resource Expo & Job Readiness Boot Camps at Thornton High School on April 26, 2016.
- The Machine Tool Technology Program will require partnerships from feeder schools, business and colleges. The first meeting was held last week.
- Thornridge held its College and Career Fair on March 23, 2016.
- Thornridge Jazz Band will perform at the National Organization of Black County Officials Economic Development Conference on April 22-23, 2016.
- Congratulations to Thornridge senior and President of the Student Board, Dawn Russell, who holds a 4.7 GPA and has been accepted into several prestigious universities.
- Thornridge will host the first Incoming Freshmen Night this evening, showcasing programs such as AVID, Fine Arts, IB, etc.
- Thornridge 2012 alum Danzel McDaniel played college football and is hopeful to be selected during this year's NFL draft.
- Thornridge S.A.V.E. Drill team won 2<sup>nd</sup> place at Hillcrest High School's Stomp the Hill Step Competition.
- Thornridge Drama/Group Interp teams competed at the SWSC Drama/Group Interpretation Festival at Homewood Flossmoor High School and received awards for acting excellence.
- Thornton entered 12 projects in the South Suburban College Video Competition and received seven top three places awards.
- Congratulations to 467 Wildcats for making the honor roll during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.
- Thornton Contest Play competed at the IHSA State finals drama competition and placed 7<sup>th</sup> in the State. The crew earned the State champion title in the drama technical performance award for large sets.
- Thornton's Lady Wildcats attended the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Jackie Joyner Kersee Classic in East St. Louis where they finished in third place.

- Thornton's Boys Wildcat team was invited and participated in the Norm Armstrong Invite at Belleville West.
- Thornton Band members were congratulated for their Division I superior ratings.
- Thornton's Olympic Sate Team placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the State at Illinois State University.
- Thornton graduate DaQuawn Bruce is highlighted at Carthage College and will travel to Africa next spring as part of his French immersion experience.
- Thornwood teacher, Mr. Danny Gray, was presented with the prestigious Golden Apple Award Plaque along with 10 teachers across the state for teaching excellence.
- Thornwood's Paul Somerville won first place in the 2016 Art Congressional Competition. His artwork will be displayed for one year at the U.S. Capitol.
- Thornwood held its annual College & Career Fair on March 22, 2016.
- Thornwood students from *A Few Good M.E.N.* talked with students from School District 149 at their Male Youth Summit.
- Thornwood's Gold Special Olympics Basketball Team are state champions and won the gold medal for the third year in a row.

Mr. Butler moved, Mr. Banks seconded to **Ratify the Overnight Field Trip** as presented by Mr. Ratliff for the Boys Track Team to travel to East St. Louis last week. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RATIFICATION OF  
OVERNIGHT FIELD  
TRIP

Mrs. Whittington moved, Mr. Banks seconded to **Ratify the Overnight Field Trip** as presented by Mr. Ratliff for the Speech Team to travel to Springfield to participate in the State Competition. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RATIFICATION OF  
OVERNIGHT FIELD  
TRIP

Mr. Butler moved, Mr. Banks seconded to **Ratify the Overnight Field Trip** as presented by Mr. Ratliff for the Girls Track Team to travel to East St. Louis to participate in the Jackie Joyner Classic. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RATIFICATION OF  
OVERNIGHT FIELD  
TRIP

Mr. Butler moved, Mr. Banks seconded to **Approve the Overnight Field Trip** as presented by Mr. Beilfuss for the Speech Team to participate in the IHSA State Tournament in Springfield. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RATIFICATION OF  
OVERNIGHT FIELD  
TRIP

Mrs. Graham moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded to **Approve the Out-of-State Field Trip** as presented by Dr. Doss for six students and 2 chaperones to attend the National Jefferson Awards in Washington, D.C. from June 14-18, 2016. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
OUT-OF-STATE  
FIELD TRIP

Mr. Nick Cavaliere of Baker Tilly gave a presentation of the 2015 Annual Financial Report. The results of the audited financial statements were reviewed in detail at the last Finance Committee Meeting. He presented the revenues, expenses, transfers of funds, beginning fund balance and ending fund balance. Revenues were \$122.5 million; expenditures were \$13.7 million, resulting in an operating deficit of approximately \$8 million.

PRESENTATION OF  
2015 ANNUAL  
FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Whittington moved, Mr. Butler seconded to **Table the Approval to Go Out To Bid for Transportation Services.** Mr. Petrungaro advised that more time is needed to review the relationship with the current transportation provider to result in a recommendation to the Board. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL TO GO  
OUT TO BID FOR  
TRANSPORTATION  
SERVICES

Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Butler seconded to **Approve to Go Out To Bid for Food Services** as presented by Mr. Horton. The current contract ends June 30, 2016. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL TO GO  
OUT TO BID FOR  
FOOD SERVICES

Mr. Butler moved, Mr. Banks seconded to **Approve the SCMI (South Cook Math Initiative) Continuation Commitment Agreement** as presented by Mr. Fickes in the amount of Twenty-four Thousand (\$24,000.00) Dollars. District 205 has belong to the partnership for six years which is a consortium of elementary and high school districts dedicated to improving math teaching. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
SCMI  
CONTINUATION  
COMMITMENT  
AGREEMENT

Ms. Graham moved, Mr. Butler seconded to **Approve the R.I.S.E. Administrative Agreement** as presented by Dr. Swopes. The agreement is in conjunction with South Cook Intermediate Service Center to assist students needing short-term placement up to a semester rather than an entire year as a result of a behavioral crisis. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
R.I.S.E.  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
AGREEMENT

Mrs. Whittington moved, Mr. Butler seconded to **Approve the 2016-2017 Illinois High School Association Membership** as presented by Dr. Swopes for each of the three high schools. No payment for membership or entry fees is required. The IHSA governs the equitable participation in interscholastic athletics and activities. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
2016-2017 IHSA  
MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded to **Approve the CMSi Curriculum Audit** as presented by Dr. Swopes for a systems audit as the Curriculum relates to Board goals and school improvement. The conclusion will be a recommendation for the most crucial next steps on improvement. The duration of the audit is ninety (90) days and the cost is Twenty-five Thousand (\$25,000.00) Dollars. The Board commented on the Curriculum committee's input regarding the audit and to put *Children First*. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
CMSi CURRICULUM  
AUDIT

Dr. Swopes reported that the District is in compliance with ISBE regarding Indicator4 as it relates to Special Ed students' suspensions for more than ten days.

SUPERINTENDENT  
REPORT

Thornwood will be piloting Crisis Go, an advanced emergency response system. This crisis management phone application will allow administration to monitor fire drills, lockdowns, etc. from any location.

At 7:36 p.m., Ms. Graham moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded to go into **Executive Session** pursuant to Section 2C of the Illinois Open Meetings Act to consider:

EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

- Student discipline, 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, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

At 10:47 p.m., **Regular Session Reconvened.** On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington answered.

RECONVENE  
REGULAR SESSION

Mr. Butler moved, Ms. Graham seconded, to **Uphold the Expulsion** for Student Case No. 2-1516-07jsE through June 2017. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT  
DISCIPLINE CASE  
NO. 2-1516-07jsE

Ms. Graham moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance** for Student Case No. 01-15-1516-05 for placement at Academy for Learning through December 2016. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT CASE  
NO. 01-15-1516-05

Mrs. Whittington moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance** for Student Case No. 01-18-1516-06 for placement at Academy for Learning through December 2016. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT CASE  
NO. 01-18-1516-06

Ms. Graham moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance** for Student Case No. 02-17-1516-07 for placement at Academy for Learning through December 2017. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT CASE  
NO. 02-17-1516-07

Ms. Graham moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance** for Student Case No. 02-18-1516-08 for placement at Academy for Learning through December 2016 with the requirement that the student attend special services at the Ingalls Program and successfully complete Academy for Learning. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT CASE  
NO. 02-18-1516-08

Ms. Graham moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance** for Student Case No. 03-17-1516-09 for placement at Academy for Learning through May 2016. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT CASE  
NO. 03-17-1516-09

Mr. Banks moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded to **Approve the Retirement Contract for Non-Certified Staff Member, Rose Papaleo.** On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RETIREMENT  
CONTRACT FOR  
NON-CERTIFIED  
STAFF MEMBER

The matter was tabled.

SETTLEMENT  
AGREEMENT WITH  
FORMER  
ADMINISTRATOR

The matter was tabled.

SETTLEMENT OF  
FACULTY ASSOC.  
LABOR PRACTICE  
CHARGE

Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Butler seconded to **Approve the District Administrator Retirement Package.** On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

DISTRICT  
ADMINISTRATOR  
RETIREMENT  
PACKAGE

At 10:58 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

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Secretary