

MINUTES OF 33A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 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 6:35 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: Mr. Fickes reported the last Curriculum meeting was held on April 25, 2016 including discussion regarding the SAT Suite of Assessments, the Outlook Academy program for drop-out students and those at risk for graduating, Alternative Learning Opportunities Program application was submitted; Math and English Language Arts AIL's provided updates; update from chair of Latino Awareness Committee.

COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE

Report from Finance Committee: Mr. Butler reported that the Finance Committee met on May 3, 2016 and the following was discussed: the State-mandated SAT Suite of Assessments; weight room update for Thornwood, noting the entire district needs to be assessed regarding weight rooms; Mr. Horton gave a transportation contract update; Versatrans bus routing software; Perkins Grant funds; food service and Hero contract.

Report from Policy Committee: Dr. Doss reported that the Policy Committee met on May 4, 2016 and the final draft will be prepared by the IASB policy consultant for review during the summer. An update will be given at the next Board meeting.

Report from Discipline Committee: Mr. Banks stated that when the policy manual is completed, it will reflect the discipline changes put into effect by SB100.

Report from Facilities Committee: Mrs. Lawrence reported that more information is needed regarding updates to the buildings and it will be discussed at the next Facilities Committee meeting in June.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes of the Special Meeting and Executive Session of March 23, 2016.
- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated April 15, April 22, April 29 and May 6, 2016.
- Personnel dated May 11, 2016 (Resignations, Leave of Absence and Employment).

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

- Dwayne Bearden (South Holland) informed the public that an Education Fair will be held on August 6, 2016 at the South Holland Community Center and he will work with the parent advisory committees to get the information out to parents. This is the first education fair in South Holland and he hopes for a strong attendance.
- Anthony Williams asked: 1) status of the athletic director at Thornridge and 2) number of African American vendors in the district. The Board stated: 1) Mr. Walton will respond and 2) Mr. Horton will respond.

Dr. Doss reported that since the last scheduled Board meeting, there have been no Freedom of Information Act requests.

FOIA

Mr. Arrington presented the following information:

COMMUNICATIONS

- The new Student Board members were sworn in on May 10, 2016.
- 2016 Summer School schedule is: First Semester begins June 1 - June 21. Second semester is June 22 - July 14. Hours are 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Everyone is encouraged to visit the District 205 website for summer programs.
- At the Academic Enrichment Foundation Reaching for the Stars Gala the following individuals received the 2016 Star Teacher Award: Fonda Moyer, Thornridge; Terri-Redick-McClendon, Thornton and George Zalewski, Thornwood. Mrs. Rose McGill was received the Ed Van Kley Community Service Award.
- On April 29, 2016 Thornridge AVID seniors hosted students from New Trier in the exchange program.
- Thornridge alum and former Student Board member, Brian Geiger, was named a 2016-17 AmeriCorps Fellow.
- Thornridge Band received two superior ratings at the IHSA State Organizationals in jazz and concert band.
- Thornridge senior Cambresha Hogg will enlist in the U.S. Army in August 2016 and received a scholarship check for \$153,654 from the Army College Fund and the Montgomery G.I. Bill to be applied to her college and continuing education.
- Thornton senior Ariana Thompson received the 2016 Gates Millennium Scholarship.
- Thornton Intro to Business class represented first among 30 high schools in Junior Achievement Business Competitions.
- The Wildcat Girls Track Team won the Conference Championship on May 5, 2016.
- Wildcat scholarship recipients are: Anatasia Redmond and Mariana Banks, Al Riley Scholarship; Kimberly King, Ron Edmonds Superintendent's Scholarship; Justice Randle, Omegi Psi Phi Scholarship, and Kimberly King and Monique Tucker, Ingalls' Memorial Scholarship.
- Thornwood's Advanced Placement Breakfast honored the students of the semester for the AP courses.
- Ms. Danielle Jania has been selected as Calumet City's 2016 Teacher of the Year.
- The Ray Price Memorial Foundation Education Scholarship recipients are Keyshawn Simpson who will pursue a degree in music education at the University of Arkansas and Jasmine Willis received the vocational scholarship to study culinary arts at Joliet Junior College.
- Ms. Lisa Zuccolo was named the Coach of the Year for Area 7 Special Olympics.

At 6:56 p.m., Ms. Williams joined the meeting.

MS. WILLIAMS
JOINED MEETING

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded to **Approve the Out-of-Country Field Trip** as presented by Mr. Willis for Thornwood student, Jamiah Shepard, to travel to Austria for the snowshoe events at the Special Olympic Winter World Games 2017 after receiving the gold medal in snowshoeing this past winter in Galena, Illinois. Special Olympics will pay for her entire trip. She will travel to Salzburg, Austria with her coach Danielle Jania from March 16 - 25, 2017. The total cost for Ms. Jania's expenses are \$4,840.00. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Whittington and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
OUT-OF-COUNTRY
FIELD TRIP

Ms. Graham moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded to **Approve the Out-of-State Field Trip** as presented by Mr. Ratliff for 11 New Generation of Men students to travel to Harrisburg, PA to compete at the Youth Step USA National Step Competition from May 26 - 29, 2016. Four male and one female chaperones will accompany the group. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Whittington and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
OUT-OF-STATE
FIELD TRIP

Mr. Butler moved, Mr. Banks seconded to **Approve the Purchases Exceeding \$10,000.00** as presented by Mrs. Anderson, the Career & Tech Ed Area Instructional Leader, from funds in the Perkins Grant. Items include computers for the business and computer education labs in each school building and supplies for the Navistar senior lab. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Whittington and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
PURCHASES
EXCEEDING
\$10,000

Mr. Butler moved, Mr. Banks seconded to **Approve the Versatrans Bus Routing Software Purchase** as presented by Mr. Horton and discussed at the Finance Committee meeting. The cost will not exceed \$28,000.00 and includes training for 5 staff members. Yearly maintenance fee is \$4,730.00. The software will allow the district to monitor the bus routes and significantly reduce transportation costs. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Whittington and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
VERSATRANS BUS
ROUTING
SOFTWARE
PURCHASE

Mr. Ken Wendorff, Faculty Association President, announced the Ray Price Scholarship recipients.

FACULTY
ASSOCIATION

He ended by saying that it was a pleasure to work on behalf of the students of District 205. He asked the Board to work together with all stakeholders. Everyone's goal should be to work for all students.

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded to **Approve the Resolution Authorizing Scariano, Himes and Petrarca, Chtd. as Property Tax Appeal Counsel** as to represent District 205 for 2015 property tax appeals. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Whittington and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
RESOLUTION
AUTHORIZING
PROPERTY TAX
APPEAL COUNSEL

Dr. Swopes reported the following:

- The Board-approved curriculum audit will begin the week of May 16-18, 2016 and a report will be provided at its completion.
- Parent coordinators will now provide bi-monthly reports for accountability.
- The district is considering self-hosting the AFL programs to reduce costs. ECHO has been informed of this endeavor. It is also hoped that the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program can be hosted by District 205 beginning either the 2016-17 or 2017-18 school year.
- Strategies for incoming freshmen are being explored to improve their foundation as they enter District 205.
- ECHO expenses for programs using District 205 resources are being addressed and reassessed by district administration.

SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT

At 7:14 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

- 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, Whittington and Williams voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

At 10:10 p.m., Regular Session Reconvened. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington answered.	RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION
Mr. Butler moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to Rescind the Prior Termination of Mr. John Thomas and to Approve the Settlement Agreement with Former Administrator, John Thomas , in the amount of Two Hundred Ninety-Five Thousand (\$295,000.00) Dollars, of which \$30,000.00 is covered by insurance and \$265,000.00 will be paid by the District. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.	APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT
Ms. Graham moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to Approve the Resignation of Administrator, James Walton , effective June 30, 2016 with a payment of Twenty-five Thousand (\$25,000.00) Dollars less withholding as severance pay. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.	APPROVAL OF RESIGNATION OF ADMINISTRATOR
Mr. Butler moved, Ms. Graham seconded, to Approve the Settlement Agreement with the Faculty Association for Labor Practice Claims, agreeing to advance teachers a double step for 2016-17 for employees who performed extra duties who were not advanced a step for the 2014-15 school year. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.	APPROVAL OF FACULTY ASSOCIATION SETTLEMENT
The Board discussed the infant care workers and truant officers being put back on the district payroll. Currently, they are under the security contract with Prudential. A financial comparison will be developed including the pros and cons for those workers to return to the district payroll. Legal counsel informed the Board to be cautious regarding possible breach of contract.	INFANT CARE AND TRUANT WORKERS DISCUSSION
At 10:20 p.m., Mrs. Lawrence moved, Ms. Graham seconded, to Adjourn the Meeting. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.	ADJOURNMENT

President

Secretary