

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2016** IN THE STUDENT CAFETERIA AT THORNWOOD HIGH SCHOOL, 17101 SOUTH PARK AVENUE, SOUTH HOLLAND, 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, Assistant Superintendent 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. Brad Beilfuss and Mr. Steve Valant, Thornridge Assistant Principals; Mr. Dennis Willis, Thornwood Principal and Mr. James Petrunaro, legal counsel, were also present.

ROLL
CALL

Report from Curriculum Committee: Mr. Fickes reported the next Curriculum meeting will be held on July 14, 2016 and will include discussion of Outlook Academy location, PLATO online renewal contract, and the Turnitin contract, which is an English site.

COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE

Report from Finance Committee: None.

Report from Policy Committee: None.

Report from Discipline Committee: None.

Report from Facilities Committee: Mr. Garrett reported the following: Thornton: Renovations to the OT building including bathroom modifications and vestibule flooring, warehouse organization and new fencing to safeguard the new garden; Thornridge: replacement of 5 classroom unit ventilators, painting of the Athletics Commons and digging out drainage loop on the football field; Thornwood: tennis court repairs, hallway tile repairs and wheel chair lift repairs. District wide there will be new mulch added; broken street sign poles will be corrected; all district unit ventilators, air handling units, rooftop units and makeup units will or have been maintained for the upcoming school year, and a water sampling to test for lead and copper.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of April 13, 2016.
- Minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of May 11, 2016.
- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated June 8, June 16, June 23 and June 30, 2016.
- Personnel dated July 13, 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

- Karen Gardner (Calumet City) spoke of her son's infractions for 2015-16 school year and legal counsel advised her to address the Board during Executive Session.
- Jaylen Gardner (Calumet City) will speak to the Board during Executive Session.
- Tasha Johnson requested to address the Board during Executive Session regarding her daughter.

- Jim Thormeyer (1991 Thornwood graduate) addressed the Board regarding recognition of retired head softball coach, Gary Lagesse, who coached the Thornwood softball program for 29 seasons with 694 wins and 3 state championships. He served as Athletic Director for 11 years. John Dunlop coached Thornwood's baseball program for 19 seasons with 439 wins and one state championship. He is requesting a dedication of the softball and baseball fields in their names. The cost of purchasing and installing a permanent marker will be taken up by private donations at no cost to the district. Petitions for the dedication contain over 500 signatures.
- Felita Crayton (Dolton) asked: 1) update on the Thornwood Performing Arts Center renovations, and 2) that the Curriculum meetings be scheduled to allow parents to attend. Dr. Swopes will provide an update and Mr. Fickes responded that the evening schedule will resume in the fall.
- Eunice Flowers (Dolton) stated that students do not feel safe at Thornridge and she hopes that the new Thornridge Principal will do what is right for the children.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, Con't.

Dr. Doss reported that since the last scheduled Board meeting, one Freedom of Information Act request has been completed with one pending. All requests were responded to within the allotted period of time.

FOIA

Mr. Arrington presented the following information:

COMMUNICATIONS

- Summer School Graduation is July 14, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.
- Summer Gifted STEM luncheon celebration will take place at the T107 and will feature workshops and the award ceremony.
- Registration dates are the same for all three high schools – August 2, August 4 and August 6, 2016. Early registration is July 19, 2016. Online registration will begin after July 20, 2016.
- Thornton's David Clay was selected from *The Experiment of International Living* to travel to India on a fully-funded scholarship for a four-week experience focused on public health and community development in India.
- Parents are invited to a Camp AVID workshop at Thornton High School on July 14, 2016.
- The Wildcat College & Career Prep Camp End of Camp Celebration will take place in T108 on July 18, 2016.
- Thornwood Special Olympics students participated in the Special Olympics Golf Qualifier tournament where there were two first place finishers.
- Eleven juniors from the IB Program took the AP exam. Seven passed the exam, two of whom reached the highest score. This is an amazing achievement.

Mr. William Lawrence, Thornton science teacher, and his students who traveled to Utah to participate in a National Competition to build a robotic prosthetic limb on a budget of \$80.00, gave a presentation about their experience and displayed the prosthetic limb to the Board. Their project was damaged during shipping and they had to pull all their resources to rebuild it. The students talked about what they learned regarding teamwork, preparation and dedication—not just the subject of robotics. The experience enlightened them to seek high aspirations after high school.

STEM UTAH TRIP PRESENTATION

Mrs. Whittington moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the 2016-2017 School Calendar Modification** as presented by Dr. Swopes to modify the calendar to include April 4, 2017, Election Day, as a non-attendance day, thus extending the school year one day. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF 2016-2017 SCHOOL CALENDAR MODIFICATION

Mr. Banks moved, Ms. Graham seconded, to **Approve the Overnight Field Trip** as presented by Dr. Doss for Student Board members to participate in a Youth Leadership camp held at Eastern Illinois University from July 17-21, 2016. Students will stay in the dorms and meals will be provided. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP

Mr. Ratliff presented the **First Reading of Amendments to Board Policy Sections 7:190; 7:190e3; 7:200; 7:210; 7:220 and 7:240** for a 30-day review prior to adoption. Under Senate Bill 100, the Student Discipline Program is renamed to Student Behavior Program. The District Discipline Committee will provide input.

FIRST READING OF AMENDMENTS TO BOARD POLICY SECTIONS 7:190; 7:190e3; 7:200; 7:210; 7:220 and 7:240

Mrs. Whittington moved, Mr. Banks seconded to Approve the **Out-of-State Field Trip** for the Thornridge cheerleaders to participate in a cheer camp. It was brought to the Board's attention that the request was never received by District Office due to administrative absences at Thornridge. Ms. Mae Brown, Thornridge head cheerleading coach, stated the trip is from July 19-21, 2016 in Kenosha, WI. Thirteen students and two chaperones. Onsite chaperones will be provided at the camp. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF OUT-OF-STATE FIELD TRIP

Dr. Swopes reported on the June 28, 2016 District Administrative Leadership Retreat which took place in Starved Rock, Illinois to strength the administrative effectiveness leading into the new school year under the Board Goals as a student-centered district. He also spoke about the upcoming Senate Bill 100, which focuses on student behavior.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

At 7:29 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

- 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;
- Student discipline;
- Collective negotiating matters;
- 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, and
- Review of Executive Session minutes.

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

At 11:30 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 **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance** for Student Case No. 04-1901516-16 with placement at RISE until December 2016. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE CASE NO. 04-1901516-16

Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance** for Student Case No. 014 01820 0001 5080 1842 with placement at the Peace Center until December 2016. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE CASE NO. 014 01820 0001 5080 1842

Mr. Butler moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the Resolution Rescinding Reduction-in-Force for Certain Teachers** as presented by administration. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION RESCINDING REDUCTION-IN-FORCE FOR CERTAIN TEACHERS

Ms. Graham moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Deny Faculty Association Grievance No. 42516.** On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

GRIEVANCE NO.
42516

Ms. Graham moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Approve a 6% Compensation Increase for Administration and Exempt Personnel** for the following individuals: John Arrington; Brad Beilfuss; Maria Brunson; Rodney Davis; Rosaura Duran; James Durkin; Brett Fickes; Sarit Hampton; Randy Henderson; Kelly Hock; Don Holmes; Greg Hughes; Kathleen Matushek; Rakyah Merriweather; Cynthia Morris; Lisa Mweisga; Robert Penman; Thomas Porter; Socorro Prado; Jesus Quinones; Tony Ratliff; Vennie Raybon; Tyrone Richardson; Wanda Russell; Michael Sanders; Steve Valant; Thomas Walsh; Dennis Willis and Le'on Willis. Some of these individuals have not had a raise since 2009. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

COMPENSATION
FOR
ADMINISTRATION
AND EXEMPT
PERSONNEL

Mrs. Whittington moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Approve the Hiring of Ebonie Williams as Thornridge Principal** in the amount of One Hundred Fifteen Thousand (\$115,000.00) Dollars. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

HIRING OF
THORNRIDGE
PRINCIPAL

At 11:40 p.m., Mrs. Whittington moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Adjourn the Meeting.** On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

President

Secretary