

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 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 6:40 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 a Curriculum Committee meeting was held on July 14, 2016 and topics covered were a detailed discussion of Outlook Academy; Edmentum PLATO renewal and Turnitin contract. These items are on tonight's agenda.

COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE

Report from Finance Committee: Mr. Horton reported a Finance Committee meeting was held on August 8, 2016. Seven of the 17 agenda items are being recommended for approval at tonight's meeting. The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on September 6, 2016.

Report from Policy Committee: Dr. Doss reported that Public Hearings regarding the new Board Policy Manual will be tentatively held on September 7, 21 and 28, 2016 prior to presentation to the Board for approval. The dates will be posted on the website prior to the meetings.

Report from Discipline Committee: Mr. Banks reported that he has met with the Discipline Committee regarding the effects of SB100 which will be included in the student handbooks.

Report from Facilities Committee: Mr. Garrett reported that Facilities Committee meetings will be held on the last Thursday of each month at 4:00 p.m. at the District Office.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes of the Special Meeting and Executive Session of May 16, 2016.
- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated July 14 through August 10, 2016.
- Personnel dated August 10, 2016 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations).

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

- Edward Crayton (Dolton) asked: 1) the total number of reduction-in-force rescissions; 2) current student enrollment and 3) the results of the Strategic Planning meetings. Dr. Swopes will respond.
- Felita Crayton (Dolton) stated: 1) for the third year, the students and public are not satisfied with Sodexo food service; 2) how long is the PLATO contract extended. She delivered a FOIA request to Dr. Doss.

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. Fickes presented the following information:

COMMUNICATIONS

- August 15, 2016 – Teacher Institute Day 1 at Thornton High School.
- August 16, 2016 – Teacher Institute Day 2 in each of the buildings.
- August 17, 2016 – First Day of School, Freshmen only
- August 18, 2016 - First Day of School, Upperclassmen
- Online registration is now available to pay student fees online.
- New district administration includes:
 - Dr. Jerry Doss, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
 - Robert Penman, Director of Research, Assessment and Quality Analysis
 - Ebonie Williams, Thornridge Principal
 - Jennifer Kuyper, Thornton Assistant Principal
 - Alfonzo Pearson, Career & Technical Education Area Instructional Leader
 - Patricia Fortier, Outlook Academy Coordinator
- Thornton Sophisticats placed fourth in the UDA Dance competition and received a trophy for Best Dance Team and Outstanding Dance Team.

Mr. Dwayne Bearden, President of the Faculty Association, addressed the Board, stating he has resided in South Holland since 1998. His goal as President is to serve the children of District 205. Four elements necessary to build a positive district include transparency, communication, collaboration and respect for the guidelines within the teachers' contract. He looks forward to working with the union and all the stakeholders of District 205.

FACULTY
ASSOCIATION

Mrs. Whittington moved, Mr. Banks seconded to **Approve the 2016-2017 Annual Scope Dues** in the amount of \$2,014.00 as presented by Dr. Swopes. SCOPE (South Cooperative Organization for Public Education) is a lobby organization that provides guidance on various funding issues pending with the State and Professional Development opportunities. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
2016-2017 SCOPE
DUES

Dr. Rob Grossi, Financial Consultant, presented the 2016-2017 Tentative Budget. The Budget may change before it is presented for approval at the September Board meeting.

PRESENTATION OF
2016-2017
TENTATIVE
BUDGET

Regarding revenues: Major budget assumptions include real estates to increase approximately 1% due to historically low inflation levels (0.7%) which dictate growth in tax capped school districts; an increase in the bond levy and an expected decrease in net tax collections. General State Aid will increase \$2.1 million due to an increase in State funding to eliminate the proration and an increase in average daily attendance of 276 students. State and Federal grants will remain relatively flat.

Regarding expenses: Total salaries are projected to increase 3.7% due to decreased staff size resulting from the reduction inforce (RIF) process, and an increase in staff size due to the Outlook Academy and increases in compensation levels. Employee benefits are projected to increase 3.3% as health insurance premium increases will be partially offset by an overall reduction in staff size; bond payments will increase due to Series 2015 bond issue; out-of-district tuition will drop \$1.4 million due to the timing of payments and major capital expenses will increase as the district begins major capital improvements.

It is important to note that revenues from regular sources will be short of the expenses by approximately \$4 million, thus the district is operating on a \$4 million deficit. The district will borrow \$20 million for capital projects, the benefits being historically low interest rates; major capital projects that are needed, and by using bond proceeds for capital projects will alleviate some stress of future budgets. The ending fund balance will be \$53,944,000, which includes \$20 million from bond proceeds. The fund balance will drop from \$37.8 million to \$33.8 million.

A 5-year comparison of revenue showed that in 2015-16 the net real estate collections jumped from \$58.9 million to \$66 million. General State Aid increased from 89% to 95%. Also, state grants went up because more payments were made in 2016 than 2015.

PRESENTATION OF
2016-2017
TENTATIVE
BUDGET, Con't.

It is projected revenues will increase this year from \$112 to \$113 million. While revenues went up, the total expenses went up approximately \$10 million. In 2010, the district had a deficit of \$4 million. An expenditure reduction plan was put into place and revenues ran over expenses for 4 consecutive years. However, in 2015, the district began deficit spending. Average daily attendance is going up. Tax collections are at 84%.

The major financial threats facing the district are the growing structural deficit; shifting of teacher pension costs from the State to the district; creation of a charter school; the likely property tax freeze and the major capital projects that need to be addressed.

Mrs. Whittington moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to Approve the **Sodexo Food Service Contract Extension for One Year** as presented by Mr. Horton. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
SODEXO FOOD
SERVICE
CONTRACT
EXTENSION

Mr. Butler moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Approve the Turnitin Contract** as presented by Mr. Fickes and at the July 14th Curriculum and August 2nd Finance Committee meetings. This software is required by the IB Program and prevents plagiarism. The cost is \$25,750.00. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
TURNITIN
CONTRACT

Mr. Butler moved, Ms. Graham seconded, to **Approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Chicago State University** as presented by Mr. Fickes to house our Outlook Academy pending final negotiations. The memorandum was presented at the July 14th Curriculum and August 2nd Finance Committee meetings. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MOU
BETWEEN DIST.
205 AND CHICAGO
STATE UNIVERSITY

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Approve the Edmentum Plato Contract** as presented by Mr. Fickes and at the July 14th Curriculum and August 2nd Finance Committee meetings. The contract is for one year at a cost of \$62,000.00. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
EDMENTUM
(PLATO)
CONTRACT

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Approve the Johnson Controls Fire Alarm Contract** as presented by Mr. Garrett and at the August 2nd Finance Committee meeting. The contract is for fire alarm monitoring and repairs at all three schools at a cost of \$28,289.00. The Board confirmed there was extensive research regarding the need for this contract. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
JOHNSON
CONTROLS FIRE
ALARM CONTRACT

Mr. Butler moved, Ms. Graham seconded, to **Approve the Thornwood Bathroom Upgrade Bid** as presented by Mr. Garrett and at the August 2nd Finance Committee meeting. The upgrade would accommodate disabled students, allowing access by all wheelchairs. The cost is \$18,470.00. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
THORNWOOD
BATHROOM
UPGRADE BID

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Approve the Security Camera Upgrade Phase 2** as presented by Mr. Garrett and at the August 2nd Finance Committee meeting. The upgrade would repair all cameras that failed prior to August 1, 2016 and add new high definition cameras that will help reduce the number of blind spots throughout the district. The cost is \$90,316.00 and will be paid from the Buildings and Grounds fund. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
SECURITY
CAMERAS
UPGRADE PHASE 2

Mrs. Whittington moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the 2017 Graduate Date** of May 21, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. as presented by Dr. Swopes. The Sunday date works best for students who are involved in extra-curricular activities that require them to travel out of town during the week for state finals, etc.

APPROVAL OF 2017 GRADUATION DATE

Dr. Swopes reported that \$15 million in scholarships has been received by District 205 students. He also commented on the number of IB students who took the AP Psychology test, passing with high scores. President Lawrence thanked the teachers and administrators for the increase in test scores and student population. The Board commented on the positive strides made by the Faculty Association and District Administration. Dr. Swopes introduced Dr. Albert Holmes, Jr. as the Title I Coordinator. He also commented on the positive energy going forward as the district strives to put children first.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

At 7:29 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,
- Student discipline;
- Collective negotiating matters;
- Litigation, when an action against, 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
- The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired.

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

At 9:37 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 **Approve the Classroom Agreement for the Segra Program** (Peace Center). On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF ECHO CLASSROOM LEASE AGREEMENT FOR SEGA PROGRAM

Mr. Butler moved, Ms. Graham seconded, to **Approve the Classroom Agreement Between ECHO and Thornton Township High School Dist. 205.** On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF CLASSROOM LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN ECHO AND DIST. 205

Ms. Graham moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the Resolution Rescinding Reduction-in-Force for Certain Teachers** (4 teachers). 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

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to **Approve the Notice to Remedy Concerning Area Instructional Leader.** On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
NOTICE TO
REMEDY

At 9:40 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

President

Secretary