

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2016** IN THE AUDITORIUM AT THORNRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL, 15000 SOUTH COTTAGE AVENUE, DOLTON, ILLINOIS, BEGINNING AT 6:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 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 Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington answered. Members Banks, Gibbs and Williams were absent. Dr. Leotis D. Swopes, Superintendent; 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. Steve Valant, Thornridge Assistant Principal; Mr. Dennis Willis, Thornwood Principal and Mr. James Petrunaro, legal counsel, were also present.

ROLL
CALL

Report from Curriculum Committee: Mr. Fickes reported that a Curriculum Committee meeting will be held on October 13, 2016. Agenda topics will be NWEA Universal Assessments and diagnostic screeners; updates on the PEACE Center and Outlook Academy, a Geography AP class for freshmen.

COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE

Report from Finance Committee: Mr. Horton reported that a Finance Committee meeting was held on October 4, 2016. Three items are on tonight's agenda for approval. The next meeting will be on November 1, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.

Report from Policy Committee: None.

Report from Discipline Committee: Mr. Ratliff reported that the SB100 changes were reviewed by the policy committee.

Report from Facilities Committee: Mr. Garrett reported that the Facilities Committee met on September 29, 2016. Topics included plans and costs for capital improvements. Plans will be modified as required to meet the needs of the district. The next Facilities Committee meeting will be on October 27, 2016.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes of the Board Retreat, Regular Meeting and Executive Session of June 28, 2016.
- Minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of July 13, 2016.
- Minutes of the Special Meeting and Executive Session of August 2, 2016.
- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated September 15 through October 12, 2016.
- Personnel dated October 12, 2016 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations).
- Ratification of the 2016-2017 Application for Recognition of Schools.

MINUTES

BILLS

PERSONNEL

RATIFICATION

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

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION

- Comfort Abuwa (South Holland) Student Board President, stated that the Student Board has partnered with Ascension St. Susanna Catholic Church to hold a “Better Together – Walk Against Violence” on October 15, at 10:00 a.m. This event was planned by the students, for the students. She also stated that the Faculty Association was circulating a flyer for the same event but the Student Board was not involved.
- Jaclin Davis (Hazel Crest) Executive Director of Cook County Southland Juvenile Justice Council, was concerned of the disrespect Mr. Dwayne Bearden showed the Student Board. The flyer circulated invited faculty after the walk to a social event where alcoholic beverages are served. She asked that he not be allowed to spoil the reputations of partners of the event.
- Felita Crayton (Dolton): insists that the Board look seriously at the food service (running out of food; unprofessional levels of respect of the workers), that this has been going on for 4 years and when the contract comes up for renewal it should not be with the current vendor.
- Jerry Jones (South Holland): 1) expressed appreciation for Coach Jennings at Thornridge who has been nominated for the Chicago Bears Coach of the Week; 2) appreciates the hiring of Mr. Gerald Potacki as Athletic Director; 3) stated it is outstanding that the Outlook Academy gives students a second chance; 4) stated he is excited to see the commitment of the district to the education of the youth of the community, and 5) supports the Student Board of Education.
- Arlene Hayes (South Holland) invited everyone to Thornwood’s Performing Arts production of The Freedom Riders on November 3-5, 2016 in the Performing Arts Center.

At 6:58 p.m., Mr. Banks joined the meeting.

MR. BANKS JOINED
MEETING

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

FOIA

Mr. Arrington presented the following information:

COMMUNICATIONS

- On October 15, 2016 the Walk Against Violence will take place at 10:00 a.m. starting at Ascension St. Susanna Church, Harvey.
- On October 15, 2016 the Food Service Sanitation Course will take place at Thornton High School. Visit www.district205.net for more information.
- The PEACE Center open house and ribbon cutting ceremony will take place October 27, 2016 at 306 E. 144th Street, Dolton.
- Senior trips to over 75 colleges have occurred with nearly 700 seniors attending.
- Infant Care Center held Grandparents Day on September 30, 2016.
- Thornridge football coach, Patrick Jennings, was named Chicago Bears Coach of the Week and will be honored on December 4 at Soldier Field during the Bears v. 49ers game.
- The first District 205 Color Run was a huge success and the fundraiser will provide 2 AVID seniors with college scholarships.
- Mayor Rogers of Dolton will host a hiring event for Thornridge students on October 18 for employment at the new Taco Bell set to open in December in Dolton.
- Thirty-six Thornridge seniors have been accepted to Illinois State University.
- Wildcat Unified Soccer team won 1st place at the Northern Illinois Area championship.
- The Marching Wildcats finished 2nd at the Robert Morris University Marching Band Invitational.
- On September 30, Brooks Middle School students joined the Thornton AVID team to discuss the seriousness of their education
- Thornwood Special Olympics Flag Football Team took 1st place in the Springfield Invitational and went home undefeated.

- Thunderbird Marching Band participated in the Columbus Day Parade on October 10.
- Special Olympics Gold Team took 1st place at the Area 7 Volleyball Tournament.
- Over 30 students attended the 100 Black Men College & Scholarship Fair. One-third of the students received immediate acceptance letters.
- Outlook Academy students will complete the program on October 22.
- Chicago State University will offer a Dental Assistant Program that is open to everyone in the community. Information is available at the schools.
- The Outlook Academy Open House will be October 26 at 9:30 a.m.

COMMUNICATIONS,
Con't.

Ms. Graham moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Approve the School Resource Officer Memorandum of Understanding** between Thornton Township High School Dist. 205 and ECHO as presented by Dr. Swopes which is related to the formation of the PEACE Center. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
MEMORANDUM OF
UNDERSTANDING

Mrs. Whittington moved, Ms. Graham seconded, to **Approve the Overnight Field Trip** as presented by Mr. Porter for ten Special Olympics students to travel to Trenton, Illinois to compete in the Flag Football Team contest from October 15-16, 2016. The total cost is \$4,474.96. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
OVERNIGHT FIELD
TRIP

Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the Overnight Field Trip** as presented by Mr. Porter for nine Special Olympics students to travel to Rockford, Illinois to compete in the State Volleyball contest from October 21-23, 2016. The total cost is \$3,801.12. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
OVERNIGHT FIELD
TRIP

Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the Overnight Field Trip** as presented by Mr. Porter for ten Special Olympics students to travel to Carbondale, Illinois to compete in the Flag Football Team contest from October 29-30, 2016. The total cost is \$4,964.05. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
OVERNIGHT FIELD
TRIP

Mrs. Whittington moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the Liberty Covenant Church as the Afterschool Snack Program Administrator** as presented by Mr. Horton and recommended by the Finance Committee. Liberty Covenant Church will deliver the food and be responsible to process claims for reimbursement for the remainder of the 2016-17 school year including 2017 summer school. In response to the Board, he stated there is no cost to the District and Liberty Covenant Church was selected based on their affiliation with Day Care Resources, which has been a state-approved sponsor for the program since 1984. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
AFTERSCHOOL
SNACK
ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Approve the Absolute Software Contract** as presented by Mrs. Brunson. Absolute Software is the anti-theft software on the newly-purchased lab computers in the amount of \$12,425.00. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
ABSOLUTE
SOFTWARE

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Approve the Velociti Cabling Installation** at Thornwood as presented by Mrs. Brunson in the amount of \$79,325.00, paid through the Technology fund. The wireless cabling will lead to each classroom. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
VELOCITI CABLING
INSTALLATION

Mrs. Whittington, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Table the Approval of the District 205 School Board Policy** until November as further discussion is needed with the IASB Policy Consultant. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
DISTRICT 205
SCHOOL BOARD
POLICY

Dr. Swopes stated that the Walk Against Violence is a noble effort of the Student Board to formulate plans and do something about it. This event is an endeavor to join community members together to achieve one goal, peace. Vision 2020 is a collaboration of multiple organizations including IASA, IASB and the Illinois Principal Association to work with education stakeholders to push for a new school funding system model, known as the efforts-based funding for school reform. The future of public school education in Illinois needs a new formula as Illinois is 50th in the country for funding schools. The scheduled monitoring visit from the State of Illinois for the EL Program has been postponed until further notice from the State.

SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT

At 7:28 p.m., Mr. Butler 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 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.

Mr. Banks thanked the District, building administrations and Faculty Association for building an excellent team to serve the District.

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

At 10:55 p.m., **Regular Session Reconvened.** On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington answered.

RECONVENE
REGULAR SESSION

Mr. Butler moved, Ms. Graham seconded, to **Transfer Students to Peace Center, Case Nos. 01-2019-1617-2; 07-18-1617-14; 08-18-1617-15, 03-17-1617-17 and 03-17-1617-19.** On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASES
01-2019-1617-2;
07-18-1617-14;
08-18-1617-15;
03-17-1617-17, and
03-17-1617-19

Mrs. Whittington moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance for Student Case No. 02-1617-01tsE and recommended placement in RISE until the end of the 2016-17 school year pursuant to the Board's written decision. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
No. 02-1617-01tsE

Ms. Graham moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance for Student Case No. 02-1617-10naE** and recommended placement in RISE until the end of the 2016-17 school year pursuant to the Board's written decision. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
No. 02-1617-10naE

Mrs. Whittington moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance for Student Case No. 03-19-1617-13** and recommended placement in RISE until the end of the 2016-17 school year pursuant to the Board's written decision. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
No. 03-19-1617-13

Ms. Graham moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance for Student Case No. 08-18-1617-16** and recommended placement in RISE until the end of the 2016-17 school year pursuant to the Board's written decision. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
No. 08-18-1617-16

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Uphold the Expulsion for Student Case No. 01-16-1617-20** until September 1, 2017. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
No. 01-16-1617-20

Ms. Graham 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
RESCINDING
REDUCTION-IN-
FORCE FOR
CERTAIN
TEACHERS

Ms. Graham moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the Settlement Agreement Regarding Property Tax Appeal** as discussed in Executive Session, authorizing the Board's attorney to execute that Settlement Agreement. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

PROPERTY TAX
ASSESSMENT
INCREASE
SETTLEMENT
AGREEMENT

Mrs. Lawrence stated that Agenda Item C. Action Regarding Employment Contract Step Increase (3) will be tabled.

TABLE
EMPLOYMENT
CONTRACT STEP
INCREASE

At 11:08 p.m., Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Adjourn the Meeting.** On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

President

Secretary