

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2015** IN THE AUDITORIUM AT THORNTRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL, 15000 SOUTH COTTAGE GROVE AVENUE, DOLTON, ILLINOIS, BEGINNING AT 6:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. President Lawrence made the following announcement: Any person may record or broadcast an open Board meeting. Special requests to facilitate recording or broadcasting an open board meeting such as seating, writing surfaces, lighting and access to electrical power shall be directed to the Superintendent at least 24 hours before the meeting. Recording meetings shall not distract or disturb Board members, other meeting participants, or members of the public. The Board President may designate a location for recording equipment. Please know if you participate in public participation, you are part of the Board meeting and you 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, Interim Superintendent; 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, Principal of Thornton Township High School; Mr. James Walton, Principal of Thornridge High School; Mr. Dennis Willis, Principal of Thornwood High School and James Petrunaro, legal counsel, were also present.

ROLL
CALL

Report from Curriculum Committee: Ms. Graham reported that the next Curriculum meeting will be held in mid-January and will be posted.

COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE

Report from Finance Committee: Mr. Butler reported a Finance Committee meeting was held on December 1, 2015. Items discussed were the Machine Tool Technology Program to be located at Thornton High School; Talent Ed Professional Development program which is needed by administrators for the evaluation process; going out to Bid for Snow Removal; bus company contract discussion especially as used by Special Ed students and the online registration system which is in process.

Report from Policy Committee: No report.

Report from Discipline Committee: No report.

Report from Facilities Committee: Mr. Butler reported that a meeting will be held in the near future to establish priorities for the Buildings & Grounds Department.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated November 13, November 19 and December 4, 2015.
- Personnel dated December 9, 2015 (Resignations, Leave of Absence and Employment) See Director of Human Resources.

BILLS

PERSONNEL

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

CONSENT AGENDA,
Con't.

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION

- Felita Crayton (Dolton) invited the Board to the Thornridge Christmas Concert on Sunday at 4:00 p.m. She asked if the bus service, Sunrise and First Student, as discussed at the October Finance Committee meeting has been resolved. Mr. Butler responded that the discussion is ongoing.

Mr. Doss reported that since the last scheduled Board meeting, there has been one completed Freedom of Information Act requests with none pending.

FOIA

- A survey is posted online until December 11, 2015 for the Superintendent Search for internal and external stakeholders. Everyone is encouraged to complete the survey.
- Students from all three schools volunteered their time at the Thornton Township Tree Lighting Ceremony on November 28, 2015.
- Thornridge will host FAFSA Night on December 10, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. to inform senior parents how to apply for college financial aid.
- Thornridge Falcon Band will host the annual Holiday Band Concert on Sunday, December 13, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.
- Thornridge sponsored a successful blood drive on December 1, 2015.
- Thornridge Boys Varsity Basketball team defeated No. 10 ranked Bradley Bourbonnais with a 77-66 victory.
- The Wildcat Winter Wonderland will be held on December 10, 2015 in the Cafeteria from 5:00-6:30 p.m.
- Thornton will hold its annual Parent Induction Ceremony on December 12, 2015 in T107 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Congratulations to 11 Thornton students for being among the Top Illinois State Scholars.
- On December 4 Thornwood surprised Ms. Mary Wimmer as the winner of the Chicago Bears & Symetra Heroes in the Classroom Award. Chicago Bears Chairman George McKaskey, Jr. and Mr. Don DeGraff, Mayor of South Holland were present at the event. She received a \$1,000.00 scholarship for her classroom.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Butler moved, Ms. Graham seconded to **Approve the 2015 Tax Levy** as presented by Mr. Charnot. The total amount of the tax levy is \$68,002,000. The tentative levy was presented at the November Board meeting and has been posted for public viewing. No inquiries were made regarding the tentative levy. The levy must be filed with the Cook County Clerk on or before December 29, 2015. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham and Lawrence voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF 2015
TAX LEVY

Mr. Butler moved, Ms. Graham seconded to **Open the Public Hearing on the Issuance of \$2,380,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds and \$65,000,000 General Obligation Bonds.** On roll call, Members Butler, Graham and Lawrence voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARING
ON THE ISSUANCE
OF WORKING CASH
FUND BONDS AND
GENERAL
OBLIGATION
BONDS

The public hearing was then opened for questions. Mr. Robert Charnot, Director of Business Operations Consultant, responded to the following questions:

Question: Felita Crayton (Dolton resident)
Regarding the \$65,000,000 bonds: What is the process and when will it begin?

Response:
The \$65 million is for the purpose of building, equipment, repairs to facilities. It is not for education purposes. The \$2,380,000 working cash fund bonds can be used for education or other critical needs of the district.

Question: Felita Crayton (Dolton resident)
What is the borrowing percentage rate?

Response:
That will not be known until the bonds are sold.

Question: Felita Crayton (Dolton resident)
Is there a hard copy available for taxpayers so better understand the needs and uses?

Response:
Mrs. Lawrence responded that the presentation from last month has the information will be provided to her.

Ms. Graham moved, Mr. Butler seconded to **Close the Public Hearing on the Issuance of \$2,380,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds and \$65,000,000 General Obligation Bonds.** On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Butler moved, Ms. Graham seconded to **Approve the Issuance of \$2,380,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds and \$65,000,000 General Obligation Bonds** as presented by Mr. Charnot. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF ISSUANCE OF WORKING CASH FUND BONDS AND GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS

Mr. Butler moved, Ms. Graham seconded to **Approve the Resolution Expressing Official Intent to Reimburse Certain Capital Expenditures from Bond Proceeds** as presented by Mr. Charnot. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham and Lawrence voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION EXPRESSING OFFICIAL INTENT TO REIMBURSE CAPITAL EXPENDITURES FROM BOND PROCEEDS

Mrs. Whittington moved, Mr. Butler seconded to **Approve the Resolution Approving an Application to the Illinois State Board of Education for Qualified School Construction Bond Designation for Bonds to Finance Certain Capital Projects in and for the District, Authorizing the Board President to Execute the Application and Designating an Official of the District to Submit the Application** as presented by Mr. Charnot. If approved, the District may receive \$50 million in bonds with no interest charge. This is contained within the \$65 million general obligation bonds, not in addition to. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION FOR APPLICATION TO ISBE FOR BOND DESIGNATION AND BOARD PRESIDENT AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE SAME

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded to **Approve the Talent Ed Teacher Evaluation Tool** as presented by Mr. Fickes. The District 205 Evaluation Committee recommends this system as discussed at the December 1st Finance Committee meeting. It provides online implementation for a total cost of \$15,250.00. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF TALENT ED TEACHER EVALUATION TOOL

Mrs. Whittington moved, Ms. Graham seconded to **Approve the Machine Tool Technology Studies Program** as presented by Mr. Doss. Mr. Eric Fox and Mr. Richard Condon, members of the Thornton Alumni Legacy Fund, presented a proposal for a new career-based machine shop program at the October 14, 2015 Board meeting. They are working with sponsors and alumni to help fund this program. They presented the financial aspects to the Finance Committee. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MACHINE TOOL TECHNOLOGY STUDIES PROGRAM

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded to **Approve to Go Out to Bid for Snow Removal Services** as presented by Mr. Charnot. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL TO GO OUT TO BID FOR SNOW REMOVAL SERVICES

Mr. Charnot stated that this does item does not require Board action. The Thornton Township School Treasurer, Mr. Eugene Varnado, provided the following information to the Board. The Treasurer's Office has been pursuing the Infinite Visions software project for nearly five years. The majority of the school districts in this jurisdiction have already moved over to Infinite Visions. The contract is between the Treasurer's Office and Infinite Visions and its cost will be spread out over a 5-year period. It is anticipated to have the system up and running for the 2016-17 school year. The training for the conversion is extensive and will last 4-5 months. In response to the Board, Mr. Varnado said the Treasurer's Office makes the decision on the software and he would like all districts to participate. The larger the district, the larger the cost. By using the financing available, the burden will be lessened and spread out over 5 years. The training is included in the cost of the contract. The current financial software, DCR, is antiquated. All of the south suburban treasurers are all using Invinite Visions. The Coordinator of Business Services, Ms. Ellissa Mwisigwa, talked about some slow and antiquated processes of DCR. It will be more expensive to keep DCR than switch to Infinite Visions. Legal counsel stated the Treasurer's Office has the authority to upgrade the software and as a courtesy, Mr. Varnado is informing the District they are making a move. The Treasurer's Office is cooperatively funded by all districts; each district will pay a pro rata share of the contract.

APPROVAL OF
INFINITE VISIONS
FINANCIAL
SOFTWARE
SOLUTIONS/TYLER
TECHNOLOGIES
CONTRACT
AGREEMENT

At 7:31 p.m., the Board took a short recess. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none.

RECESS

At 7:41 p.m., the meeting resumed and Mr. Banks joined the meeting. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington answered.

MEETING
RESUMED AND
MR. BANKS JOINED
MEETING

Mr. Butler moved, Ms. Graham seconded to **Approve the InfoSnap Online Registration System** as presented by Mrs. Brunson for a total cost of \$45,000.00 for a 2-year contract, which was presented at the December 1, 2015 Finance Committee meeting. Mrs. Lawrence added that the Faculty Association expressed interest in online registration, allowing easier student registration for parents. There will be a cost savings on staff and supplementals. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
INFOSNAP ONLINE
REGISTRATION
SYSTEM

Mrs. Whittington moved, Mr. Butler seconded to **Approve the PTAB Resolution for Scariano, Himes & Petrarca** as presented by Mr. Charnot to include an outstanding 2010 PTAB (Property Tax Appeal Board) case. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
PTAB RESOLUTION

Dr. Swopes made the following report:

SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT

- South Cook ISC#4 has completed a life safety/health visit for Thornton Township High School Dist. 205. The building supervisors were complimented and an overall good report was received, citing only a few minor items.
- ECHO is undergoing program changes. District 205 is looking at bringing students and programming back to the district at a cost savings.

At 7:50 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 and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

EXECUTIVE
SESSION, Con't.

At 10:22 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 **Expel Student Case No. 2-1516-12ddE** from December 18, 2015 through June 2017, with the provision the student be allowed take final exams after school hours, under the supervision of an administrator. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
NO. 2-1516-12ddE

Mr. Butler moved, Mr. Banks seconded to **Approve the Settlement with Athletic Director Applicant, James Dye**, in the amount of Seventy-seven Thousand Five Hundred (\$77,500.00) Dollars. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
SETTLEMENT WITH
ATHLETIC
DIRECTOR
APPLICANT JAMES
DYE

At 10:25 p.m., Mr. Banks 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