

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 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 6:00 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; 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. 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 is forthcoming in October. Future agenda topics will be NWEA Suite of Assessments; potential partnership with South Suburban College for classroom use; updates on the PEACE Center and Outlook Academy, SAT and a new AP class for freshmen.

COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE

Report from Finance Committee: Mr. Horton reported that a Finance Committee meeting was held on September 7, 2016. Five items are on tonight's agenda for approval. The next meeting will be on October 4, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.

Report from Policy Committee: Dr. Doss reported that a Public Hearing regarding input and changes to the new Board Policy Manual was held on September 7, 2016. Review and approval of the policy changes related to Senate Bill100 and concussions also occurred.

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 1, 2016. Topics included building updates for bleacher repairs, tuck pointing, field house floor replacements, boiler chimney exhaust stacks, parking lots and curbs as well as updating building plans. Proposal for a domestic water flush at Thornton was also discussed. The next Facilities meeting will be on September 29, 2016.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of June 8, 2016.
- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated August 11 through September 14, 2016.
- Personnel dated September 14, 2016 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations).
- Ratification of Overnight Field Trip (Special Olympics Golf Contest in Decatur, Illinois)
- Ratification of Thornton Game of the Week Televised on Comcast.

MINUTES

BILLS

PERSONNEL

RATIFICATIONS

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

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Open the Public Hearing on the 2016-2017 District 205 Budget.** On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARING
ON 2016-2017
DISTRICT 205
BUDGET

Dr. Rob Grossi explained the hearing process as required by State law. He has been working closely with the district business office in preparing the budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017. When backing out one-time budgeted capital expenses of \$5.2 million, it is projected that total expenses (\$118.9 million) will exceed total revenues (\$114.7 million) by \$4.2 million. On the positive side, the State will fully fund general State aid for the first time in several years. This, combined with an increase in average daily attendance last year, will increase GSA by \$2.1 million. On the negative side, a projected increase in staff size and in increase in compensation levels more than offset expected reductions in special education expenses. The district will need to transfer \$16 million from the transportation fund to the education fund to help stabilize it. It is anticipated the district will borrow \$20 million this fiscal year for capital projects.

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.

The Public Hearing was then opened for questions:

- Felita Crayton (Dolton) asked for the current deficit.
Response (Dr. Grossi): Approximately \$4 million.
- Felita Crayton asked if the district is considering borrowing \$20 million.
Response (Dr. Grossi): Yes. This would address major building needs and help future budgets.

Mrs. Whittington moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Close the Public Hearing on the 2016-2017 District 205 Budget.** On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION

- James Lashley (Chicago) requested the Board to retire jerseys from the classes of 1971 and 1972 and to rename the Thornridge gym in honor of Quinn Buckner.
- Felita Crayton (Dolton): 1) stated that after the PEACE Center presentation she will have questions; 2) how many district 205 teachers will transfer to the Outlook Academy program; 3) what is the current district 205 enrollment; 4) asked if the Board is aware that the custodial staff is being transferred from district 205 buildings, and 5) requested a committee be formed for student truancy and attendance.
- Bambade Abdullah (South Holland) spoke in favor of the after school snack program and disagrees regarding its cancellation. Some students do not receive food at home. There is no cost to the district.

Dr. Doss reported that since the last scheduled Board meeting, no Freedom of Information Act requests have been completed with three pending. All requests were responded to within the allotted period of time.

FOIA

Mr. Arrington presented the following information:

COMMUNICATIONS

- Thornridge will host its first AVID Color Run for College on Saturday, October 1, 2016.
- Thornton Township Marching Wildcats finished in second place at the Chicago Football Classic last weekend.
- Thornridge held an AVID back-to-school BBQ for students, parents and staff.
- Student enrollment is up over 100 students compared to this time last year.
- District 205 IB students surpassed the State ACT average, with a score of 22.2. The District ACT average is 16 and climbing.
- Outlook Academy has over 200 students currently enrolled. This is a second chance program for District 205 students age 17-21 to earn their high school diploma.

Mr. Ratliff thanked the Board for supporting the Urban Farming Initiative. Brian Cepeda and Ayesha Searcy presented the goals of the initiative including information regarding the farm lab and skills learned by students. The learning path speaks to the environment as it pertains to food. It is hoped to have every content area covered by the learning stations. Feeder schools and other high schools will be invited to visit the garden. An educational space was created where visiting students and tour a pathway full of lessons about components of the food growing process. The produce raised will be used by the culinary arts department and donated to local food banks. The district will partner with municipalities to increase the number of community gardens. More information can be found at www.turbanfarm.weebly.com.

URBAN FARMING
INITIATIVE
PRESENTATION

Mr. Dwayne Bearden, Faculty Association President, addressed the Board regarding transparency, collaboration and communication. He stated that since the reduction-in-force in March 2016, over 90% of the teachers have been called back. A large number of substitutes are currently in classrooms. Although promised, the Association did not play a role regarding the Peace Center. No proposal was received and a right to bargain was initiated in order to obtain information. The district will spend approximately \$1 million for 20 students. While the Association supports Outlook Academy, again they were not included in the discussion and initiated a right to bargain to obtain information. They put children first and desire to work with the Board and administration. At the request of Mrs. Lawrence, Mr. Horton, Director of Business Operations, explained that there is a savings of approximately \$700,000 by implementing the Peace Center. The State allows the district to claim the Outlook Academy attendance for ADA purposes, which would amount to over \$1.8 million based on 300 students. Therefore, the district is saving money as well as generating money.

FACULTY
ASSOCIATION

Mr. Tyran Cox-Bey shared the vision of the Peace Center which is to provide social, emotional, academic means for students. A highly-qualified teaching staff is in the program whose objective is to offer strong concepts of self. The main goal is to ensure students attend school which was not a main focus in the past. It is hoped community service projects can be provided. Restorative justice practices are offered to students to improve their behaviors and repair relationships first, then focus on academics and enable them to return to their home schools and be successful.

PEACE CENTER
PRESENTATION

Mrs. Patricia Fortier spoke on behalf of Outlook Academy. She clarified that there are currently just under 200 registered. Registration continues and there is a waiting list at all 3 schools, totaling 150 students. This has exceeded all expectations. Students have learned to utilize the Chicago State University library and use the open gym. For every student enrolled, District 205 pays the university \$300. There is no rental fee. Thus far, the district has spent less than \$50,000. The students, community and teachers will benefit from this program. The Board added that Outlook Academy puts children first and is needed by the community. State funding will be received until a student reaches age 22. This is not a grant, it is a state-funded program.

OUTLOOK
ACADEMY
PRESENTATION

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Approve the 2016-2017 Budget and Resolution.** On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
2016-2017 BUDGET
AND RESOLUTION

Ms. Graham moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to Approve the **Overnight Field Trip** as presented by Mr. Porter for ten students and four chaperones to travel to Springfield on September 24-25, 2016 to participate in the Special Olympics Flag Football Contest. On roll call, Members 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 Out-of-State Field Trip** as presented by Mr. Willis for the football team to travel to Saginaw, Michigan on September 23-24, 2016 at a cost of \$7,446.80. This is due to Southwest Suburban Conference scheduling complications. Tours to Saginaw Valley State and Western Michigan Universities college tours will be included in this trip. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
OUT-OF-STATE
FIELD TRIP

Mr. Butler moved, Ms. Graham seconded, to **Approve the Xtivity Contract Renewal** as presented by Mrs. Brunson for 2016-2017 which includes current access points (wireless devices) supporting Thornridge and Thornwood High Schools in the amount of \$15,898.00. This renewal was presented at the September 7th Finance Committee meeting. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
XTIVITY CONTRACT
RENEWAL

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Approve the School Dude Contract Renewal** as presented by Mrs. Brunson for 2016-2017 which includes the help desk, maintenance ticket and asset management system in the amount of \$11,045.00. This renewal was presented at the September 7th Finance Committee meeting. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
SCHOOL DUDE
CONTRACT
RENEWAL

Mr. Butler moved, Ms. Graham seconded, to **Approve the Microsoft Software Contract Renewal** as presented by Mrs. Brunson for 2016-2017. The contract covers servers and computers in the amount of \$53,775.70. This renewal was presented at the September 7th Finance Committee meeting. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
MICROSOFT
SOFTWARE
CONTRACT
RENEWAL

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Approve the Dell Backup and Recovery System Purchase** as presented by Mrs. Brunson. The current system is 11 years old and backups are beginning to fail. The cost for the appliance is \$27,729.01 and the redundancy application is \$8,106.60 for total cost of \$35,835.61. The quote was presented to the Finance Committee on September 7. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
DELL BACKUP AND
RECOVERY
SYSTEM
PURCHASE

Mr. Butler moved, Ms. Graham seconded, to **Approve the Purchase of Dell Computers** as presented by Mrs. Brunson for labs at all schools at a cost of \$514.64 each, totaling \$182,707.85. The quote was presented to the Finance Committee on September 7. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
PURCHASE OF
DELL COMPUTERS

Dr. Swopes reported that on August 31, 2016, Mr. Frank Zuccarelli, Thornton Township Supervisor, hosted a Youth Conference with other local officials, designed to rebuild trust between the community and the police. Superintendents from surrounding schools and community personnel were present and approximately 1,000 students between 13-18 years of age attended the event. Regarding the budget, although the State doesn't require the district to do a deficit reduction plan, internally we will continue to do such a plan. Peace Center and Outlook Academy concerns were addressed this evening by the reports of Mrs. Fortier, Mr. Cox-Bey and Mr. Horton. It is the intent of the district to follow the faculty contract regarding placement of teachers at these programs. Also, optimal learning has not suffered by increasing class sizes.

SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Approve the Overnight Field Trip** as presented by Mr. Willis for 14 Civil Air Patrol cadets and 4 chaperones to attend the 2016 Illinois Wing Conference in Naperville from October 14-16, 2016 at a cost of \$5,415.20. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
OVERNIGHT FIELD
TRIP

At 8:19 p.m., Mr. Butler moved, Ms. Graham 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.

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

At 11:40 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 **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance** through September 2017 for Student Case No. 01-20-1617-01. It was recommended that the student attend RISE. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
NO. 01-20-1617-01

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance** through September 2017 for Student Case No. 01-19-1617-02. It was recommended that the student attend RISE. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
NO. 01-19-1617-02

Mr. Butler moved, Ms. Graham seconded, to **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance** through September 2017 for Student Case No. 01-18-1617-03. It was recommended that the student attend the PEACE Center. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
NO. 01-18-1617-03

Mr. Butler moved, Ms. Graham seconded, to **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance** through September 2017 for Student Case No. 03-18-1617-05. It was recommended that the student attend the PEACE Center. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
NO. 03-18-1617-05

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance** through September 2017 for Student Case No. 02-19-1617-06. It was recommended that the student attend RISE. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
NO. 02-19-1617-06

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance** through September 2017 for Student Case No. 01-17-1617-07. It was recommended that the student attend the PEACE Center. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
NO. 01-17-1617-07

Mr. Butler moved, Ms. Graham seconded, to **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance** through September 2017 for Student Case No. 05-18-1617-10. It was recommended that the student attend the PEACE Center. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
NO. 05-18-1617-10

No action will be taken on Student Case Nos. 06-18-1617-11 and 03-19-1617-12 as time has been served.

STUDENT
DISCIPLINE CASE
NOS. 06-18-1617-11
and 03-19-1617-12

Mr. Butler moved, Ms. Graham seconded, to **Accept the Settlement Agreement and General Release for a Basketball Coach.** On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

SETTLEMENT
AGREEMENT

Ms. Graham moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, **Accept the Step Adjustment for Two Employees.** On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

EMPLOYMENT
CONTRACT STEP
INCREASE (2)

At 11:45 p.m., Mr. Butler moved, Ms. Graham seconded, to **Adjourn the Meeting.** On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

President

Secretary