

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 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 6:30 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; 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; Mrs. Ebonie Williams, Thornridge Principal; Mr. Dennis Willis, Thornwood Principal and Mr. John Fester, 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. The next Curriculum will be in January 2017 and will include Student Board members.

COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE

Report from Finance Committee: Mr. Horton reported that a Finance Committee meeting was held on November 1, 2016. Four items are on tonight's agenda for approval. The next meeting will be on December 5, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.

Report from Policy Committee: Dr. Doss reported that the Board policy manual is being compiled by the IASB policy consultant for presentation to the Board.

Report from Discipline Committee: None.

Report from Facilities Committee: Mr. Garrett reported that the Facilities Committee met on October 27, 2016. Three agenda items were moved forward to the Finance Committee: roof repairs, tuck pointing and bleacher and stadium updates. The next Facilities Committee meeting will be on December 2, 2016.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated October 13 through November 9, 2016.
- Personnel dated November 9, 2016 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations).

BILLS

PERSONNEL

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

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION

- Lorynda Welton (District 205 teacher) stated she looks forward to teaching science each day. Planning periods with other teachers provide learning strategies and contribute to her success. She has been on the Professional Development committee, designing workshops. No matter what problems may arise in the classroom, co-workers always give support. All stakeholders want to empower the students.

- Shelly Lester (District 205 teacher) spoke in response to statements made to Mr. Bearden at the September 14th Board meeting regarding the PEACE Center and Outlook Academy. The real facts are that Mr. Bearden and the staff are here for the students, including students of other communities. Last year Mr. Bearden led a great effort: he organized and delivered over 15,000 water bottles for Flint, Michigan families. He models the behavior he expects of others. She hopes that the district moves forward to build trust.
- Mark Danielson (District 205 teacher) is a graduate of Thornwood and currently a science teacher. He has deep respect for the Board, administration and faculty who all want the best for the students. It takes teamwork and mutual respect to make this a great district.
- Patti Brucki (Thornwood teacher) began by stating think globally, act locally. She has acted locally and with passion where she works and lives. She and her family participated in the AVID Color Run at Thornridge recently. Five of her Thornwood students traveled to participate in the Poetry Slam in Orland Park, one of whom won the Poetry Slam. Dwayne Bearden has passion to do great things. She will stand beside Dwayne Bearden because he is authentic and has passion for the students.
- Felita Crayton (Dolton) applauded the teachers. Her concern is what she has advocated for over 25 years, which is transparency, inclusiveness and understanding the rights and responsibility to not have taxation without representation. She wants to bring community and schools together.
- Teresa Knight (Dolton) stated she was unaware of a fight that occurred at Thornridge that resulted in her son's suspension. He sent to RISE and is now back at Thornridge. She was informed her son would be expelled if he does not withdraw. The Board will speak to her during Executive Session.
- James Knight (Dolton) stated he is a very disgruntled Dolton resident/parent. He spent three days at Thornridge and did not like what he saw in the hallways. Student behavior was terrible. His children are new to this district. A co-worker removed her son from Thornridge – gang members were going through his pockets in class. He believes his son was recruited by gang members and is fearful to give names to administration regarding fighting. There is a gang recruitment problem at Thornridge and metal detectors are needed. He drove around the parking lot several times and was never stopped or questioned.
- Andre Rice (Dolton) stated a teacher was shot in a Thornridge classroom in March 1985. The community is in great danger due to gun violence.
- Priscilla Williams (Dolton) has concerns about student safety and bullying and stated she has had great experiences with the teachers and staff at Thornridge.
- Ms. Nina Graham (Board Member) stated the District needs to involve the Dolton Police Dept. regarding guns in the school before something serious happens. Dr. Swopes has been working with the Dolton police regarding the school safety including safe passage.
- Ken Wendorff (District 205 teacher) is concerned about student safety and believes metal detectors are needed. The lack of transparency and collaboration during the 8 years he was Faculty Association president has not changed with the election of Mr. Bearden. If both sides cannot be transparent and collaborative to solve anything, it is bleak. If the Faculty Association President is being ignored, so are the Faculty Association the members.

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION,
Con't.

Dr. Doss reported that since the last scheduled Board meeting, there have been no Freedom of Information Act requests received.

FOIA

Mr. Arrington presented the following information:

COMMUNICATIONS

- Thornton Township sponsored a breast cancer awareness event during the final regular season Thornwood and Thornridge football game. Thornridge Band member participated in Operation Christmas Child and donated 50 boxes filled with essential items to children in destitute areas around the world.
- Thornridge athletes were recognized for the Southwest Suburban Conference.

- The first time since 2002, Thornridge Boys Cross Country member, Jazare Jones, qualified for the IHSA state cross country meet.
- Five Falcon Band members were selected into the 2016 Illinois Music Educators Association District 1 Bands, the result of a rigorous audition process from 53 high schools in the Chicagoland area.
- The Wildcat Novice Speech Team finished 2nd out of 16 schools with 3 tournament champions.
- The Wildcat Special Olympics Basketball team won two games against Argo High School on October 26.
- Thornton and the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute held a mock election on November 7 for Wildcat students.
- Thornwood football team advanced to the playoffs for the first time in 15 years.
- Two Thornwood volleyball players were selected to the 2016 All-Conference Team for volleyball.
- Thornwood congratulates Zaria Pittman on advancing to the IHSA Girls Cross-Country Sectional.
- Thornwood's Arayanna Shaffer and Ericka Ramsey were selected to the 2016 All-Conference Team for Girls' Swimming.
- Thornwood's Taylor Irons and Shay Taiwo received athletic scholarships.
- Thornwood Special Olympics blue basketball team at Thornwood took first place at the Homewood Flossmoor Invitational for the third consecutive year.
- Thornwood Special Olympics flag football team took first place at the state tournament.
- Special Olympics bowlers competed for the first time in the Regional Bowling Tournament.
- Michael Blair, Thornwood alum and former staff member, has been invited to the 2018 Winter Olympics in South Korea to compete on Jamaica's Bobsled Team. Blair's GoFundMe page can be found at www.gofundme.com/blairolympicbound).
- District 205 students attended the Purdue-Calumet college fair and also the National College Fair in Champaign-Urbana.
- Students from the engineering programs attended a college and scholarship event at Northern Illinois University.
- On November 22, PEACE Center students will tour the Chicago State University campus.
- Outlook Academy students will begin dual credit classes and have the opportunity to take certain CSU classes.

COMMUNICATIONS,
Con't.

Dr. Swopes announced that November 15, 2016 is School Board Member Day in Illinois and thanked the Board of Education for the role it plays in the decision-making of public education. The theme this year is *Leadership Starts Here*. School Board members work tirelessly to ensure all students are provided the opportunity for a successful education.

RECOGNITION OF
BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Dwayne Bearden, Faculty Association President, stated that to show their support, faculty members participated in the Walk Against Violence sponsored by the Student Council. At a Board meeting the president of the Student Council addressed the Board and insinuated that the Faculty Association undermined the efforts of the Student Council. The Board allowed the disrespectful speech to continue. Faculty Association does not deserve this kind of disrespect.

FACULTY
ASSOCIATION

Mr. Gerald Doughty, Faculty Association Executive Director, stated that Mr. Bearden's goal as President is to bridge the gap of collaboration that has existed with the District administration and the Board and provide the common goal of what is best for the students. Much time and money has been invested in building relationships with all stakeholders, i.e., through transformation teams provided through CEC (Consortium for Educational Change). The Faculty Association has been by-passed and teachers want their voices heard in decision-making. They as professionals interact with students every

day and are frustrated when the importance of the impact they have on the decision-making process is disregarded, including consultants and non-educators who make classroom-related decisions. The recent purchase of Mastery Connect bypassed input from the technology committee, even though teachers are using the program. The joint discipline/attendance committee was also bypassed regarding the discipline policy even though those teachers had valuable information. When teachers are not part of the decision making process, it is uncomfortable because they have so much information to offer. Please use the joint committee process to its fullest potential with the common goal of making students more successful.

Dr. Rob Grossi presented the estimated 2016 tax levy which will be approved at the December 14th Board meeting and filed with the Cook County Clerk on or before December 23, 2016. The total levy is \$70,682,000 and the breakdown is as follows:

PRESENTATION OF
2016 TENTATIVE
TAX LEVY

IMRF Fund	1,300,000
Social Security Fund	1,300,000
Liability Insurance Fund	2,500,000
Transportation Fund	15,200,000
Education Fund	37,500,000
Building Fund	5,900,000
Working Cash Fund	537,000
Life Safety Fund	1,074,000
Special Education Fund	4,296,000
Leasing Fund	<u>1,075,000</u>
Total Levy	70,682,000

The rate of inflation used in a tax-capped school district is 0.7%. The estimated impact to the District is that the tax extension for non-bond and interest funds will increase approximately \$900,000 and that the tax extension for the bond fund will be unchanged. Therefore, the total tax increase is estimated to be \$900,000. The estimated impact to taxpayers is the annual increase due to non-bond and interest levy is approximately \$10 versus the previous tax year. The change in the bond and interest fund levy is approximately \$0 versus the previous tax year. Therefore, the total annual increase is estimated to be \$10 versus the previous tax year.

Mr. Butler moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Approve the Out-of-Country Field Trip** as presented by Mr. Ratliff for ten French students and one chaperone to travel to Quebec, Montreal, Canada from April 9 to April 14, 2018. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
OUT-OF-COUNTRY
FIELD TRIP

Mrs. Graham moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to **Approve the Appointment of Annette Whittington as the Thornton Township High School Dist. 205 Delegate to the IASB Delegate Assembly for the Joint Annual Conference 2016** as presented by Dr. Swopes. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
APPOINTMENT OF
IASB DELEGATE

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Approve the Purchase of John Deere Tractors** as presented by Mr. William Garrett for three tractors at a total cost of \$117,500 from the Buildings & Grounds fund account. This item was presented at the November 1 Finance Committee meeting. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
JOHN DEERE
TRACTORS

Mr. Butler moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Go Out to Bid for Roofing Repairs** as presented by Mr. Garrett. Approximate cost for Thornwood is \$1,900,800 and Thornton is \$893,640 and could increase the life span by about ten years. If repairs are not done this summer, costs could be three times more. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL TO GO
OUT TO BID FOR
ROOFING REPAIRS

<p>Ms. Graham moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to Go Out to Bid for Bleacher Replacement and Stadium Upgrade as presented by Mr. Garrett. Bleachers are in disrepair, having failed to be repaired upon inspection since 2009. Approximate cost for Thornton is \$3,036,000; Thornridge is \$2,742,000 and Thornwood is \$2,766,000. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.</p>	<p>APPROVAL TO GO OUT TO BID FOR BLEACHER REPLACEMENT</p>
<p>Mr. Butler moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to Go Out to Bid for Tuck Pointing as presented by Mr. Garrett to prevent further damage at all three high schools. The current allowance per building is \$360,000 for a total of \$1,080,000. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.</p>	<p>APPROVAL TO GO OUT TO BID FOR TUCK POINTING</p>
<p>Dr. Swopes reported that a complaint was filed by a parent regarding Special Education services. An investigation resulted in no violations found. He gave information about the new SAT scoring method. Gang activity is a concern for safety in the schools and is interrupting the learning of students. The issue is in the community and the district is working with Police Department and Mayor of Dolton regarding safe passage of students. Chicago State University has invited Mr. Brett Fickes to be a member of the Advisory Council.</p>	<p>SUPERINTENDENT REPORT</p>
<p>At 8:02 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:</p>	<p>EXECUTIVE SESSION</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.	
<p>On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.</p>	
<p>At 10:56 p.m., Regular Session Reconvened. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington answered.</p>	<p>RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION</p>
<p>Mr. Butler moved, Mr. Banks seconded, for Student Case No. 01-2018-1617-1 to Remain at Thornwood with a written agreement regarding behavior in lieu of expulsion. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.</p>	<p>STUDENT DISCIPLINE CASE NO. 01-2018-1617-1</p>
<p>Mr. Butler moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance for Student Case No. 02-1617-01adE and recommended placement in PEACE Center until January 2018. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.</p>	<p>STUDENT DISCIPLINE CASE No. 02-1617-01adE</p>
<p>Mr. Butler moved, Ms. Graham seconded, to Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance for Student Case No. 05-19-1617-21 and recommended placement in RISE until January 2018. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.</p>	<p>STUDENT DISCIPLINE CASE No. 05-19-1617-21</p>
<p>Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance for Student Case No. 06-19-1617-22 and recommended placement in RISE until June 2017. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.</p>	<p>STUDENT DISCIPLINE CASE No. 06-19-1617-22</p>

Ms. Graham moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance for Student Case No. 03-20-1617-24 and recommended placement in RISE until January 2018. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.	STUDENT DISCIPLINE CASE No. 03-20-1617-24
Mr. Butler moved, Ms. Graham seconded, to Uphold the Expulsion for Student Case No. 07-19-1617-25 until November 2018. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.	STUDENT DISCIPLINE CASE No. 07-19-1617-25
Mrs. Whittington moved, Ms. Graham seconded, to Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance for Student Case No. 05-20-1617-26 and recommended placement in RISE until June 2017. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.	STUDENT DISCIPLINE CASE No. 05-20-1617-26
Mr. Butler moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to Approve the Contract Step Increase for Twana Frelix-Lloyd from Step 6 to Step 8. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.	EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT STEP INCREASE
Mr. Butler moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to Approve the Contract Step Increase for Lamont Holifield from Step 6 to Step 7. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.	EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT STEP INCREASE
Mr. Butler moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to Approve the Contract Step Increase for Lisa Norfleet to Step 10. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.	EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT STEP INCREASE
Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to Approve the Contract Step Increase for Kevin Petterson from Step 6 to Step 8. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.	EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT STEP INCREASE
Mr. Butler moved, Ms. Graham seconded, to Approve the Contract Step Increase for Tawana Robinson to Step 9. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.	EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT STEP INCREASE
Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to Approve the Board Decision for Grievance No. 091616. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.	GRIEVANCE NO. 091616
At 11:05 p.m., Ms. Graham moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to Adjourn the Meeting. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.	ADJOURNMENT

President

Secretary