

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2017** IN THE AUDITORIUM AT THORNRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL, 15000 COTTAGE GROVE AVENUE, DOLTON, ILLINOIS, BEGINNING AT 6:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. President Graham made the following announcement: Any person may record or broadcast an open Board meeting. Special requests to facilitate recordings or broadcast an open Board meeting should be directed to the Superintendent at least 24 hours before the meeting. Recording meetings shall not distract or disturb Board members or 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 Moody answered. Members Cruz and Whittington were absent. Dr. Leotis D. Swopes, Superintendent; Dr. Jerry Doss, Assistant Superintendent for 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; Mr. Tony Ratliff, Thornton Principal; Mr. Dennis Willis, Thornwood Principal and Mr. James Petrungaro, legal counsel, were also present.

ROLL  
CALL

**Report from Curriculum Committee:** Mr. Fickes reported that the next Curriculum Committee meeting will be held in January 2018. Agenda items will be potential changes to the math Curriculum; overview of new Civics Course and introduction of the textbook of Civics Planning Committee; review of Rubicon Atlas Curriculum framework as suggested by the Curriculum Audit; reports from Division Leaders, College & Careers, Outlook Academy and Peace Center; possible change to daily schedule and how we use CP (Communication Period).

COMMITTEE OF  
THE WHOLE

**Report from Finance Committee:** Mr. Horton reported that a Finance Committee meeting was held on December 5, 2017. All items were approved at that meeting will be discussed in the new business section of tonight's meeting. The next Finance Committee meeting will be on January 2, 2018.

**Report from Policy Committee:** Dr. Doss reported that the Policy Committee met on December 1, 2017 and reviewed the Technology and Acceptable Use policies. Dr. Doss reported that the Administrative Procedures Manual is under review by district administration and anticipates it will be presented to the Board in March 2018.

**Report from Discipline Committee:** None.

**Report from Facilities Committee:** Mr. Garrett reported that a Facilities Committee meeting was held on November 16, 2017. The capital improvements expenditure is \$13,047,012.76 to date. Thornwood pool repairs are being done by Pool Technologies. Quotes were received and finalized pool repairs will begin soon. The January Facilities Committee meeting date will be determined.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes of the Special Meeting and Executive Session of August 24, 2017.
- Minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of September 13, 2017.
- Minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of September 16, 2017.
- Minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of October 11, 2017.
- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated November 9 through December 13, 2017.
- Personnel dated December 13, 2017 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations).

MINUTES

BILLS

PERSONNEL

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

Dr. Doss reported that since the last scheduled Board meeting, there have been four Freedom of Information Act requests received and responded to within the allotted period of time and none pending.

FOIA

Mr. Arrington presented the following information:

COMMUNICATIONS

- Everyone is invited to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration at South Suburban College on January 15, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.
- The Illinois State Scholars of Thornridge were announced: Markeese Bell, Sumaiyah Dairo, Cyann Knox and Sophia Russell.
- Congratulations to the Thornridge wrestlers including first place champion Drael Dugar at the Staff Tournament.
- Thornridge Boys Varsity Basketball team won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Varsity Shootout tournament.
- Traevon Cooley of Thornridge received a full sports scholarship offer from Robert Morris University.
- The Illinois State Scholars of Thornton were announced: Motunrola Adebogun, Kaylynn Arrington, Rebecca Ayikua, Leah Boyd, Rachell Waldwell, Mikita Campbell, Brianna Camphor, Alexis Hutchins, Desiree Littlejohn, Angel Lopez, Jada Price, Paola Ramos, Justin Smith and Frances Walker.
- The Wildcat Chess Team placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Conference and 7<sup>th</sup> in the top 10 individuals, and won the Hammond Chess Tournament.
- Andrian Gonzalez of the TTHS Mathletes scored a perfect 10/10 on the calculator competition.
- Thornton Speech Team placed at the Thornridge Tree Tournament.
- Thornton parents participated in the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Parent Pledge/Appreciation Ceremony on December 9, 2017.
- The Illinois State Scholars of Thornwood were announced: Kennedy Arnold, Kweisi Bryant, Francisco Cortez, Jihan Davis, Lanaya Gray, Steven Harris, Shanece Kersh, Kamryn Nelson, Richelle Perkins, Ericka Ramsey, Nicolette Sales, Lamya Webster.
- Thornwood's Special Olympic Floor Hockey Team took 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the State Tournament.
- Mr. Dennis Willis, Thornwood Principal, received the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Citizen of the Year Award.
- Outlook Academy December Staff Member of the Month was Jason Hill and Student of the Month was Valissa Bugg.
- Outlook student Crystal Conner is now attending CSU and aspires to be a nurse.

President Graham announced that a Thornwood teacher was arrested by the South Holland Police Department on December 12, 2017, for alleged misconduct involving a student. The teacher was immediately placed on administrative leave and an investigation and will proceed with an employee investigation. Support systems for students affected by the arrest have been activated and they are encouraged to speak to building officials if counseling is needed.

BOARD  
STATEMENT

Dr. Swopes stated that the reports given tonight reflect the many good things going on in District 205. Transparency is more apparent through the website regarding capital improvements, academic gains and more. A technology audit including personnel is underway to address issues as the district moves forward.

SUPERINTENDENT  
REPORT

Mr. Fickes introduced the coaches of the Thornwood Special Olympics Golf Team. A young man, Ryan Feeney, organized a fundraiser at Olympic Fields Country Club and invited Thornwood students to participate. This year, Ryan raised \$45,000 for Special Olympics. The students shared their experience from the event.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
GOLF TEAM  
PRESENTATION

The Student Board presented the mid-year report beginning with the Vision and Mission Statements. The student Board is comprised of nine committees and described their participation in, among other things: Catholic Charities Food Drive; Restoration Ministries After School Program and School Cafeteria inspections. Student Board State Scholars are: Motunrola Adebogun, Kaylynn Arrington, Rachel Caldwell, Rebecca Akiku and Kamryn Nelson. Other experiences include Restorative Justice training; Youth Leadership Conference at Cebrian Goodman Teen Institute; Black Teens Matter Summit; a College Panel to address secondary education to District 205 students; South Suburban Action Conference Education Summit; Teacher Institute Day, Freshman Orientation and the Taste of Thornton Township Back to School Event.

STUDENT BOARD  
MID-YEAR REPORT

Mrs. Moody moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to **Approve the PRESS Recommended Updates** as presented by Dr. Doss for Board Policies Nos. 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*; 6:80, *Teaching About Controversial Issues*; 6:180, *Extended Instructional Programs*; 6:210 *Instructional Materials* and 8:70, *Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities*. The Policy Committee did not accept PRESS' recommendations for Policies 5:220-E3, *Closed Meeting Minutes* and 7:275, *Orders to forgo Life Sustaining Treatment*. All updates were presented at the September Board meeting and have been on review for more than the required 30 days. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
PRESS  
RECOMMENDED  
UPDATES

Mr. Butler moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Approve the Overnight Field Trip** as presented by Mr. Porter for 10 Thornwood students and 2 chaperones to attend the Special Olympics Basketball event at Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois from December 29-31, 2017. Costs will be covered by the IDEA Flow Through budget. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
OVERNIGHT FIELD  
TRIP

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to **Approve the Resolution declaring the intention to issue \$2,000,000 working cash fund bonds of the District, for increasing the Working Cash Fund of said School District, and directing that notice of such intention be published in the manner provided by law** as presented by Dr. Grossi. A public hearing will be held in January 2018 and final resolution will be presented in February 2018. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; Member Banks passed; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
RESOLUTION  
DECLARING  
INTENT TO ISSUE  
\$2,000,00 WORKING  
CASH FUND BONDS

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to **Approve the Resolution providing for the issue of General Obligation Limited Tax Refunding School Bonds, Series 2017D, of the District, for the purpose of refunding certain outstanding bonds of the District, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, authorizing the execution of an escrow agreement and authorizing the sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof** as presented by Dr. Grossi to refinance the debt the district incurred in 2008. Interest rates have gone down and will save the district approximately \$660,000 in a reduced tax levy. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
RESOLUTION FOR  
ISSUE OF  
GENERAL  
OBLIGATION  
LIMITED TAX  
REFUNDING  
SCHOOL BONDS

Mrs. Moody moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the 2017 Tax Levy** as presented by Mr. Horton in the amount of \$70,145,000 as follows: education: \$58,135,000; building: \$6,200,000; transportation: \$3,000,000; IMRF: \$740,000; Social Security: \$1,500,000 and \$570,000: working cash. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF 2017  
TAX LEVY

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the Information Technology Assessment Contract** as presented by Mr. Horton in the amount of \$213,920.00 to The William Everett Group. Three qualified proposals were received. The overall goal is to determine the effectiveness and efficiency of the district's IT environment including information security. A project overview and scope of work was provided. Project will be for 16 weeks. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY  
ASSESSMENT  
REQUEST FOR  
PROPOSAL

Mr. Butler moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Approve the Metro Chicago Mathematics Initiative Professional Development** partnership as presented by Mr. Fickes with the University of Illinois at Chicago in the amount of \$12,000.00. The matter was discussed at a Curriculum Committee meeting and approved by the Finance Committee. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF METRO CHICAGO MATHEMATICS INITIATIVE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Mrs. Moody moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the Supplemental Math Books Purchase** as presented by Mr. Fickes from Perfection Learning in the amount of \$5,315.47. These books will help raise SAT scores in math. The matter was discussed at a Curriculum Committee meeting and approved by the Finance Committee. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF SUPPLEMENTAL MATH BOOKS PURCHASE

Mr. Butler moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Approve the Diesel Program Training Board Purchase** as presented by Mr. Fickes from ConsuLab in the amount of \$20,340.00. This lab upgrade will better familiarize students with the technical knowledge needed for the diesel industry. The matter was discussed at a Curriculum Committee meeting and approved by the Finance Committee. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF DIESEL PROGRAM TRAINING BOARD PURCHASE

Mrs. Moody moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the CTE Child Development Course Purchase** as presented by Mr. Fickes from Realityworks in the amount of \$33,058.20. This purchase is for items that are in disrepair and need to be replaced. The matter was discussed at a Curriculum Committee meeting and approved by the Finance Committee. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF CTE CHILD DEVELOPMENT COURSE PURCHASE

Mr. Dwayne Bearden, Faculty Association President, addressed the Board stating that the communication from President Graham regarding his presentation at the November 8, 2017 Board meeting will be addressed at the January Board meeting. He thanked the two Board members he met with this week for the positive dialogue and he hopes the district will move forward with a right partnership.

FACULTY ASSOCIATION

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Felita Crayton (Dolton): asked for the procedure for purchasing a prom ticket which is not Board policy and is unfair.
- Tere'e Walker (Calumet City): stated some Thornwood teachers are not permitting students to enter the classroom without their ID on a lanyard. The Board asked that she address her concern with the Superintendent.

Mrs. Moody moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to **Amend the Agenda to Remove Item 14.C. Possible Action Concerning Superintendent Contract.** On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

MOTION TO AMEND AGENDA

At 7:48 p.m., Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Moody 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION, Con't.

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

At 9:55 p.m., Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Moody seconded to **Reconvene Regular Session**. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RECONVENE  
REGULAR SESSION

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Hold the Expulsion in Abeyance for Student Case No. 01-18-1718-03** until August 1, 2018 with placement at R.I.S.E. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ACTION  
REGARDING  
STUDENT  
DISCIPLINE CASE  
NO. 01-18-1718-03

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Moody seconded, to **Deny Grievance No. 8252017** with authorization for legal counsel to prepare a written statement. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ACTION  
REGARDING  
GRIEVANCE NO.  
8252017

At 10:03 p.m., Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Moody seconded, to **Adjourn the Meeting**. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

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President

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Secretary