

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2018** IN THE AUDITORIUM AT THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL, 15001 BROADWAY AVENUE, HARVEY, ILLINOIS, BEGINNING AT 6:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 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 Butler, Graham, Moody and Whittington answered. Members Banks, Cruz and Lawrence were absent. Dr. Jerry B. Doss, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Mr. Brett Fickes, Director of Curriculum; Mr. Toriano Horton, Assistant Superintendent for Business; 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; Mr. Dwayne Bearden, Faculty Association President; Mr. Gerald Doughty, Faculty Association Executive Director and Mr. James Petrunaro, legal counsel, were also present.

ROLL
CALL

Report from Curriculum Committee: Mr. Fickes reported that a Curriculum Committee meeting was held on January 18, 2018. Discussion included the possible change of location for Outlook Academy; change to the math Curriculum, reviewed the new proposed civics textbook and shared information on the January 29 Teacher Institute Day and District Improvement Plan.

COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE

At 6:32 p.m., Mrs. Cruz joined the meeting.

MRS. CRUZ JOINED
MEETING

Report from Finance Committee: Mr. Horton reported that a Finance Committee meeting was held on February 6, 2018. Discussion included four action items that will be recommended for approval at tonight's meeting. The next Finance Committee meeting will be on March 6, 2018.

Report from Policy Committee: None.

Report from Discipline Committee: None.

Report from Facilities Committee: None.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes of the Special Meeting of November 8, 2017.
- Minutes of the Special Meeting and Executive Session of December 11, 2017.
- Minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of December 13, 2017

- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated January 11, 2018 through February 14, 2018.

- Personnel dated February 14, 2018 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations).

- Ratifications:
 - Overnight Field Trip for Thornwood Special Olympics Snowshoe Competition in Galena, Illinois.
 - Overnight Field Trip for Thornton Competitive Dance Competition in in Springfield, Illinois
 - Overnight Field Trip for Thornton Chess Team to Peoria, Illinois

MINUTES

BILLS

PERSONNEL

RATIFICATIONS

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

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

- Pat Mahon (South Holland): stated she emailed the Superintendent search firm her views about each candidate presented: Candidates 1 and 2 stood out. Candidate 3 was the least impressive and more of a placeholder rather than a change agent for the district. Candidate 1 had the most difficult questions. Her input was passed on to the Board of Education. She stated that if the Board is truly interested in moving the district forward, they should look to the first two candidates. If not, a new search should be conducted.
- Felita Crayton (Dolton): 1) repeated Mrs. Mahon's comments regarding the Superintendent search candidates, and 2) asked if it is Board policy to ban the sale of prom tickets to students with outstanding fines.
- Dwayne Bearden (South Holland): stated that due to the limited amount of information provided and input from the Association, it cannot make an endorsement at this time for Superintendent and requested the Board give the search firm more time to conduct the Superintendent search.

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION,
Con't.

Dr. Doss reported that since the last scheduled Board meeting, 12 FOIA requests were completed and none are pending.

FOIA

Mr. Arrington presented the following information:

- Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on February 15 and 16, 2018.
- The HBCU (Historically Black College & University) Tour will be held March 26-29, 2018 (Spring Break) where 7 colleges will be visited.
- The Family and Community Engagement Summit will be held on March 24, 2018. Sign-up information is on the district website.
- Thornridge Wrestler, Darael Dugar, won the IHSA Sectional Championship and will travel to Champaign for the State meet.
- Congratulations to Thornridge students who qualified for State at the FCCLA Regionals.
- Thornton Sophisticats Varsity and Junior Varsity teams placed first in the IDTA Hononegah Dance Competition.
- Thornton Wildcat Special Olympics Division 8 Basketball team placed first at the Thornwood tournament.
- Thornton Chess team traveled to Peoria and received the most Wins ever at state, 40 out of 124.
- Thornton Speech Team placed first at the IHSA sectional speech tournament and advanced seven events to state.
- Thornwood Special Olympics Gold Basketball team defeated Andrew on January 11.
- Thornwood Special Olympics team competed in the Winter State Games for Snowshoe.
- Thornwood held its first Communication Development student-parent social event on January 22, 2018.
- Thornwood Speech team earned 2nd and 4th place at the Sectional Competition.
- Outlook Academy February Staff Member of the Month is Linda Kingdon, teacher, and the Student of the Month is Sierra Hayes.
- Outlook Academy (Thornridge) wrestler Keenan Alexander will go to Champaign for the state wrestling meet.
- Twenty-eight students have completed the Outlook Academy program and now have a District 205 diploma.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Fickes addressed the Board, mentioned some of the educational field trips and activities provided to students outside the classroom. Jason McConnell, Thornwood teacher, organized the "Hamilton" field trip, a process that started over a year ago. Thanks to a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation and the Gilder Lehrman Institute for American History, reduced-priced tickets were available for juniors and seniors enrolled in U.S. History courses. 110 students attended the performance on December 13, 2017.

HAMILTON
PERFORMANCE
STUDENT FIELD
TRIP

Apart of the project was the creation of an original performance piece based on primary source documents related to the Revolutionary period. Of all those pieces, teachers chose the best from their classes, which was then narrowed to the best from each school and sent to the organizers of the trip who chose the very best 20 performances out of nearly 1600 students in attendance. One student from Thornwood, Kweisi Bryant, was among those selected to perform. He spoke of this great experience and performed his poetry piece for the Board entitled "The Boston Tear Party."

HAMILTON
PERFORMANCE
STUDENT FIELD
TRIP, Con't.

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the Overnight Field Trip** as presented by Mr. Fickes on behalf of Principal Williams for two students and two coaches to travel to Champaign, Illinois to attend the State Wrestling Tournament from February 15-17, 2018 at a cost of \$989.88. On roll call, Members Butler, Cruz, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
OVERNIGHT FIELD
TRIP

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Approve the Out-of-State Field Trip** as presented by Mr. Ratliff for the Unity Singers Choral Group (14 students) and two chaperones to perform at Dynasty Banquet Hall in Hammond, Indiana on February 17, 2018. On roll call, Members Butler, Cruz, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
OUT-OF-STATE
FIELD TRIP

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the Out-of-State Field Trip** as presented by the Board packet. In Mr. Willis's absence, Legal Counsel, stated the trip is for the Girls Track & Field team to attend a college tour at Grand Valley State and Western Michigan from February 16-17, 2018 for a total of \$3,675.65. On roll call, Members Butler, Cruz, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
OUT-OF-STATE
FIELD TRIP

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Moody seconded, to **Approve the Resolution providing for the issue of \$2,000,000 Taxable General Obligation Limited Tax School Bonds, Series 2018 of the District, for the purpose of increasing the Working Cash Fund of said School District, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, and authorizing the sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof** as presented by Mr. Horton to increase the working cash fund and authorize the sale of said bonds to the Thornton Township School Treasurer on behalf of the Thornton Township Trustees of Schools. On roll call, Members Butler, Cruz, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
RESOLUTION TO
ISSUE \$2,000,000
TAXABLE GENERAL
OBLIGATION
LIMITED TAX
SCHOOL BONDS

Mrs. Moody moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Approve the Warehouse Heater Replacement** as presented by Mr. Horton to replace five hanging heaters in the warehouse in the amount of \$11,073.00 from Quality Mechanical, Inc. from the Operations and Maintenance Fund. On roll call, Members Butler, Cruz, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
WAREHOUSE
HEATER
REPLACEMENT

Mr. Fickes updated the Board regarding the possible relocation of Outlook Academy from Chicago State University to South Suburban College in the fall of 2018. Transportation costs will decrease for students and with additional space, more will be off the waiting list. Also, South Suburban College is centrally located to our home campuses. District administration supports this move is securing input from the Faculty Association and community.

OUTLOOK
ACADEMY
POSSIBLE
LOCATION CHANGE

Mr. Fickes and the Math Division Leaders presented information regarding proposed math curriculum changes which would include an integrated mathematics curriculum pathway. This change would rollout by cohorts. The team visited other local high schools that have made this shift. The standards are the same but the sequence in which they are taught are different. The district will reach out to feeder schools to articulate this change. This will support higher achievement for students.

PROPOSED MATH
CURRICULUM
CHANGES

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Cruz seconded, to Approve the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) Program Support as presented by Mr. Fickes for computer programs and resources needed in the entrepreneurship classes from NFTE in the amount of \$12,000.00. The funding source is the CTE Federal Grant. On roll call, Members Butler, Cruz, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.	APPROVAL OF NFTE PROGRAM SUPPORT
Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Cruz seconded, to Approve the Certiport Curriculum Software Package as presented by Mr. Fickes for the Microsoft Office suite needed for students to earn Microsoft Office certificates from Certiport in the amount of \$15,885.00. The funding source is the CTE Federal Grant. On roll call, Members Butler, Cruz, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.	APPROVAL OF CERTIPOINT CURRICULUM SOFTWARE PACKAGE
Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to Approve the Sylvan Supplemental Services for SAT Preparations as presented by Mr. Fickes to serve 50 Thornridge students with supplemental instruction for test-taking strategies for the SAT from Sylvan Prep of Homewood in the amount of \$37,500.00. The funding source is Title I. On roll call, Members Butler, Cruz, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.	APPROVAL OF SYLVAN SUPPLEMENTAL SERVICES FOR SAT PREPARATIONS
Mrs. Moody moved, Mrs. Cruz seconded, to Approve the 2018 Summer School Calendar as presented by Mr. Fickes. Summer school will be at Thornwood from June 4 – July 19, 2018 and graduation will be July 19. On roll call, Members Butler, Cruz, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.	APPROVAL OF 2018 SUMMER SCHOOL CALENDAR
None.	SUPERINTENDENT REPORT
A moment of silence was offered for 17 people who died in a mass school shooting in Parkland, Florida and a Thornton student who also recently passed away.	MOMENT OF SILENCE
At 7:39 p.m., Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Cruz seconded, to go into Executive Session pursuant to Section 2C of the Illinois Open Meetings Act to consider:	EXECUTIVE SESSION
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees;• Student discipline;• Collective negotiating matters, and• Pending, probable or imminent litigation.	EXECUTIVE SESSION, Con't.
On roll call, Members Butler, Cruz, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.	
At 10:02 p.m., Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Cruz seconded to Reconvene Regular Session. On roll call, Members Butler, Cruz, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.	RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION
Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Cruz seconded, to Approve the Step Increase for LaTonia Carr to Step 12 of the Faculty Association Salary Schedule. On roll call, Members Butler, Cruz, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; Member Moody voted nay; motion passed.	ACTION CONCERNING TEACHER STEP INCREASE
Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to Approve the Stipend in the Amount of Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) Dollars for Additional Services Performed for LaQuitha Snow. On roll call, Members Butler, Cruz, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; Member Moody voted nay; motion passed.	ACTION CONCERNING TEACHER STIPEND REQUEST

Mrs. Moody moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Authorize the Written Agreement Authorizing the Resignation of Teacher LaQuisha Leathers effective February 4, 2018.** On roll call, Members Butler, Cruz, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ACTION
CONCERNING
TEACHER
RESIGNATION
AGREEMENT

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Moody seconded, to **Approve the Preliminary Authorization for a 3-Year Employment Agreement with Dr. Nathaniel Cunningham, Jr.** as presented to the Board and to direct the administration to comply with the compensation package. A posting obligation is required by the Open Meetings Act. On roll call, Members Butler, Graham, Moody, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; Members Cruz and Whittington voted nay, none; motion passed.

ACTION
REGARDING
EMPLOYMENT
AGREEMENT

At 10:06 p.m., Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Moody seconded, to **Adjourn the Meeting.** On roll call, Members Butler, Cruz, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

President

Secretary