

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 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 6:35 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, Cruz, Graham, Lawrence and Moody answered. Member Whittington was absent. Dr. Jerry B. Doss, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Mr. Brett Fickes, Director of Curriculum; Mr. Toriano Horton, Assistant Superintendent for Business; 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 at a previous Curriculum Committee meeting a discussion was held regarding the location change for Outlook Academy from Chicago State University to South Suburban College. Several meetings have been held for input from stakeholders. The new civics course was also discussed. The next Curriculum committee meeting will address the new math curriculum, summer programs, machine shop program and a possible cosmetology program.

COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE

Report from Finance Committee: Mr. Horton reported that a Finance Committee meeting was held on March 6, 2018. Discussion included four action items, three of which will be recommended for approval at tonight's meeting. The next Finance Committee meeting will be on April 3, 2018.

Report from Policy Committee: None.

Report from Discipline Committee: None.

Report from Facilities Committee: Mr. Garrett reported that the last Facilities Committee meeting was held on March 1, 2018 where capital project updates and chimney removal were discussed. The next Facilities Committee meeting will be on March 29, 2018.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes of the Special Meeting of November 13, 2017
- Minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of January 10, 2018
- Minutes of the Special Meeting and Executive Session of January 10, 2018

- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated February 15 through March 14, 2018.

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

- Ratifications:
 - Overnight Field Trip for Thornwood Special Olympics Basketball Competition in Bloomington/Normal, Illinois
 - Overnight Field Trip for Thornwood Special Olympics Basketball Competition in Normal, Illinois
 - Overnight Field Trip for Thornton Speech Tournament in Peoria, Illinois

MINUTES

BILLS

PERSONNEL

RATIFICATIONS

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

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION

- Felita Crayton (Dolton): 1) requested the employment contract for Toriano Horton and William Garrett, and 2) costs for prom for 2016-2017.
- Brandon Willaby (South Holland): stated he sent an email to the Thornton Principal, Superintendent and Board regarding his employment as a substitute in the district and feels he is being blackballed. He questioned the proper protocol at the schools not being followed. He was directed to speak to Dr. Swopes.

Dr. Doss reported that since the last scheduled Board meeting, one FOIA request was completed and none are pending. All requests have been responded to within the allotted period of time.

FOIA

Mr. Arrington presented the following information:

COMMUNICATIONS

- The HBCU (Historically Black College & University) Tour will be held March 26-29, 2018 (Spring Break) where 7 colleges will be visited. Approximately 100 students and 35 staff members will attend.
- The FACE Summit (Family and Community Engagement) will be held for all parents and community members on March 24, 2018 at South Suburban College.
- Thornridge students Devon Gordon (30 wins, 4 losses) and Darael Dugar (32 wins, 4 losses) made the SWSC wrestling team. Darael was named SWSC Wrestler of the Year.
- Thornridge Band students participated in the IHSA State and Solo Ensemble Contest.
- Thornton Project Lead the Way student Destiny Kelly was awarded an all-expense paid summer scholarship to NASA's space camp in Alabama.
- Thornton senior Frances Walker received 2nd place at the Top Ladies of Distinction Annual Black Heritage Bowl in Phoenix, Illinois.
- Thornton Speech Team competed at the IHSA state speech tournament in Peoria, Illinois, finishing in 4th place.
- Congratulations to Thornton's Ira Wright and Ira McDowell, as they became the first humorous duet acting team to repeat as champions in IHSA history.
- Thornwood Speech Team Jada Johnson finished 5th place in Dramatic Prose at the IHSA State Speech Finals and the Group Interp cast received All-Conference Cast Awards.
- Thornwood Special Olympics put together over 1500 kits to donate to homeless shelters and Red Cross victims of disaster.
- Thornwood Special Olympics Rhythmic Gymnastics team placed in Rhythmic Ball and Rhythmic Ribbon competitions.
- Outlook Academy Staff Member of the Month is Paul Arrington, business teacher. Student of the Month is Khalid Woolfolk.
- Outlook wrestler Keenan Alexander (Thornridge) is the 2018 IHSA Wrestling Regional Champion.
- Outlook student Jerald Simmons (Thornridge) was named Boys Basketball All Conference.

Mr. Fickes introduced the Thornton Speech Team, which finished fourth out of 203 schools in the state. This is the first sectional championship for District 205 in 25 years. The speech team coach, Brad Ablin, introduced two state qualifiers, Frances Walker and Simone Withers. Ira Wright and Ira McDowell were State Champions last year in humorous duet acting and again this year, making them the first back-to-back State Champions in state history in humorous duet acting.

THORNTON
TOWNSHIP HIGH
SCHOOL SPEECH
TEAM

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the 2018-2019 IHSA Membership** as presented by Dr. Swopes. The Illinois High School Association regulates competition in most interscholastic sports and some interscholastic activities at the high school level. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Cruz, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
2018-2019 IHSA
MEMBERSHIP

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the Overnight Field Trip** as presented by Mr. Ratliff for eight students and two coaches to travel to Columbus, Ohio to attend the National High School Championship Chess Competition at the Greater Columbus Convention Center from April 27-30, 2018. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Cruz, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
OVERNIGHT FIELD
TRIP

Mrs. Moody moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to **Approve the 2018-2019 School Calendar** as presented by Dr. Doss. First day of school for staff is August 13, 2018; first day for students is August 15, 2018; graduation is May 19, 2019, and the last day of school is May 24, 2019. There will be four Teacher Institute Days. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Cruz, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
2018-2019 SCHOOL
CALENDAR

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Moody seconded, to **Approve the Civics Textbook Purchase** as presented by Mr. Fickes for 600 textbooks from McGraw Hill in the amount of \$58,800.00 and includes six years of online support. The Civics course is a requirement for the class of 2020. The textbook has been vetted through the Curriculum and Finance Committees. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Cruz, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
CIVICS TEXTBOOK
PURCHASE

Mrs. Moody moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the Abatement of Working Cash Resolution** as presented by Mr. Horton to transfer \$10 million from the working cash fund to the education fund. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Cruz, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
ABATEMENT OF
WORKING CASH

Mr. Butler moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Approve to go out to Bid for Chimney Demolition** (not repairs) as presented by Mr. Horton to remove the chimney at Thornton High School which has not been in use for several years and is in various stages of decay. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Cruz, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL TO GO
OUT TO BID FOR
CHIMNEY REPAIRS

Mr. Butler moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Approve to go out to Bid for Custodial Services** as presented by Mr. Horton. The current contract with GCA expires June 30, 2018. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Cruz, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL TO GO
OUT TO BID FOR
CUSTODIAL
SERVICES

Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve to go out to Bid for Security Services** as presented by Mr. Horton. The current contract with Prudential expires June 30, 2018. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Cruz, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL TO GO
OUT TO BID FOR
SECURITY
SERVICES

At 7:17 p.m., Mrs. Whittington joined the meeting.

MRS.
WHITTINGTON
JOINED MEETING

Dr. Swopes reported that the district is seeking to change the residency of Outlook Academy from Chicago State University to South Suburban College. The contract with CSU expires on June 30, 2018.

SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT

He expressed concern of the practice of feeder schools keeping 15-year-old 8th grade students in school until the second semester and then “social promoting” them to the high schools. This service is provided to 15-year-olds who have an IEP, but not to regular education students. Sending 8th graders to high school during the middle of the year does not help nor support them. Correspondence reflecting this will be sent to feeder schools, stating these students need to be identified in the spring of the prior year. A Board discussion ensued regarding what is best for students in this situation.

There are leaderships within the schools but not at the district level. It was determined that Dr. Swopes will chair the district leadership team and Mrs. Whittington and Mr. Butler will be committee members.

At 7:24 p.m., Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Butler 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;
- Student discipline;
- Collective negotiating matters, and
- Pending, probable or imminent litigation.

EXECUTIVE
SESSION, Con't.

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

At 9:25 p.m., Mrs. Cruz moved, Mr. Banks seconded to **Reconvene Regular Session.** On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Cruz, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RECONVENE
REGULAR SESSION

Mrs. Moody moved, Mrs. Cruz seconded, to **Approve the Settlement Agreement for Faculty Association Grievance Nos. 091916 and 112916.** On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Cruz, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ACTION
CONCERNING
GRIEVANCE NOS.
091916 AND 112916

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Cruz seconded, to **Approve the Resolution for Non-Renewal of First, Second or Third Year Probationary Teachers, Julianne Foltz, Kimberly Gaitor, Lakisha Keenon, Nusirat Olaniran, Marque Riley, Mea Robinson-Davis, Brian Rotrekl, Tamara Smith, Chelsea Taylor and Michael Wedderburn.** On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Cruz, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ACTION
CONCERNING NON-
RENEWALS OF
CERTIFIED STAFF

At 9:25 p.m., Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Cruz seconded, to **Adjourn the Meeting.** There will be a Special Board meeting on March 28, 2018 at 5:15 p.m. at District Office. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Cruz, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

President

Secretary