

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 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 Banks, Butler, Graham and Lawrence answered. Members Cruz, Moody and Whittington were absent. Dr. Jerry B. Doss, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Mr. Brett Fickes, Director of Curriculum; Mr. Thomas Porter, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; 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 Petrunaro, legal counsel, were also present.

ROLL
CALL

Report from Curriculum Committee: Mr. Fickes reported that the next Curriculum Committee meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2018. The work is continuing to transition Outlook Academy from CSU to South Suburban College. The dual credit health course; integrated math proposal; expansion of NWEA testing to 3 times a year; status update on possible cosmetology program; and the 1-to-1 technology initiative were also discussed.

COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE

Report from Finance Committee: Mr. Horton reported that a Finance Committee meeting was held on April 3, 2018. Discussion included two action items, both will be recommended for approval at tonight's meeting. The next Finance Committee meeting will be on May 1, 2018.

Report from Policy Committee: None.

Report from Discipline Committee: None.

Report from Facilities Committee: Mr. Horton reported that the last Facilities Committee meeting was held on March 26, 2018. Spring and fall fertilizer application, capital improvement and summer projects updates were given. The next Facilities Committee meeting will be on April 26, 2018.

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 January 29, 2018
- Minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of February 14, 2018
- Minutes of the Special Meeting and Executive Session of February 21, 2018

- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated March 15 through April 11, 2018.

- Personnel dated April 11, 2018 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations)

- Ratifications:
 - Overnight Field Trip for Thornton Drama Tournament in Peoria, Illinois
 - Overnight Field Trip for Thornton Track Meet in Belleville, Illinois

MINUTES

BILLS

PERSONNEL

RATIFICATIONS

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

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION

- Keesiya Robertson (Chicago) referred to a complaint filed on October 26, 2017 about a 504 plan for a family member. The family finds the results of the investigation unacceptable. The Board directed Mr. Porter to speak to the family.
- Felita Crayton (Dolton): 1) stated the first FACE Summit held was awesome and thanked Dr. Holmes and the district; 2) presented two FOIA's regarding the RFP for security and custodial bids, and 3) asked how many permanent teachers are still needed in classrooms.
- David Townsend stated he supports Mr. Willis, has known him for four years and he is an upstanding citizen.

The Public Hearing concerning the intent of the Board of Education to Transfer \$10 million from the Transportation Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund of said School District, to move the fund balance to the area most needed, was opened by President Graham. Mr. Horton added that the transfer is needed to correct a negative fund balance. The hearing was opened for questions and comments.

PUBLIC HEARING

Question: Felita Crayton stated this was not discussed at the finance meeting and asked what the funds will be used for and what does it entail.

Response: Mr. Horton stated this will close the negative fund balance in the Operations and Maintenance Fund. This fund is the facilities fund.

Question: Does this include life safety?

Response: Life safety is separate.

Question: What will the funds be used for?

Response: The funds will not go into the operating portion; it will go into the fund balance to correct the negative balance.

President Graham announced that all persons desired to be heard were given an opportunity to present oral and written testimony with respect to the proposed transfer of funds from the Transportation Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund.

Mr. Butler moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to Close the Public Hearing. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham and Lawrence voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

Dr. Doss reported that since the last scheduled Board meeting, four 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 Illinois State Board of Education's financial reports show that District 205 improved from Early Warning status to Financial Recognition Status, which is the highest financial rating possible in the State.
- Congratulations to Dr. Swopes and Mr. Willis on receiving the 2018 Men of Valor award from the Nellie Prather Foundation on April 7, 2018.
- The HBCU tour video was shown, containing highlights of the trip.
- The Family Centered Educational Agency will award \$20,000 in scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$1000 on May 1, 2018, 7:00 p.m. at the Tinley Park Convention Center.
- Falcon Family Fun Night will be on April 19m 2018 at 5:00 p.m. at Thornridge High School with prom ticket and gift card raffles among the activities.
- Thornridge AVID Student of the Month is Devale Thornton.
- Thornridge will host Earth Day on April 19, 2018 and students will demonstrate many of the labs they perform throughout the year.

- Thornton’s College & Career Center announced 258 seniors have a plan; 253 seniors have completed FAFSA; 234 have been accepted into college; 3 will attend a trade school and 10 will join the military. Total scholarships are \$7,966,900.
- Eight seniors interested in law attended The Women Everywhere Project and interacted with judges and other court personnel.
- Thornton’s Contest Play Cast and Group Interp competed at the IHSA state final competition. Group Interp finished 7th and Contest Play finished 3rd in the State.
- Mr. Robert Powell was the recipient of the IEA Support Professional of the Year for Illinois award.
- Thornwood Special Olympics Basketball members, Larry Williams and Deja Falodun, won gold in their division at the ISU Skills Tournament on March 17, 2018.
- Thunderbirds Gold Basketball Team took first place at the State Tournament on March 17th at ISU.
- Outlook Academy’s Staff Members of the Month are Officer Hill and Officer Harris. Student of the Month is Shiesha Moore.
- Friday Class highlights from Outlook were Ratio & TV and Swimming.

COMMUNICATIONS,
Con’t.

At 7:05 p.m., Mrs. Whittington joined the meeting.

MRS.
WHITTINGTON
JOINED MEETING

Mr. Fickes introduced Keenan Alexander who struggled as a sophomore at Thornridge and spent his junior year at the Peace Center. He would complete his senior year at Outlook Academy. He became interested in wrestling and in his first year, he advanced to the state tournament as a heavyweight. Keenan thanked the Outlook family for accepting him into the program to get back on track to graduate. During freshman year he was diagnosed with post-traumatic syndrome resulting from abuse. Jerald Simmons also struggled with his classroom skills. He transitioned to Outlook Academy to finish his senior year. He was named All Conference for Basketball. He thanked Ms. Malopsy-Fortier and everyone at Outlook who gave him the opportunity to better himself.

OUTLOOK
ACADEMY
SUCCESS STORIES

Mr. Fickes introduced Mr. Lamont Bibbie, Thornton Woodworking instructor. The Board was presented with name plates made by the students. They also crafted a bench that will be placed in the District Office lobby. The Board thanked him and the students for their lovely presentation and hard work.

THORNTON HIGH
SCHOOL
WOODWORKING
CLASS
PRESENTATION

Ms. Twin Green, president of The Link & Option Center, Inc. presented information about the school wraparound/intervention program available to children and adults coping with mental, behavioral and emotional issues. The goal of the program is to keep students in their schools, homes and community and to provide them with the best chance of succeeding in education and life. She described an array of evaluation services available.

WRAP-AROUND
SERVICES
PRESENTATION

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the Out-of-State Field Trip** as presented by Mr. Ratliff for 80 students and 8 chaperones to attend an AVID sponsored trip to Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan on April 20, 2018. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
OUT-OF-STATE
FIELD TRIP

Mr. Butler moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Approve the Overnight Field Trips** as presented by Mrs. Williams for 7 students and 1 coach to attend the FCCLA State Competition in Springfield, Illinois from April 12-13, 2018. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
OVERNIGHT FIELD
TRIP

Mrs. Whittington moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Approve the 2017-2018 School Calendar Modification** as presented by Dr. Doss to include one additional day of student attendance due to one emergency day used for inclement weather. This is necessary to be compliant with the Illinois School Code requiring 174 days of pupil attendance. The last day of school will be May 29, 2018. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
2017-2018 SCHOOL
CALENDAR
MODIFICATION

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Approve the Retroactive GPA Calculation for the 2017-2-18 School Year** as presented by Mr. Fickes that retroactive to the fall of the 2017-2018 school year, students who retake classes for credit recovery purposes will have the "F" removed from their GPA calculation. The original "F" will remain on the transcript but will not be used in calculating the new GPA. This process will include courses retaken prior to the 2017-2018 school year and for any courses retaken by current students. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
RETROACTIVE GPA
CALCULATION FOR
2017-2018 SCHOOL
YEAR

Mr. Butler moved, Mr. Banks seconded, to **Approve the Weed Preventative Services for Spring 2018** as presented by Mr. Horton for Forever Green Lawn Care in the amount of \$9,800.00 for Thornridge and Thornwood. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
WEED
PREVENTATIVE
SERVICES FOR
SPRING 2018

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Approve the Resolution for the Transfer of \$10 Million from the Transportation Fund to the Operations and Maintenance Fund** as presented by Mr. Horton. The transfer was approved by the Finance Committee on March 6, 2018. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
RESOLUTION FOR
TRANSFER OF
\$10,000,000 FROM
TRANSPORTATION
TO OPERATION
FUND

At 7:42 p.m., Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Banks 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.

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

At 9:22 p.m., Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded to **Reconvene Regular Session**. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RECONVENE
REGULAR SESSION

At 9:23 p.m., Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Butler seconded, to **Adjourn the Meeting**. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

President

Secretary