

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2019** 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, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington answered. Member Cruz was absent. Dr. Nathaniel Cunningham, Superintendent, Dr. Jerry B. Doss, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Mr. Toriano Horton, Assistant Superintendent for Business Operations; Mr. Brett Fickes, Director of Curriculum; Mr. Thomas Porter, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; Mr. Robert Penman, Director of Research, Assessment & Quality Analysis; Mr. John Arrington, Director of College and Career Partnerships; Mrs. Ebonie Williams, Thornridge Principal; Mr. Tony Ratliff, Thornton Principal; Mr. Don Holmes, Thornwood Principal; Mr. Thomas Walsh, Thornwood Assistant Principal and Mr. James Petrunaro, legal counsel, were also present.

ROLL
CALL

Report from Curriculum Committee: Mr. Fickes reported that the next meeting will be held in early February and will cover the thoughtful classroom initiative and will be posted two weeks from now.

COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE

Report from Finance Committee: Mr. Horton reported that the committee did not meet for the month of January 2019 and the next meeting will be held on 02/05/19 at 4:00pm at the District Office

Report from Policy Committee: Dr. Doss reported that the last meeting was held on 12/17/18 at 4:00pm at the District Office and the items will be consider on this agenda later in the meeting.

Report from Discipline Committee: None

Report from Facilities Committee: Mr. Horton reported that the committee did not meet in the month of December and the next meeting is scheduled 01/31/19 at 4:00pm at the District Office.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated December 13, 2018 through January 9, 2019
- Personnel dated January 9, 2019 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations)
- Ratifications:
 - Overnight fieldtrip for TTHS JV/Varsity Cheer ICCA State Tournament in Springfield, IL, January 4-6, 2019
 - Overnight fieldtrip for TTHS Varsity Boys Basketball to Shootout in Grand Blanc, MI, January 5-6, 2019

BILLS

PERSONNEL

RATIFICATIONS

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

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION

- Jacqueline Franklin, South Holland, IL, wanted to thank Mrs. Whittington for being available to answer her questions. She stated that there is a grant for tax relief and wants to know if the District applied. The Board's response was yes
- Felita Crayton, Dolton, IL, inquired about the band uniform status for Thornridge and Thornwood High Schools. Superintendent replied that he will get back to her about the inquiry.

Dr. Doss reported that since the last scheduled Board meeting, no FOIA requests were submitted and one (1) is pending.

FOIA

At 6:44pm, Mrs. Cruz joined the meeting

MRS. CRUZ JOINED THE MEETING

Mr. Arrington presented the following information:

COMMUNICATIONS

- Thornridge High School:
 - Congratulations to four (4) students admitted on-site to Northwestern Business College & seven (7) students admitted to Chicago State University
 - SWSC Tournament – Boys bowling team, placed on January 5th; Boys varsity team won Bronze and two students won 2nd place and 3rd place individually
 - Reavis Holiday Classica & Chicago Agricultural Tournament – Lady Falcons basketball won 3rd place.
 - Boys varsity basketball team also placed in the Holiday Christmas Tournament taking 3rd place in first game, lost in Final Four to a very good Cypress Bey team from Florida. The Tournament team on Friday night won a road conference game against Lincoln Way Central.
- Thornton Township High School:
 - The Bronze Bud Highlights Newspaper recognized the Marching Band as the #1 band in the 89th Annual Bud Billiken Parade.
 - Girls Basketball Holiday Tournament – 2nd place
 - Boys Basketball Big Dipper/Holiday Tournaments – 1st and 3rd place
 - Cheerleading – a student received a 3rd place scholarship reward of \$2,500
 - Varsity/Glenbard West Wrestling Tournament – 1st place
 - Freshman/Rich South Tournament – two (2) students won 1st and 2nd place
- Thornwood High School:
 - Congratulations to six (6) students who were featured and named as Illinois State Scholars in a recent issue of The Shopper; a few IB students received scholarships to several Colleges & Universities totaling over \$1 Million.
 - Marching band perform a music program entitled A Sleigh Ride Winter Concert at South Suburban College on December 10th
 - Band Recruitment Night–Congratulations two (2) students receiving full scholarship offers from University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB) & Langston Univ.
 - Athletics Recruitment – Congratulations to two students signing letters of intent at Ole Miss. and Western Illinois University; Thanksgiving Holiday and Hillcrest Holiday Classic – Varsity Girls Basketball secured 1st place in the Rich South tournament on December 22; Girls varsity basketball competed in New Orleans over winter break finishing in top 4 of 16 teams. Season stats are 15-1.

Jayera Griffin, Thornton Township High School Student and Artist Raised approximately \$1,000 for a "free wash day" at a local laundromat. This year, she recently donated a wagon full of books and \$1,000 to purchase school supplies for Dolton-Riverdale School District 148 students. The Board of Education gave her a medal.

STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

First Reading of PRESS Recommended Updates (Issues 97,98,99) 30-Day Review as presented by Dr. Doss. The Policy Committee held a public meeting on December 17, 2018 at the District office. The meeting was held to discuss proposed policy updates recommended in the Board of Education’s subscription to the Illinois Association of School Boards PRESS Policy service. The Policy Committee reviewed PRESS policy updates 97, 98, 99. There were numerous updates included in the three said updates. However, the Policy Committee is not accepting all revisions as recommended by PRESS. The Policy committee is recommending approval of the policy attached to this memo for your review. This meeting, we are presenting the policy revisions for 30-day review and subsequent approval at the February Board of Education meeting.

FIRST READING OF PRESS RECOMMENDED UPDATES 30-DAY REVIEW

Superintendent Cunningham stated the following: Good evening, six (6) months ago, I came to the Board of Education Meeting with answers to six (6) questions concerning becoming a healthy organization. Healthy organizations minimize the potential for confusion by clarifying these six questions.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

1. **Why do we exist?** To prepare productive citizens that will be contributing members of a global society through lifelong learning.
2. **How do we behave?** As servant leaders – working to improve the system and serve our community, nation and globe.
3. **What do we do?** We provide a high-quality education with platinum customer service to our communities.
4. **How will we succeed?**
 - Setting clear direction, creating collaborative work with effective teams, making student-centered decisions, and improving organizational health that includes:
 - Effective communication
 - Setting expectations and holding staff accountable
 - Effective hiring/training/retention of staff, planning for our financial future, building an effective process of continuous improvement (academic, social, and emotional)
5. **What is most important, right now?** Building trust with the Board of Education, Staff, and Stakeholders.
6. **Who must do what?**
 - Supt. – working with the BOE including – clear communication, clear direction, and building organizational health, Supt. – Build a successful leadership team (Core Team) – Communicate direction and stick to it. (repeat at least 7 times), Core Team – Communicate with departments – clearly define the expectations and understandings of direction, and Departments – develop understanding – work to get clarity and direction from the leadership team.

Our work has led us to tentative agreements in our two open contracts. This is important to us because we have pledged to Team together to Move Us Forward and moving forward includes labor peace – and collaboration. This can only happen when we can come together and solve challenges. We are beginning to get this done. Your support empowers this work. Thank you and I look forward to many other solutions that we can find collaboratively.

At 7:08p.m., Mrs. Cruz 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 Cruz, Banks, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

At 8:43 p.m., Butler moved, Banks seconded to **Reconvene Regular Session**. On roll call, Members Butler, Banks, Cruz, Graham, Lawrence and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RECONVENE
REGULAR SESSION

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Cruz seconded, to **Approve and Adopt the Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of Teacher**. On roll call, Members Lawrence, Cruz, Banks, Butler, Graham, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVE THE
RESOLUTION
AUTHORIZING
DISMISSAL OF
TEACHER
ADJOURNMENT

At 8:44 p.m., Mr. Banks moved Mr. Butler seconded to **Adjourn the Meeting**. On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Cruz, Graham, Lawrence, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

President

Secretary