

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 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 6:39 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, Cruz, Graham, Moody, and Whittington answered. Members Banks and Lawrence were absent. Dr. Nathaniel Cunningham, Superintendent, 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; Mrs. Ebonie Williams, Thornridge Principal, Dr. Tony Ratliff, Thornton Principal; Mr. Don Holmes, Thornwood Principal, and Mr. James Petrungaro, legal counsel, were also present.

ROLL  
CALL

**Report from Curriculum Committee:** Mr. Fickes reported that the last meeting was held on 02/07/19 in T107 at 4:30p. Topics discussed were Illinois Empower workplans for Thornridge and Thornwood High Schools and is on tonight's agenda for approval, Family and Community Engagement (F.A.C.E.) Summit which will be held at Thornton Township High School on 03/23/19, and new proposal for Science Division and Enhanced Driver's Education program which will give students more range time. Also discussed were the childcare program, credit recovery and the Naviance Program

COMMITTEE OF THE  
WHOLE

**Report from Finance Committee:** Mr. Horton reported that the last meeting was held on 02/05/19 there were five (5) action presented and approved and will be recommended for approval at tonight's meeting. The next meeting will be held on 03/15/19 at 4:00pm at the District office.

**Report from Policy Committee:** No report

**Report from Discipline Committee:** No report

**Report from Facilities Committee:** Mr. Garrett reported that the last meeting was rescheduled due to inclement weather and the next meeting will be held on 02/28/2019 at 4:00pm at the District office.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes: Regular Meeting and Executive Meeting of November 14, 2018
- Minutes: Regular Meeting and Executive Meeting of December 12, 2018
- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated January 10, 2019 through February 13, 2019.
- Personnel dated February 13, 2019 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations)
- Ratifications:
  - Overnight fieldtrip: Thornridge High School IHSA Chess Team Conference, Peoria, IL, February 7-9, 2019
  - Overnight fieldtrip: Thornton Township High School IDTA Competitive Dance State Finals, Springfield, IL, February 8-10, 2019
  - Overnight fieldtrip: Thornwood High School Boys' Varsity Basketball – College Exposure Shootout, Central Michigan University, February 8-10, 2019
  - Overnight fieldtrip: Thornwood High School IHSA Wrestling Individual State Finals, University of Illinois Urbana, February 13-17, 2019

MINUTES

BILLS

PERSONNEL

RATIFICATIONS

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

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Approve the BINA Hearing for Proposed Working Cash Fund Bond Issuance-Intent of the Board of Education to sell \$2,785,000 be Adjourned**. There were no Board questions or public comments. On roll call, Members Butler, Whittington, Cruz, Graham and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARING

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Jai Tarek Brown spoke on how Outlook Academy changed his life when he was faced with adversity when his mother became gravely ill. He has obtained his diploma and has landed gainful employment. He wanted to encourage other youth. He thanked the Board and District Administrators.
- Felita Crayton presented holiday gifts to the Board

Dr. Doss reported that since the last scheduled Board meeting, three (3) FOIA requests were submitted and zero (0) are pending. All requests have been responded to within the allotted period.

FOIA

Mr. Arrington presented the following information:

COMMUNICATIONS

- Thornridge High School:
  - Our Special Olympics basketball team placed 1st in their division and now headed to state! Congrats students and Coaches Miller and Garcia!
  - February 2<sup>nd</sup>, Rashaun Anderson placed 4th in the state series Regional varsity wrestling tournament. Congratulations!
  - Congratulations to the Science Club who competed at Andrew High School on January 19<sup>th</sup> for the last SWSC Science Competition.
    - Thornton Smith won Silver Medal in the Paper Airplane Competition
    - Yescenia Diaz and Kristina Wilson took home Silver in Marble Maze contest!
    - Team members are: Yescenia Diaz, Kristina Wilson, Kenneth Wilson, Thornton Smith, Salamot Balogun, Sarai Hurst, Aniah Hurst, Rayven Foreman, Rachel Adedeji, Ryan Ifebueme, Stacy Ifebueme, Moses Osineye, Tiana Blake, Caitlyn Williams, Aaliyah Tolar, and Kiyah Oparah
- Thornton Township High School
  - Speech team competed at IHSA Regional competition at Eisenhower High School. Winning 1st regionally at Individual and Performance In The Round (PIR) competitions.
  - The wrestling team competed in the JV Conference Tournament. Job well done!
    - 1st place - Chris Barker
    - 3rd place - Desmond Kelly
    - 5th place - Jonathan Davis
    - 6th place - Keevon Osborne.
  - The Varsity wrestlers competed in the IHSA Regionals. Congrats!
    - Jamal Osborne, 2x Champion, currently ranked 8th in the State.
    - 2nd place - Steve Collins and honorable mention ranked in State
    - 3rd place - Bernell Bennett.
    - 4th place - Desmond Kelly
- Thornwood High School
  - On January 7<sup>th</sup> students attended the “Clash of the Classes” Assembly supporting both District Improvement Plan (DIP) and School Improvement Plan (SIP).
  - Mathletes competed at the SWSC conference tournament on January 23<sup>rd</sup> taking home awards in 10 of the 15 events.
  - Coach Slavich and the Athletic Department hosted a shootout in memory of Chelby Frazier and it was successful, offering stiff competition from Thornridge, Harlan, Thornton Township, Chicago Agricultural Science, Rich Central, Hyde Park, Southland Prep & Thornwood. Ms. Kawania Caesar (mother) was present and received a poster of Chelby in remembrance of his Thornwood basketball games. Ms. Caesar promoted Chelbo The Legend Foundation and looks forward to continuing Chelby’s legacy!
  - Congratulations to our Football Scholar-Athletes and families for signing letters of intent on February 6<sup>th</sup>, National Signing Day.

- Co-Ed Varsity Cheer Team qualified in the 2019 IHSA Sectional Competition and competed in Bloomington, IL under the direction of Head Coach Billie Griggs. Their 23rd state appearance in 27 years. Mrs. Griggs will be retiring this school year.
- On February 7<sup>th</sup>, Thornwood High School and Fuze Catering celebrated BURGER WARS student chef cooking competition. Participating students had to add one fruit or vegetable to their burger. Guest judges: Chef James Sanders, Fuze Catering & Owner, Dirty Bird restaurant, Shagg Nice, on-air radio personality, Power 92.3, teacher, Chef Henderson and Principal, Don Holmes.
- Kristin Moran (TR Teacher and Author) wrote and illustrated a book “Eamonn the Mighty”. The book is about her son’s medical diagnosis Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome. Mrs. Moran shared her son’s journey, her research with limited resources which encouraged her to write. She shared how the book writing process came to life in the hospital room.
- Danny Gray (TW Teacher) and the Black Male Panel Discussion Students shared how they motivate, education and empower through their discussions and how they appreciate the opportunity to be an inspiration to other youth.
- Bench dedication to the 13 NFL players who graduated and played at Thornton Township High School. The purpose of the dedication is to motivate future students/athletes that they can make it to the top of their athletic endeavors through faith, hard work, academics and good character.

PRESENTATIONS

Mrs. Whittington moved, Mrs. Cruz seconded, to **Approve the Second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Reading of PRESS Recommended Updates (Issues 97,98,99)** as presented by Dr. Doss (60-Day Review). On roll call, Members Whittington, Cruz, Butler, Graham and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

SECOND READING OF PRESS RECOMMENDED UPDATES

Mrs. Moody moved, Mrs. Cruz seconded, to **Approve the Overnight Special Olympics Thornridge High School Basketball Tournament to Illinois State** as presented by Ms. Williams for approximately 11 students and 2 coaches in Normal, IL departing on March 15, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. to March 16, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. On roll call, Members Moody, Cruz, Butler, Graham and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF OVERNIGHT FIELDTRIP

Mrs. Moody moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Approve the Thornwood High School Girls Track & Field Grand Valley College Tour** as presented by Mr. Holmes for approximately 14 students and 2-4 coaches in Allendale, MI, departing on February 15, 2019 at 11:00a.m. to February 16, 2019 at 9:00p.m. On roll call, Members Moody, Whittington, Butler, Cruz and Graham voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF OUT-OF-STATE FIELDTRIP

Mrs. Whittington moved, Mrs. Moody seconded, to **Approve the Thornwood High School Girls Track & Field Jackie Joyner-Kersey / Al Joyner East St. Louis Classic** as presented by Mr. Holmes approximately 20-25 students and 2-4 coaches to East St. Louis, IL, departing on April 5, 2019 at 8:00a.m. to April 6, 2019 at 9:00p.m. On roll call, Members Whittington, Moody, Butler, Cruz and Graham voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF OVERNIGHT FIELDTRIP

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Cruz seconded, to **Approve the T-108 Renovation for Machine Shop Program** as presented by Mr. Fickes for to prepare students for a career as a tool and die maker, computer numerical control (CNS) operator, or an engineer in the manufacturing industry in the amount of \$80,000.00 funded by Capital Improvements. On roll call, Members Butler, Cruz, Graham, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF T-108 RENOVATION FOR MACHINE SHOP

Mrs. Whittington moved, Mrs. Moody seconded, to **Approve Illinois Empower Workplans for School Improvement for Thornridge and Thornwood High Schools** as presented by Mr. Fickes. On roll call, Members Whittington, Moody, Butler, Cruz and Graham voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF ILLINOIS EMPOWER WORKPLANS FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Cruz seconded, to **Approve Platform CNC Routers and Plasma Cutter Purchase** as presented by Mr. Fickes for cutting edge equipment that would enhance student’s employment opportunities if they choose to work in the industry in the amount of \$37,997.00 funded by Perkins Grant. On roll call, Members Butler, Cruz, Graham, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF PLATFORM CNC ROUTERS AND PLASMA CUTTER PURCHASE

Mrs. Moody moved, Mrs. Cruz seconded, to Approve **Teach Smartboard Purchase** as presented by Mr. Fickes for Career and Technology Education Instructional equipment for Thornridge High School in the amount of \$9,124.50 funded by Perkins Grant. On roll call, Members Moody, Cruz, Butler, Graham and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF TEACH  
SMARTBOARD  
PURCHASE

Mrs. Moody moved, Mrs. Cruz seconded, to Approve **Resolution Notifying the Collective Liability Insurance Cooperative (CLIC) – Workers’ Compensation** presented by Mr. Horton to lower costs associated with worker’s compensation. On roll call, Members Moody, Cruz, Butler, Graham and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
RESOLUTION  
NOTIFYING COLLECTIVE  
LIABILITY INSURANCE  
COOPERATIVE (CLIC)  
WORKERS’  
COMPENSATION  
SUPERINTENDENT  
REPORT

Discussed Comprehensive School Reform (CSR) to dramatically improve school achievement and student performance by not revising but redirecting.

1. Strategizing – District supporting school improvement by setting standards and goals; allocating resources and evaluating progress over time
2. Building support – District to inform stakeholders and gains the buy-in of the community in the school reform process
3. Facilitating an informed choice – District helps school develop a school approach that meets the needs of the students
4. Forging a new compact with the schools – District empowerment to the schools while holding the schools accountable for their results; District reflects how its own role can change schools
5. Building capacities -strengthen teaching, learning and leadership

At 8:06p.m., Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Whittington 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 Butler, Whittington, Cruz, Graham and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

At 8:50p.m., Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Cruz seconded to **Reconvene Regular Session**. On roll call, Members Butler, Cruz, Graham and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RECONVENE REGULAR  
SESSION

Mrs. Moody moved, Mrs. Cruz seconded, to **Approve Administrator and Non-Union Employee Contracts**. On roll call, Members Moody, Cruz, Butler and Graham voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
ADMINISTRATOR AND  
NON-UNION EMPLOYEE  
CONTRACTS

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Moody seconded, to **Approve Teacher Employment Termination**. On roll call, Members Butler, Moody, Cruz and Graham voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
TEACHER  
EMPLOYMENT  
TERMINATION

Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Cruz seconded, to **Settlement Agreement with Faculty Association**. On roll call, Members Butler, Cruz, Graham, Moody and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
SETTLEMENT  
AGREEMENT WITH  
FACULTY ASSOCIATION

At 8:55 p.m., Mr. Butler moved, Mrs. Cruz seconded to **Adjourn the Meeting**. On roll call, Members Butler, Cruz, Graham and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

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President

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Secretary