Committee of the Whole February 19, 2025 Thornton Fractional Center for Academics & Technology 1605 Wentworth Ave. Calumet City, IL 60409 MINUTES



1. Call to Order/Roll call

President Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following roll call: **Present:** Ballard, Guyton, Jackson, Newman, Terrazas, Townsend, Wilson **Absent:**

2. **Communication/Public Comment**—Mr. Yusef invited the board and audience to the Esports invitational at South this weekend. He noted that many college level coaches attend and often offer scholarships to students. There are 16 schools participating. It also serves as a fundraiser.

3. Buildings Grounds/Safety Committee--Member Townsend

A. COPS Grant Initiative Update—Dr. Whitten and team shared the purpose of the report is to keep the board updated on the initiative's progress. A timeline of activities was provided in the board materials. Initial focus is to make sure the basics are addressed, which is why administration has conducted two security popup visits at each campus. The security committee is meeting regularly, including most recently talking about staffing. At this time, additional staff do not seem to be necessary. Discussion included the use of detectors is not an intrusive process and students are cooperative with a smooth non-confrontational process; there is community/student buy in.

RFP—Mr. Wakefield shared that talking with districts is helping refine District 215's RFP. It is expected to be released in March--it is anticipated there are 6-7 potential vendors. Discussion included entry process including student backpacks are not put through a different scan, students usually know what may set it off and a staff member is stationed outside for traffic. Additional discussion included if would they detect vaping paraphernalia. The settings for vaping aren't practical on entry but they can be moved around if needed. Further discussion included confirming the grant is federal money and we don't have the funds yet. The district has to spend it to get it. The district does have resources if the federal money becomes an issue. The plan is to roll it out next school year and be very intentional with clear procedures and communication. Students will make a video for students stressing it is for safety, not punishment. Staff will make it positive for students.

- B. Construction Project Update—Mr. Stephan shared work is being finished with the South HVAC/punch list. The North electrical vault should be done during spring break. Bids for the North field will be presented to the board next week for approval. The first game should be October 6th and the project came in under budget. The district does have to report the plan to the park district based on the agreement.
- C. Building Use Fee Schedule—Mr. Stephan presented the proposed building use fee schedule as is required by policy to be approved annually. The fees are aligned to what we pay for staff. The priority is to support local organizations/schools. The board agreed with the schedule for approval.
- D. Building Usage Report—The report was summarized. Superintendent Robinzine stated there is a group of friends who want to plant a tree in Rich Dust's honor at South.

4. Finance Committee--Member Jackson

- A. FY25 Property Tax Relief Grant—Ms. Bishop shared the district received the grant.
- B. Student Fees 2025-2026 School Year—Ms. Bishop stated there is no change other than increasing camps to \$25. The driver's education fee has been \$250 for many years. The board agreed with the schedule for approval.
- C. Permanent Transfer Education Fund to Capital Projects Fund—This transfer allows for the planning for capital work that needs to be done and there are no concerns with it.

5. Curriculum Committee--Member Ballard

A. Summer Programs—Ms. Szuba and Ms. Martin Dean presented the summer programs as personnel hires will be coming for approval. New this year are AP summer boot camps for AP course students. The math offerings have been restructured as honors geometry had best success.

6. Behavior Intervention/Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee--Member Newman

- A. 2025-26 Student Handbook—Dr. Whitten shared the time to drop a class has been changed from ten days to five days. Discussion included reformatting the handbook and having a flip-book for students highlighting the most important items.
- B. Discipline Improvement Plan—Dr. Whitten shared that according to the state, suspension numbers are high requiring the district to submit a plan. Administration had already developed a plan in the fall before this information was known. It does require board approval, but ISBE does not approve it; its focus is on the data.
- C. Suspension Reports—Board comments were that the format being presented makes it much easier to see what is happening in the schools. There is a noticeable increase in vaping paraphernalia and all campuses are utilizing progressive discipline. In some families, parent notification is a discipline.

7. Policy Committee--Member Newman

A. Title IX Update—Mr. Williams, Title IX coordinator shared we will be getting the PRESS Plus update in April which will probably address related policies. He added that trusted adults still must report any allegations reported to them.

8. Adjourn

I move to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m. This motion, made by Member Townsend and seconded by Member Newman, passed on voice vote.

President

Recording Secretary