

Committee of the Whole
Wednesday, May 14, 2025
Thornton Fractional Center for Academics & Technology, 1605
Wentworth Ave., Calumet City, IL 60409
MINUTES



1. Call to Order/Roll call

President Terrazas called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following roll call:

Present: Calderon-Miranda, Guyton, Myers, Newman, Perkins, Williams, Terrazas **Absent:**

2. Communication/Public Comment

Joe Stephan, Executive Director of the 683 Foundation shared the partnership with the district and may be the only teachers' association in the state having this type of foundation. This provides scholarships, assistance for students with food scarcity, and the Rich Dust memorial fund for teachers provides grants to teachers for special activities/materials for their classrooms. There is a fundraiser at Wendy's on Torrence with 30% of all profits on May 28th going to the funds.

3. Department Overviews—Mr. Robinzine introduced overviews as a way to give the board the background on all it takes to get to teaching and learning.

3.A. Business Services—Ms. Bishop introduced her team including Ms. McMillian and share highlights including the district earning ISBE Financial Profile of Recognition for FT24 which is the highest level provided. Other highlights included grants for weapons detection systems in the amount of \$700,000 and renovation of stadiums. Discussion included thanking Ms. Bishop for the work she has done at TFD 215.

3.A.1. Facilities—Mr. Stephan introduced himself, stating he's been in the district 36 years, supervises 52 staff; oversees 5 buildings and 75 acres of land. He reviewed major updates to the buildings, and he oversees physical security of the buildings.

3.A.2. Food Service—Ms. Burford has been in the district 16 years, and she oversees the breakfast/ nutritional programs and grants for healthy meals. New equipment has been added to the kitchens through grants. The district feeds all students under age 18 throughout summer; have gardens at each campus; parent and student taste tests; recognized for breakfast trailblazer award.

3.B. Curriculum & Instruction—Ms. Szuba and Ms. Martin-Dean shared their department oversees curriculum, assessments, summer school, credit recovery, institute days, professional development, Title 1, 2 4 federal grants and data collection. They also serve as the PERA representative; develop the annual school calendar and curriculum guide. They work in collaboration with teachers and assistant principals for curriculum and instruction and feeder school collaboration. They have developed a curriculum newsletter, initiated listening sessions and created a teacher mentoring program. More AP courses have been provided and will be offering an AP bootcamp for students.

3.B.1. Career Development—Mr. Mastey shared the goal of the department is to attain education through employment and professional development. Lifelong learning events for students and community are provided including educational pathways. Other responsibilities include managing the federal Perkins funding, state grants, MOUs with post-secondary partners. A major focus is following data that shows student growth and using it to make sure minimize barriers for students to take credits and certifications. There have been total tuition savings of over \$1.5 million, over 340 certifications earned this year, 95% rate of passing for licensure and over 40 industry and college partners.

3.C. Student Services—Dr. Whitten shared responsibilities including overseeing special education, Title 3 grant, student handbook, IDEA and truancy grants. Initiatives include the new director of special education will extend services to professional development for staff. The department has a Spanish interpreter who also assists with the strong bilingual parent advisory committee. Board will see contracts for direct mental health and mentoring supports/services for students. Proud of ESL class 2nd year for parents. Initiatives have decreased chronic absenteeism/truancy.

- 3.D. Human Resources—Ms. Jerger shared monthly campus visits with staff may be expanded next year. This year new initiatives included a new employee newsletter, new hire orientation—monthly after board approves hires, expanded wellness program. Other responsibilities include meeting with everyone who comes through for DCFS fingerprinting including following Faith's law for notification with other entities, processing workplace injuries, serving as custodian of records—digital files; help with leaves, insurance, unemployment.
- 3.E. Informational Technology—Mr. Wakefield shared there are nine staff in his department who are customer focused on serving students and staff in every department in the district. They are proud of the student workers program. The goal is to make technology infrastructure seamless and the department manages student data to be able to give departments real data for informed decision making. The department also oversees the e-rate program which is a federal program.

4. Buildings Grounds/Safety Committee

- 4.A. Construction Project Update—Mr. Stephan gave the construction update stating the TFN stadium project started last week with projected completion September/October. At the most recent meeting impact of tariffs were mentioned for the first time. The elevator modernization program will start June 3rd--must be running before school starts. Summer work also includes North barbering classroom, roof updates, TFS four tennis courts, electrical vault system, filling in North pool—will be used as weight room most likely. Construction has been a three-year process.
- 4.B. Building Usage Report—gave history and update.
- 4.C. Safety Committee Update—Dr. Whitten, Mr. Wakefield, Ms. Bishop and Mr. Stephan reviewed the history of the work. Mr. Robinzine shared it is a professional goal of his and that safety is a shared responsibility-- make sure every person gets home. A safety audit was done in March 2022 and the focus was not on weapons detection. A team attended a safety summit and held our own COPS grant meeting including chiefs, etc. Teams went to different campuses to see various processes and procedures. The district received a \$500,000 grant and a \$200,000 grant--both federal grants. Administration is focused on spending the grant monies before it is possibly pulled. There is a funding backup plan if there is an issue. The procurement process was reviewed along with the responses. A contract will be brought to the board—a five-year agreement which allows spending the grant. Discussion included potential set up at each campus, starting with summer school and summer bridge, longevity of the system and plans for 5-7 years from now--can levy in capital improvement plans. Also being recommended is a brandished weapons detection system.

5. IT Committee

- 5.A. Electronic Card Access Control System Expansion—Mr. Wakefield and Mr. Stephan explained this expansion is being added to secure spaces throughout the buildings--primarily around technology spaces and the elevator upgrades. This is being funded through grants.

6. Finance Committee

- 6.A. Athletic Training Vendor Agreement with Trademark Performance 2025-26—checked with athletic directors and they are providing quality services.
- 6.B. Strength Training Vendor Agreement with Trademark Performance 2025-26
- 6.C. School Resource Officer Agreements--Village of Lansing and City of Calumet City 2025-2026—each year bring them forward. The SROs are employees of the police departments, not the district. The district pays hourly rate but not benefits. This year are including an additional ½ hour to support weapons detection system.
- 6.D. School Employee Loss Fund (SELF) Workers Compensation Pool Proposal of Insurance 2025-26; This has been beneficial for the district and Ms. Bishop will double check that the rates are correct.
- 6.E. Bank Account Signatory Changes—will be updating names and banks have different processes.

7. Curriculum Committee

- 7.A. Consolidated District Plan—Ms. Szuba shared the district has to have an approved plan and it goes through five levels of approval. She reviewed the plan and district goals which must align to four goals of the state. Discussion included looking into including health sciences which is an emerging

pathway. There was a nursing program in the past, but the success rate did not match the money being spent although the conversation has not stopped.

- 7.B. PaCE Framework—The focus is every student should have a four year plan that not only is academic, but also for anything after high school. It is required by law and allows the district to access Perkins funding. There are several different layers of input and will include training staff on how to interact with students. Students are creating artwork and will send to ISBE.

8. **Behavior Intervention/Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee**

8.A. Monthly Suspension Reports—Principals reviewed numbers and now know more of what to focus on for next school year including programs for female students. Board comments included being impressed with how principals have worked and presented data.

8.B. Reimagine Grant—Dr. Whitten shared the grant provides for services for summer camps intensive life skills which will be a four-week program for 25 students. Discussion included student selection and working to have students engaged.

9. **Policy Committee**

9.A. PRESS 118—policy updates—There is a new policy in accordance with legislation; Title IX changes.

10. **Assignment of Board Committees**—Discussion included that chairing a committee has no authority or power—it is something you are interested in and willing to spend more time on. Board members will send Ms. Howard and President Terrazas their top two choices.

Buildings Grounds/Safety

IT

Finance

Curriculum

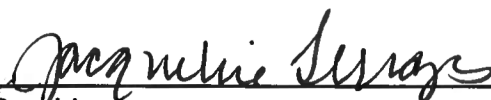
Equity

Behavior Intervention/Parent-Teacher Advisory

Policy

11. **Adjourn**

I move to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m. This motion, made by Newman and seconded by Member Williams, passed on voice vote.



President



Secretary



Recording Secretary