Committee of the Whole November 13, 2024 Thornton Fractional Center for Academics & Technology 1605 Wentworth Ave. Calumet City, IL 60409 MINUTES



1. Welcome/Roll Call

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

2. Communication/Public Comment—Superintendent John Robinzine acknowledged the TFD 215 board members for their dedication and work including behind the scenes in service to the students, staff and communities.

3. Buildings Grounds/Safety Committee--Member Townsend

- A. Construction Project Update—Mr. Stephan shared both rooftop units are in place at TFS over the pool. There are delays with the civil engineers in starting the TFN stadium project which is pushing back on ability to release bids.
- B. Summer 2025 Projects—Mr. Stephan and Ms. Bishop discussed possible projects. These include:
 - replacing the tennis courts at South because the repairs aren't helping long-term.
 - continuation of roofing projects with the next focus being CAL—the roof is 27 years old.
 - changing classroom portion for barbering at North.
 - planning for roofing work at North 1935 addition—over the auditorium.
 - filling in the pool at North which hasn't been used since 2019 and is over 100 years old. It can't be used for competitions so the suggestion is to make the area a room that can be used for several activities, creating a neutral space.
 - working on the seepage issues at North, this is not the same as flooding. Mr. Stephan noted the district cannot control the flooding that comes from the community.
 - looking to create a schedule for replacement of rooftop HVAC; there are 28-32 different units—won't be able to start install until summer 2026.

Ms. Bishop noted her team has been planning for these projects and the district has the funds to pay for it. Everything was anticipated for except HVAC and the 2026 budget will address that. Discussion included the realistic usability of North for the future and concurrence was that the funds the district has invested has makes it not financially viable to replace.

C. Building Usage Report—monitoring

4. Finance Committee--Member Jackson

A. 2024 Levy Year—Ms. Bishop explained the tax levy process. If an entity doesn't request the levy, the entity does not receive the revenue. The maximum amount is CPI or 5%, whichever is less. She reviewed the timeline and stated that the current CPI is 3.4% which is what the district would request. District 215 is eligible for the property tax grant but has to levy the total amount and the grant comes off the tax bills. She reviewed historical levy request vs. actual receipts and the only thing in the district's control is the levy. Everyone concurred with being

very concerned about the taxpayers and minimizing impact, especially with the recent reassessments. Other discussion included being concerned about the future and decrease in federal funding given the election. The district is in good financial shape and there are two options. One is to levy the same as last year or to levy the increased amount given the uncertainty. Consensus was to go with increase for tentative levy at this time unless something changes before it has to be approved.

5. Curriculum Committee--Member Ballard

- A. School Report Card—Ms. Szuba shared an overview of the district's school report card. Both campuses maintained commendable ratings. The district has a 91% graduation rate which is 3.6% higher than the state average. An area of focus is the district is 6.3% below state average for chronic absenteeism and we have to work on freshmen on track which is still below state average. Other notable results were there was an increase in science proficiency, decrease in ELA and slight decrease in math. There will be new science and math tests. Both campuses increased overall in commendable status. The schools continue to work with all staff on the data and there are interventions for students in core academic areas.
- B. Curriculum Guide Handbook—Ms. Szuba introduced the discussion stating the entire handbook has been revamped. Ms. Martin Dean led this project, and it will be brought forward for approval at the November meeting so students can start course selection. This is more user friendly for students, families and counselors as it provides visual clarity in course sequencing, course numbers and updates to career technical sides. The board commended the new formatting.

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

- A. Update on TFS 10/28/24 Student Incident—Ms. Bouler reviewed the incident which she stated is not reflective of what our students do every day.
- B. In School/Out of School Suspension Data—Principals shared the data and will change formatting. There is better overall communication, and all campuses are seeing a large increase in students letting the school know there are issues with other students or self. Deans and counselors are required for re-entry meetings and students are requesting conflict resolution staff. They also reviewed updates on behavior action plans.

7. Policy Committee--Member Newman

- A. Policy 5:60—this is to clarify the policy using GSA calculator
- B. PRESS 116 Update—Title IX to bring in line with federal guidelines
- C. PRESS 117 Update—will bring for first read in December, review at the January CoW and adopt at the January meeting.

8. Adjourn

 $V\hat{m}$ ove to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m. This motion, made by Newman and seconded by Member

Townsend, passed on voice vote.

Recording Secretary