

**Committee of the Whole**  
**January 15, 2025**  
**Thornton Fractional Center for Academics & Technology**  
**1605 Wentworth Ave.**  
**Calumet City, IL 60409**  
**MINUTES**



**1. 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:**

A. Pledge of Allegiance

**2. Communication/Public Comment**—Joshua Kern addressed the board stating he never meant to harm anyone. He realizes his grades and behavior are not good and deeply apologizes for his behavior.

**3. Buildings Grounds/Safety Committee--Member Townsend**

A. Upgrading Building Automation System—Mr. Stephan shared this system upgrade will be on the next board meeting for approval as the systems are not able to communicate between each other.

B. Construction Project Update—South pool HVAC work is focused on working on smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors; electrical vault work can mostly be done while in session—targeting spring break for when the power needs to be shut down; the elevator project starts as soon as school gets out. The North stadium has run into a few delays, but hope to have rfps out at the end of January and the North administrative team is working on alternatives for practices, etc. It should be noted that all construction projects came in underbid.

C. Building Usage Report

**4. Finance Committee--Member Jackson**

A. Annual Financial Report 23/24 Review—Jennifer Decker from the district's independent audit firm of Wipfli LLP stated it was a clean audit and one of her easiest and quickest this year. She explained that the AFR is the report that is filed with the state. She added this is the first time the district has had a 4.0 rating of excellent.

**5. Curriculum Committee--Member Ballard**

A. Illinois Arts Council Foreign Language Planning Grant Update—Ms. Szuba shared the district has been invited to apply for the implementation grant and will do so this month. This will allow the district to hire a sign language teacher. Given that District 215 was asked to apply, Ms. Szuba is fairly confident of getting the grant. Administration will know in early March.

B. 2025-26 Proposed School Calendar—Ms. Szuba stated the proposed calendar has been shared with the union and feeder schools and it is in alignment with District 158. Based on data showing a significant drop in participation at the spring parent/teacher conferences across all campuses, the spring conference has been eliminated and an institute day added in January. Discussion included the importance of still connecting with parents and the plan is to use at least one Wednesday in the spring as a "parent contact day" although staff can do more than one Wednesday to communicate with families. The administration is waiting for input from Local 683. Further discussion was to send communication to parents conveying they should feel free to reach out to teachers for the second semester contact.

C. Calumet City Youth Development Linkage Proposal—Mr. Mastey shared the organization wants to do a partnership for services. The district may provide access to students/staff and the organization would provide opportunities/supports for students, staff and families. More details need to be worked out including who determines criteria for access. This is an extension of current services.

**6. IT Committee--Member Wilson**

- A. 1-1 Chromebook purchase for 2025-26—Mr. Wakefield stated this purchase continues the program authorized by the board in in 2023. The quote is slightly below what was paid last year, and the district was advised by vendors of a possible price increase which is why the request is earlier than typical. The cost is budgeted in the IT budget and will possibly use some title funds. The district allows seniors to purchase their Chromebook for \$1 when they graduate.
- B. PowerSchool Data Incident Update—Mr. Wakefield stated the district has been impacted however, the issue that caused the breach is not active and has had no impact on district data network. PowerSchool has been forthcoming, and thousands of districts are impacted. We have filed a claim with cyber security insurance.

**7. Behavior Intervention/Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee--Member Newman**

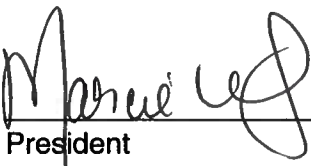
- A. 2025-26 Proposed Student Handbook Review—Dr. Whitten and team shared they did a survey of the school community regarding the handbook. Many topics were proposed, and a meeting was held December 12<sup>th</sup> involving parents, students, parent liaisons, staff and board representatives. This was a very inclusive model for review with energetic discussion, especially from the students. There were minimal changes. The board will get another version in February for review and approval. Discussion included the request for a change in format and better accessibility such as QR codes/posters as ways to make sure it's in front of students.
- B. Monthly Suspension Reports—The principals presented the new format for suspension reports. Highlights included there is a significant decrease in out of school suspensions; students do ask for conflict resolution specialists. Discussion included wanting a comparison of first semester data year to year and that the district has been identified as being in the top 20% of districts in suspensions. Dr. Whitten shared the district has plan in place and that this can consistently happen given the district is compared to other districts. The District 215 focus is to be sure we are meeting the needs of students. It was noted that the workday is filled for the conflict resolution specialists, and they are being utilized.

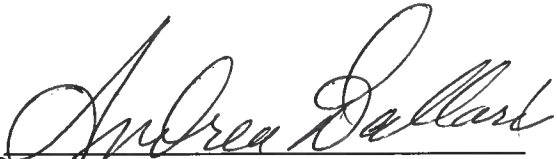
**8. Policy Committee--Member Newman**

- A. PRESS 117 Update—Member Newman reviewed the proposed policy changes noting specifically new training that the board is required to undertake (policy 2:120) and policy 8:10 that the Board President is the spokesperson for the board of education. The first reading of the policies will be at the January 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**9. Adjourn**

*I move to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 p.m. This motion, made by Member Newman and seconded by Member Townsend, passed on voice vote.*

  
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President

  
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Secretary

  
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Recording Secretary