

**Committee of the Whole**  
**August 14, 2024**  
**Thornton Fractional Center for Academics & Technology**  
**1605 Wentworth Ave., Calumet City, IL 60409**  
**MINUTES**



**1. Call to Order/Roll Call**

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

**Present:** Ballard, Jackson, Newman, Stepp, Terrazas, Wilson **Absent:** Townsend

**2. Communication/Public Comment—none**

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

A. Discipline Audit Discussion--via Zoom—Elizabeth Wagman and Kathleen Gibbons from Tressler, LLP shared their background and the services they can provide as part of a discipline audit. As restorative practices have become more prevalent, they meet with superintendents/designees to determine areas of concern and then review policies/procedures/data. Based on their data analysis, they provide recommendations and can provide assistance with updating policies and procedures. The process is customized to the needs of the district/buildings and the approach looks at exclusionary and inclusionary practices.

B. District Discipline Action Plan—Principals presented the plan for 2024-25 from their work during the summer. They focused on three main areas with strategies and activities for each focus area:

- Increase awareness of services and supports available to increase social-emotional competencies.
- Utilize discipline data to identify themes, align interventions, and adjust staffing placement.
- Develop and implement a positive behavior campaign.

Discussion included putting discipline data in the superintendent's weekly update and to make sure discipline teams use interventions in proactive ways when notice things with students. In the process of developing the plan they collaborated with deans throughout the conference and TFD 215 is not on the heavy end of exclusion. The major focuses are to work on consistency and to work with DAs/Deans on de-escalation, etc.

C. TF South Discipline Management Plan; Ms. Bouler shared her team's plan. The primary and immediate focus is to increase the visibility of the administration team and staff—being present, visible and accessible including being in the halls during every passing period. There are several strategies to change and improve school culture.

**4. Equity Committee--Member Terrazas**

A. English Learner Program Support—Dr. Whitten shared that her team, in focusing on data to analyze equity, looked at EL proficiency. Based on the data and input from other districts who use the program, teachers will have quick access to data to develop instructional strategies to support individual needs of students. It will be partially funded through Title 3. It is a three-year contract and the EL team has developed a three year implementation plan.

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

A. Summer School Update—Detailed data was provided, and no families were charged.

- B. ACT Student Strategy Boot Camp- Academic Tutoring Contract—This is a voluntary boot camp for 50 students per campus for ACT test preparation. The focus is on ACT strategies not content.

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

- A. Facility use requests—Mr. Robinzine and Mr. Stephan shared the policy regarding community use of facilities which states the district does give the option to use district facilities. Any request can be denied if it impedes school. No political events are allowed, and the district cannot discriminate with certain organizations.
- B. Construction Project Update—Mr. Stephan
- 1) South Pool Renovation—administration knew the rooftop units won't be in until November but the pool will be okay for the swim team.
  - 2) North/South --Elevator Modernization—The vendor couldn't get a couple of the main parts in time to do the work during the summer but never conveyed that, so the work is put off to next summer. There is a concern about labor costs for next year but have worked with the vendor to reach a compromise.
  - 3) North/South—Roofing—doing metal flashing—the odor work is done so no impact on the students.
  - 4) North--Electrical Vault Relocation—This can be done during the school year and will be put out to bid in September.
  - 5) Administrative Center Office Renovation—There is minimal work left to do and everyone is pleased with how it turned out.

Discussion included asking about the TFN football field. The hope is to put it out for bid later this calendar year. A lot was learned from the TFS work. The proposal will include the soccer field.

C. Building Usage Report

**7. Finance Committee--Member Jackson**

- A. Tentative Fiscal Year 2024-25 Annual Budget Presentation; Ms. Bishop presented the tentative budget and stated there has been a lot in the news about taxes in South Cook, reassessments and all entities are impacted. She reviewed the overall budget which has \$76,138,177 for total revenues and \$85,011,233 for total expenditures. She explained the difference between the two and shared fund balances to assure any deficit is covered by these balances. There is a large decrease in federal funds due to the covid ESSER funds being ended. The largest expenditure is salary/benefits at 61%. The district will levy for the property tax relief grant.

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

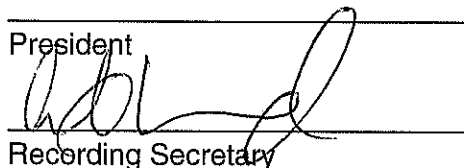
- A. PRESS 115 Policies—Member Newman stated that the policies have minimal changes and that the next set of policies may be more substantive with Title IX changes.

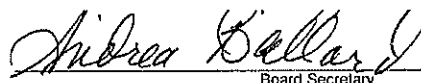
**9. Adjourn**

*I move to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m. This motion, made by Member Wilson and seconded by Member Terrazas, passed on voice vote.*



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President

  
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Recording Secretary



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Board Secretary

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Secretary