



Wednesday, May 10, 2023
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205 HELD AT THORNWOOD HIGH SCHOOL 17101 SOUTH PARK AVENUE, SOUTH HOLLAND, ILLINOIS AT 6:30 PM AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS CONFERENCING

The meeting was called to order at 6:35p.m. President Graham made the following announcement: Call to Order. Tonight's meeting is being streamed live via videoconferencing on WebEx and is video recorded. The Board President declares that an in-person meeting is not practical or prudent because of the current Disaster Proclamation issued by the Governor. Physical presence for the entire Board of Education and community is not feasible due to the disaster.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY
BOARD PRESIDENT

On roll call, Members Brown, Davis, Graham, Lawrence, Moody, and Owens answered. Member Banks was absent. Dr. Nathaniel Cunningham, Superintendent, Dr. Jerry B. Doss, Associate Superintendent of Human Resources; Mr. Toriano Horton, Assistant Superintendent of Business; Mr. Brett Fickes, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction; Mr. Thomas Porter, Executive Director of Special Services; and Mr. Adam Dauksas, legal counsel, were also present.

ROLL
CALL

Report from Curriculum Committee: Mr. Fickes reported that the next meeting will be held sometime in June 2023. Dr. Davis was appointed to chair the committee and am honored to have her onboard.

COMMITTEE OF THE
WHOLE

Report from Finance Committee: Mr. Horton reported that the last meeting was held on 05/02/23. There were no action items at tonight's meeting for board approval. The next meeting will be held on 06/06/23

Report from Policy Committee: None.

Report from Discipline Committee: None.

Report from Facilities Committee: Mr. Garrett reported that the next meeting will be held on 05/25/23 at 4:00p.m. The agenda will be posted soon.

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Dr. Davis seconded, to **Approve the Consent Agenda**, which includes the following:

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes dated April 12, 2023

MINUTES

B. The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated April 13, 2023 through May 10, 2023

BILLS

C. Personnel dated May 10, 2023 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations)

PERSONNEL

D. Ratification:

- i. Approval of Thornwood High School Aerial Drone Competition Overnight Fieldtrip, Kettering University, Flint, MI, May 12-14, 2023

On roll call, Lawrence, Davis, Brown, Graham, Moody, and Owens voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Mr. Anthony Etheridge, South Holland, regarding efficient schools; Mr. Etheridge congratulations to the Board. His family has a long history in the community and has an invested interest in what goes on. He believes in academic excellence. He is here to have a voice to collective ensure excellence for everyone in the district. Wishing luck to leadership and asks that all leadership is held accountable.
- Mr. David Etheridge, South Holland, regarding Thornton Township High School highlights; he is a proud Thornwood High School alum and teacher. He is still learning. He thanked his peers and other staff. He stated there are positive things going on at Thornton Township (Cinco de Mayo and others) He stated that Mr. Whitaker brought the community together by way of a community basketball game. Congratulated newly elected board members.
- Mrs. Felita Crayton, Dolton, regarding the Community and stated that she has been in the community 50 years. She would love the Board of Education to take note of the positive things that happy at Thornton Township. She was a parent coordinator for 27 years. She commended the Board of Education , teachers and administrators and stated she believes you all will work together for children and parents. She believes it is unfair that FAFSA is a graduation requirement because many students will choose other forms of continuing education
- Dr. Katherine Metro-Craig, Riverdale, 26-year veteran of Thornwood, also the new teacher mentor coordinator, 5-year veteran of the boost summer program, The pandemic has left a devastating impact on our math and reading scores. We need to help our students with their academic recovery. The Boost Program helped 9th graders with transition to high school.
- Racheal Santos, South Holland, regarding mental health first aid; the program started last year and this year there were over 150 students participating. Hopefully, a mental health club can be started in the future.
- Dwayne Bearden, Flossmoor, regarding Faculty Association stated that the FA has always gone above and beyond for the students. Working through the pandemic through obstacles and that they built relationships with students and parents. Needs the district to Empower the FA with direction from the administration. One way the board can celebrate teacher appreciation is to respect their profession.

- None

FOIA

Mr. Fickes presented the following information:

COMMUNICATIONS

- Thornridge High School:
 - Held their annual Half-Cap Ceremony on May 3, 2023
 - Celebrated state scholars
 - Held a Choir Concert
 - All AVID students participated in a day of leadership and teambuilding at Camp Manitoqua in Frankfort, IL
 - On May 2nd, we hosted our 9th annual AVID Awards Banquet
- Thornton Township High School
 - Transition Conference Winners (gifts received were gift cards and a laptop
 - Hosted a Cinco de Mayo Party
 - Entrepreneurship Winners advanced to finals and will represent the entire region on Thursday, May 24, 2023, in downtown Chicago, and then move on to New York this Fall for their business competition

- Thornwood High School
 - Hosted National Decision Day (326 college acceptances and over \$7.3M in scholarships)
 - 2023 IBCA Coach of the Year was awarded to Mr. Green, Head Coach GBB
- Student Board of Education End of the Year Report – shared their Leadership Retreat experiences, servicing the community, financial literacy taught by Mr. Horton, restorative justice taught by Mr. Alexander, hosted a meeting with Dr. John Bradley, who is a legacy in our community, 3E’s of Success College & Career Panel was held on January 28, 2023.
- Ray Price Scholarship – Ms. Mitrovich
Several senior students received the scholarship for pursuing education studies or careers. They will receive \$1,000.00 per year.
- District 205 Choir sang three beautiful selections

PRESENTATIONS

Ms. Moody moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded the **Approval of the Ratification of the Intergovernmental Agreement for the Career Development System (CDS)**, presented by Dr. Cunningham. On roll call, Members Moody, Lawrence, Brown, Davis, Graham, and Owens voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVE THE RATIFICATION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR THE CAREER DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM (CDS)

Dr. Cunningham stated that districts 215, 228 and South Suburban College receive grants from the government and one of the requirements changed this year, which made changes in the Intergovernmental Agreement. Our legal team reviewed and made recommendations, which were accepted by CDS.

At Thornton Township High School, we had an alumni program headed by Mr. Jason Clark. He is working to ensure that our students realize that there is no cap in their abilities. We are building the template so that the other schools will be able to follow the footsteps in this transition program.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

At 7:55p.m., Mr. Owens moved, Ms. Moody seconded to **Go into Executive Session** pursuant to Section 2C of the Illinois Open Meetings Act to consider:

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees;
- Student discipline;
- Collective negotiating matters, and
- Pending, probable or imminent litigation.

On roll call, Owens, Moody, Brown, Davis, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

At 8:41p.m., Dr. Davis moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded to **Reconvene Regular Session**. On roll call, Members Davis, Lawrence, Graham, Moody, and Owens voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION

Mr. Owens moved; Ms. Moody seconded the **Approval of Settlement Agreement with Former Teacher Ms. Lindsay Burnett with No Fault**. On roll call, Members Owens, Moody, Davis, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVE THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH FORMER TEACHER

Mrs. Lawrence moved; Ms. Moody seconded the **Approval to Uphold Student Suspension**. On roll call, Members Lawrence, Moody, Davis, Graham, and Owens voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVE THE STUDENT
SUSPENSION APPEAL

At 8:45p.m., Mr. Owens moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded to **Adjourn the Meeting**. On roll call, Members Owens, Lawrence, Davis, Graham, and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

President

Secretary