



Wednesday, June 14, 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**

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.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 Banks, Brown, Davis, Graham, Lawrence, Moody, and Owens answered. 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. James Petrungaro, legal counsel, were also present.

ROLL  
CALL

**Report from Curriculum Committee:** Mr. Fickes reported that the next meeting will be held on July 10, 2023, in Room T107 at 12:00pm, lunch will be provided. We will be hearing about the school improvement plans, Teacher Institute Day which is an essential day for teachers to collaborate and learn from one another and the back to school fair in August.

COMMITTEE OF THE  
WHOLE

**Report from Finance Committee:** Mr. Horton reported that the last meeting was held on 06/06/23. Each action item approved will be presented at tonight's meeting for board approval. The next meeting will be held on 07/06/23 in the district office conference room.

**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 06/29/23

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes dated May 8, 2023
- B. Approval of Regular Meeting and Executive Session Minutes dated May 10, 2023
- C. The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated May 11, 2023 through June 14, 2023
- D. Personnel dated June 14, 2023 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations)

MINUTES

BILLS

PERSONNEL

E. Ratifications:

RATIFICATIONS

- i. Approval of Thornridge, Thornton Township and Thornwood High Schools IHSA Girls State Track Meet Overnight Fieldtrips, Illinois State University, Charleston, IL May 18-20, 2023
- ii. Approval of Thornridge, Thornton Township and Thornwood High Schools Boys IHSA State Championship Overnight Fieldtrips, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL, May 25-27, 2023
- iii. Approval of Thornwood High School Special Olympics State Finals Overnight Fieldtrip, Illinois State University, Normal, IL, June 9-10, 2023
- iv. Approval of Thornwood High School National Speech and Debate Tournament Overnight Fieldtrip, Phoenix, AZ, June 10-17, 2023
- v. Approval of Thornridge High School, Marching Band Camp Overnight Fieldtrip, Bethune-Cookman University, Daytona Beach, FL, June 17-24, 2023

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

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Mrs. Felita Crayton of Dolton expressed that she is happy to be part of the district; wanted to wish a Happy Father's Day with a message to "remember one day your son will follow your footsteps; a father is a daughter's first love and a son's hero."
- One (1) FOIA was completed with none pending.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA)

Mr. Fickes presented the following information:

COMMUNICATIONS

- District:
  - Congratulations to our 2022-2023 Graduates
  - Our Bocce Team Won the Bronze in the state Tournament
  - Special Olympics Track & Field held state finals on June 9 -10, 2023 in Normal, IL
  - CEDA hosted the Home Weatherization Training
  - Congratulations and Happy 25<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary to Faculty and Staff Honored this Year. Thank you for your dedicated services
  - Congratulations and Happy Retirement to the Department Faculty and Staff and will be greatly missed.
- Thornwood High School
  - Two students were chosen to participate in the South Holland Municipal Career Day
  - Participated in South Holland Memorial Day Parade
- PEACE Center
  - Kudos to our graduating students and our remaining students for working hard to meet our School Improvement goals

- Thornwood High School Tennis Team –Mr. Fickes

PRESENTATIONS

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Brown seconded the **Approval of Thornton Township High School Western Illinois University Football Camp Overnight Fieldtrip, Macomb, IL, July 19-21, 2023** presented by Mr. Horton. On roll call, Members Lawrence, Brown, Banks, Davis, Graham, Moody, and Owens voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVE THE THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL CAMP OVERNIGHT FIELDTRIP, MACOMB, IL, JULY 19-21, 2023

Mrs. Moody moved, Mr. Banks seconded the **Districtwide Bus Purchase** presented by Mr. Horton. On roll call, Members Moody, Banks, Brown, Davis, Graham, Lawrence, and Owens voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVE THE DISTRICTWIDE BUS PURCHASE

Mr. Owens moved, Mr. Banks seconded the **Approval of Thornwood 1531 Staff Bathrooms** presented by Mr. Horton. On roll call, Members Owens, Banks, Brown, Davis, Graham, Lawrence, and Moody voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVE THE THORNWOOD 1531 STAFF BATHROOMS

Mrs. Moody moved, Mr. Banks seconded the **Approval of Thornridge High School Intercom Upgrade** presented by Mr. Horton. On roll call, Members Moody, Banks, Brown, Davis, Graham, Lawrence, and Owens voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVE THE THORNTRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL INTERCOM UPGRADE

Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Brown seconded the **Approval of Work Compensation Insurance** presented by Mr. Horton. On roll call, Members Banks, Brown, Davis, Graham, Lawrence, Moody, and Owens voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVE THE WORK COMPENSATION INSURANCE

Dr. Cunningham stated the following:

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

For four years the district has been working on improving leadership and leadership expectations. We based our improvement upon several books and the knowledge within them. We used books to help us create a common vocabulary, shared understanding, and expectations. The books are The Advantage, The Four Disciplines of Execution, Extreme Ownership, Learning by Doing, Leaders of Learning, and Transforming School Culture. These research-based books assisted our leadership teams in understanding best practices, but best practices without localization always end in failure. The research can tell you what needs to be done, but localization tells you how to do it in your situation.

Eleven months ago, we took our knowledge and developed a localized system for evaluating leadership called DDX. DDX stands for Daily Disciplines of Execution - localized from the Four Disciplines of Execution and our other research. It is a process where the district office visits the administration of each building once a month to review their progress on their wildly important goal. These reviews are based on data and observation. The superintendent, the associate superintendent, the assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction, and the principal score each administrator. The scores are based on the rubric provided to each administrator during their evaluation orientation. The principal's portion of the evaluation is completed by the superintendent, the associate superintendent, and the assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction. They are reviewed quarterly.

We have seen the growth in leadership that is needed to spark improvement in our district. We look forward to this year's improvement driven by our DDX model. We will continue to evaluate our school's progress on their wildly important goals monthly and have set the expectation for success.

Summer 2023

Summer 2023 abounds with activity-The curriculum department has designed a great Summer that supports both academic needs and enrichment. For academic needs -The district has instituted credit recovery for students - where we meet students where they are and work to help them meet the state requirements for courses, they have struggled in during the school year. Some have asked for the return of traditional Summer School; we do not see the need at this time because the program is meeting those needs that we have and working individually with students to ensure they meet all standards.

The district has worked to develop and design a Summer Enrichment program for all three bands TR, TT, and TW. Although the new band director at TR has not made it to campus yet -the TR students are participating in band camp at TW. All students are participating at TW this year. We want to improve our music programs and get the participation that those programs, students, and our community deserve.

The Special Education department has again set up a supportive ESY- Extended School Year for our students who have the need in their educational plans. The support is necessary to ensure that those students continue to have their educational needs met by our programs.

We also have the third year of the Green Generation Program with CEDA. The Cohorts continue to gain industry certifications and work on assisting Cook County with becoming greener. The work these students are doing- is completed nowhere else in the country-for students in this age group.

Mrs. Fortier and the curriculum department have designed a few additional programs that include a camp for Peace Center, TW 1B French, Lumity, and Civil Air Patrol. They have done a great job of working with Transportation and the schools to get our students the experiences they need over the Summer -Thank you.

At 7:18p.m., Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Owens 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, Lawrence, Owens, Banks, Brown, Davis, Graham, and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

At 8:11p.m., Mrs. Moody moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded to **Reconvene Regular Session**. On roll call, Members Moody, Lawrence, Brown, Banks, Davis, Graham, and Owens voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION

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

APPROVE TO UPHOLD STUDENT SUSPENSION

Mrs. Moody moved, Mr. Davis seconded the **Approval of Approve Resolution of Intent to Withdraw District from the Jurisdiction and Authority of Thornton Township Trustees of Schools and to Transfer to the Jurisdiction and Authority of the Bloom Township Trustees of Schools.** On roll call, Members Moody, Davis, Banks, Brown, Graham, Lawrence, and Owens voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVE THE RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW DISTRICT FROM THE JURISDICTION AND AUTHORITY OF THORNTON TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES OF SCHOOLS AND TO TRANSFER TO THE JURISDICTION AND AUTHORITY OF THE BLOOM TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES OF SCHOOLS

Mrs. Moody moved, Mr. Brown seconded the **Approval of the Annual Employment Contracts for Administrative and Exempt Personnel.** On roll call, Members Moody, Brown, Banks, Davis, Graham, Lawrence, and Owens voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVE THE ANNUAL EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND EXEMPT PERSONNEL

Mrs. Moody moved, Mr. Brown seconded the **Approval to Administrator Employment Contract for Dr. Jerry Doss.** On roll call, Members Moody, Brown, Banks, Davis, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; voted nay, Mr. Owens voted none; motion passed.

APPROVE ADMINISTRATOR EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT

Mrs. Moody moved, Mr. Banks seconded the **Approval to Administrator Employment Contract for Dr. Nathaniel Cunningham Jr.** On roll call, Members Moody, Banks, Brown, Davis, Graham, Lawrence, and Owens voted aye; voted nay, Mr. Owens voted none; motion passed.

APPROVE ADMINISTRATOR EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT

At 8:35p.m., Mr. Brown moved, Mr. Banks seconded to **Adjourn the Meeting.** On roll call, Members Brown, Banks, Davis, Graham, Lawrence, Moody, and Owens voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

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President

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Secretary