



Wednesday, January 10, 2024  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205 HELD AT THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL 15001 SOUTH BROADWAY, HARVEY, ILLINOIS, AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS CONFERENCING AT 6:30 PM**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. President Graham made the following announcement: Any person may record or broadcast an open Board meeting. Special requests to facilitate recordings or broadcast an open Board meeting should be directed to the Superintendent at least 24 hours before the meeting. Recording meetings shall not distract or disturb Board members or participants. Please know if you participate in public participation, you are part of the Board meeting and may be taped.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY  
BOARD PRESIDENT

On roll call, Members Banks, Brown, Davis, Graham, Lawrence, and Owens answered. Member Moody 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 the last meeting was held December 18, 2023 regarding the SBOE survey for AP and IB. English, Reading, and Speech Division Leaders for proposal to be approved by the Board of Education. The committee also discussed a possible student trip to Ghana. Mr. Fickes also stated that over 75% of staff are ALICE Certified.

COMMITTEE OF THE  
WHOLE

**Report from Finance Committee:** None. Next meeting will be held February 6, 2024.

**Report from Policy Committee:** None.

**Report from Discipline Committee:** None.

**Report from Facilities Committee:** None. Next meeting will be held February 25, 2024.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Regular Meeting and Executive Session Minutes dated December 13, 2023

MINUTES

B. The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated December 14, 2023 through January 10, 2024

BILLS

C. Personnel dated January 10, 2024 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations)

PERSONNEL

D. Ratification(s)

- i) Approval of the Thornwood High School Overnight Trip, Illinois High School Theatre Festival, January 11- 13, 2024, Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois
- ii) Approval of the Thornton Township High School Speech Team Overnight Trip, Downers Grove Speech Tournament, January 19-20, 2024
- iii) Approval of the Thornton Township High School Basketball Team Overnight Trip, February 3-4, 2024, Boys' Basketball Bank of O'Fallon Shoutout, O'Fallon, Illinois
- iv) Approval of the Thornton Township High School Basketball Team Overnight Trip, February 10-11, 2024, Boys' Basketball Davison Shootout, Davison, Michigan

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

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Ms. Cohen, Dolton resident, safety concerns regarding her daughter who is a Thornridge student
- Ms. Hardy, Hazel Crest resident, safety concerns regarding her daughter who is a Thornwood student
- Dr. Doss stated one completed FOIA since last board meeting and it is still pending

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA)

Mr. Fickes presented the following information:

COMMUNICATIONS

- Thornridge High School:
  - Science Club
    - Volunteered at Bob Mann Woods in LaGrange, IL on December 9, 2023
- Thornton High School:
  - My Influence Matters (MIM)
    - MIM Students visited the Tilt at 360 Chicago
- Thornwood High School
  - Hosted a Holiday Breakfast on December 20, 2023
  - NSDA Honor Society
    - Three students earned degrees from 12/1/23- 12/31/23
  - Pop Up Shop
    - Twenty student pop-up shops earned over \$3,500 in revenue during four lunch periods

PRESENTATIONS

PEACE Center Highlights

- Ashley Hay presented an overview of the ongoing success at the Peace Center
  - Two students, Amarra Lewis and Dan Lewis, Jr. gave testimony on their positive experiences while enrolled at PEACE Center. Both were awarded medals

Alpha Kappa Sorority, Incorporated, Lambda Tau Omega Chapter

- Dr. Ruby E. Roberson, Ed.D., President presented on their role in community and the youth at TTHSD 205
  - AKA Day at TTHSD 205 will be a voter registration enrollment day. Additionally, they will provide voter education and engagement for students.
  - Approximately 10 members of the sorority were present.

Dr. Davis moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded the **Approval of Noches De Plata, a Free Concert at Thornton Township High School**, presented by Mr. Fickes. This is a musical tribute to El Rey, to be performed by Jose Alfredo Jimenez to be held on January 19, 2024 at 6:30pm at Thornton Township High School. On roll call, Members Davis, Lawrence, Banks, Brown, Graham, and Owens voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF NOCHES DE PLATA, A FREE CONCERT AT THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL, JANUARY 19, 2024 AT 6:30PM

Mr. Brown moved, Mr. Owens seconded the **Approval of the Changes to the District 205 Reading Curriculum** presented by Mr. Fickes. These changes will enhance the overall program, align to the state’s curriculum, and allow more freshmen to take electives. On roll call, Members Brown, Owens, Banks, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVE THE CHANGES TO THE DISTRICT 205 READING CURRICULUM

Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Brown seconded the **Approval of Generator Repairs and Upgrades for All District Schools- Thornridge, Thornton, and Thornwood** presented by Mr. Horton. This will help provide necessary maintenance, help avoid costly downtime and provide backup power. On roll call, Members Banks, Brown, Davis, Graham, Lawrence, and Owens voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVE GENERATOR REPAIRS AND UPGRADES FOR ALL DISTRICT SCHOOLS- THORNBRIDGE, THORNTON, AND THORNWOOD

Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Brown seconded the **Approval of the Zoom Elite Transportation Contract** presented by Mr. Horton. The district transports 8<sup>th</sup> grade band and math students. On roll call, Members Banks, Brown, Davis, Graham, Lawrence, and Owens voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVE THE ZOOM ELITE TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT

Dr. Cunningham stated the following:

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Good evening & Happy New Year,

My word for this month is preparation – The action or process of making ready. In looking at this word, I find the job of schools. We are taking action to get our students ready to be successful adults. Starting with our mission statement to develop productive citizens who are enrolled, enlisted, or employed at high school completion.

To fulfill our mission, we must get our students to school. I must thank the administration, teachers, and staff for their work in the first semester to improve our attendance rate. We had improvement in both student and staff attendance. The administration has ensured accountability, the teachers and staff members have improved relationships with students and set the expectation that students need to come to school.

Besides improving attendance, the district has had an improvement in student behavior. The Board of Education's change from Deans to Discipline administrators has significantly impacted the buildings' cultures. The discipline administrators have done a great job working with students and staff to create the hallways, classrooms, and schools we expect. The work hasn't been easy, but it is appreciated.

The principals, in conjunction with the discipline administration, are currently sending out and reviewing data on safety in our buildings. It continues to improve. Our focus in the first semester was to improve safety and behavior. We feel like we are well on our way. We will be working to keep the gains that we have made and to increase safety in the buildings as we start projects to improve instruction. We don't say that lightly or to throw shade on our teachers. We have good teachers, but we can all improve, and the more skilled we are in teaching, the more students that we can assist. We want to ensure all students are enrolled, enlisted, or employed at graduation, so we must continue to improve.

Our final step will be working on additional curricular improvements. With the focus on answering the four important questions of (1) what we want all students to learn (by course) (2) How will we know when they have learned it (assessment) (3) What will we do when they haven't learned it (for remediation) and (4) What will we do if they have already learned it (enrichment). Mr. Fickes and his team are working to develop a system that ensures these things are done collaboratively. To do this, we must consider some changes.

The major change we must consider is scheduling. We need more time for professional development. We must be able to collaborate on lessons, assessments, and classroom expectations. We are considering some minor schedule changes that will allow us to do this without disrupting the student day, parent responsibility, or the labor contract. We will be bringing these recommendations in the next sixty to ninety days.

We thank the board, staff, and community for all the support in making changes that continue to positively impact our students and their learning. Thank you for your time and attention.

At 7:24p.m., Mr. Banks moved, Dr. Davis 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, Brown, Banks, and Graham voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

At 8:49p.m., Mr. Owens moved, Mr. Banks seconded to **Reconvene Regular Session.** On roll call, Members Owens, Banks, Brown, Davis, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RECONVENE REGULAR  
SESSION

Mr. Owens moved, Dr. Davis seconded the Approval of the **Dismissal of Tenured Teacher of Special Programs, Sirena Donaldson of Thornton Township High School.** On roll call, Members Owens, Davis, Brown, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVE THE  
DISMISSAL OF  
TENURED TEACHER

At 8:51p.m., Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Owens seconded to **Adjourn the Meeting.** On roll call, Members Lawrence, Owens, Banks, Brown, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

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President

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Secretary