



**Wednesday, February 14, 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 6:34 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 Moody answered. Member Owens was absent. Dr. Nathaniel Cunningham, Superintendent, Dr. Jerry B. Doss, Associate Superintendent of Human Resources; 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: Next meeting will be held March 7, 2024. This will focus on the Ghana Experience, summer programs, and the possible spring break trip to Memphis, TN.

COMMITTEE OF THE
WHOLE

Report from Finance Committee: None. Next meeting will be held March 5, 2024.

Report from Policy Committee: None.

Report from Discipline Committee: None.

Report from Facilities Committee: None. Next meeting will be held February 29, 2024.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Regular Meeting and Executive Session Minutes dated January 10, 2024

MINUTES

B. The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated January 11 through February 13, 2024

BILLS

C. Personnel dated February 13, 2024 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations)

PERSONNEL

D. Ratification(s)

- i) Approval of the Thornwood Competitive Dance Team State Competition Overnight, Normal, IL, January 25- 26, 2024
- ii) Approval of the Special Olympics Snowshoeing Overnight Fieldtrip, Galena, IL, February 5- 8, 2024
- iii) Approval of the Thornton Chess State Tournament Overnight, Peoria, IL, February 8- 10, 2024
- iv) Approval of the Thornwood Competitive Dance Team State Competition Overnight, Springfield, IL, February 9- 11, 2024
- v) Approval of the Thornton State Speech Tournament Overnight, Peoria, IL, February 15-17, 2024
- vi) Approval of the Thornridge Varsity Girls State Bowling Tournament Overnight, Rockford, IL, February 15-17,2024
- vii) Approval of the Thornwood Speech IHSA State Competition, East Peoria, IL February 15-18, 2024

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

Dr. Cunningham read a statement regarding the recent bed bug issue at Thornwood High School. Mr. William Garrett also addressed the Board and audience outlining further action regarding extermination. Ms. Graham inquired about the bed bug sniffing dogs and Mr. Garrett provided further clarification. Mr. Banks commented on how effective dogs are in this measure.

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

- Ms. Crayton of Dolton wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day. She was happy to hear the report from Dr. Cunningham and Mr. Garrett.
- Mr. Crayton of Dolton had concerns regarding safety at the Thornridge Home Basketball game regarding the entrance/exit. He also inquired if the running track around the football field is open to the public. Dr. Cunningham responded there were some issues with the track and is under repair.
- Dr. Doss stated there have been no FOIA requests since last board meeting and none still pending

FREEDOM OF
INFORMATION ACT
(FOIA)

Mr. Fickes presented the following information:

COMMUNICATIONS

- Thornridge High School:
 - Girls Bowling Team at Sectionals
 - 1 senior will advance this weekend to State
 - 1st Semester Awards Ceremony
 - Students honored for 95% attendance, honor roll, high honor roll, and distinguished scholar awards
 - Scholastic Bowl
 - Top Varsity Scorer in the conference

- Freshman All-Conference honoree who also medaled in Chess (3rd place)
- Thornton High School
 - My Influence Matters (MIM)
 - MIM Students attended a private screening of the film, *Origin*. Thornton Alumni LaRoyce Hawkins treated them to concessions and discussions on the film.
 - MIM Students in attendance received a free year subscription to MasterClass subscription service.
 - Chess State Tournament
 - Nine Students competed in the tournament and 1 student won an individual medal for winning 5 games and 1 tie
 - My Influence Matters (MIM)- Pledge Day
 - Three hundred students took the pledge of success and to commit to be a positive influence on their peer and in their community
 - Hamilton Play
 - Students attended on January 24, 2024
 - Varsity Boys' Basketball Team
 - Last home game on February 13, 2024, with a 24-4 record
- Thornwood High School
 - Competitive Dance Team
 - Qualified for IHSA State Competition
 - Scholastic Bowl
 - Varsity Team won the Southland Athletic Scholastic Bowl Conference Championship with a 6-1 Record
 - Junior Varsity Team won 4th place with a 4-3 record
 - Senior Twins Selected as Evans Scholars
 - Full Ride Scholarships covering full tuition and housing for a maximum of 4 years to select 4-year post-secondary institutions of higher learning
 - Both students selected University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
 - Midwest Regional Drone Competition
 - Students earned 1st Place and are headed to the Nationals in May 2024
 - Child Development Associate (CDA) Credentials
 - This program allows students to receive 9 college credit hours in addition to the 3 college credit hours acquired through dual credit, giving them a total of 12 college credit hours, equivalent to 1 semester of college and up to \$20,000 in college tuition fees.

Breaking the Cycle Event- Student Board of Education

PRESENTATIONS

- Titus Eagles presented the upcoming event, Breaking the Cycle to be held on March 16, from 1-5pm at Thornton Township HS Fieldhouse
- This event will focus on how to cope with your mental health and lots of activities, food, raffles, etc. for the community to enjoy while promoting mental well-being.

Hamilton Field Trip- Thornton Township HS Students, Mr. Craigmile & Mr. Fickes

- 75 students attended on January 24, 2024
- Student School Board President Margaret Gonzalez went into detail about the great learning opportunity and experience her and her peers enjoyed.

My Influence Matters (MIM) Program Update- Mr. Clark & Mr. Fickes

- Mr. Clark spoke about the positive experience this program has on students
- Students Dylan Browley and Tyreail Culbertson-Stokes spoke about the great exposure and opportunity this program has given them
- 265 students signed up for the pledge of success which is focused on the power of influence at school

Students were given medals for their exemplary participation (for all presentations)

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Banks seconded the **Approval of the 2024-2025 Revised School Calendar** presented by Mr. Fickes. This revision includes moving Parent-Teacher Conferences up one week in October. Moving Teacher Institute Day from March 28, 2025 to October 11, 2024. On roll call, Members Lawrence, Banks, Brown, Davis, Graham, and Moody voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF 2024-2025 REVISED SCHOOL CALENDAR

Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Brown seconded the **Approval of Thornton Coca Cola Great Lakes Experience Fieldtrip, Milwaukee, WI on February 19, 2024** presented by Mr. Clark & Mr. Whitaker. This fieldtrip will engage students in technology, science, and leadership. They will get to see production and a tour of the facility. On roll call, Members Banks, Brown, Davis, Graham, Lawrence, and Moody voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF THORNTON COCA COLA GREAT LAKES EXPERIENCE FIELDTRIP, MILWAUKEE, WI, FEBRUARY 19, 2024

Mr. Brown moved, Mrs. Moody seconded the **Approval of Thornton Mielle Cares Overnight Fieldtrip, Washington, DC, April 1-4, 2024** presented by Mr. Whitaker. This is a college tour fieldtrip and all-expense paid by Mielle Cares. On roll call, Members Brown, Moody, Banks, Davis, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF THORNTON MIELLE CARES OVERNIGHT, WASHINGTON, DC, APRIL 1-4, 2024

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Banks seconded the **Approval of Thornton Band Fieldtrip, Westside Cougars Spring Band Jamboree, Gary, IN, April 20, 2024** presented by Mr. Whitaker. This fieldtrip will continue to expand the students' exposure to various musical events. On roll call, Members Lawrence, Banks, Brown, Davis, Graham, and Moody voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF THORNTON BAND FIELDTRIP, WESTSIDE COUGARS SPRING BAND JAMBOREE, GARY, IN, APRIL 20, 2024

Mrs. Moody moved, Mr. Banks seconded the **Approval of Thornwood Aerial Drone Nationals Overnight Fieldtrip, Grand Blanc, MI, May 16-18, 2024** presented by Mr. Holmes. Both teams placed 1st and secured a spot at Nationals at Kettering University. On roll call, Members Moody, Banks, Brown, Davis, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF THORNWOOD AERIAL DRONE NATIONALS OVERNIGHT, GRAND BLANC, MI, MAY 16-18, 2024

Dr. Cunningham stated the following:

Where [there is] no vision, the people perish – Proverbs 29:18

District 205 has a vision: Building an exemplary, high-quality organization that produces major gains in student achievement and prepares all students to be productive citizens in a global society.

How do we give clarity to our vision? What does Vision look like when achieved? Are we on the right path to achieving our vision?

The district has used the information in Patrick Lencioni's *The Advantage* to clarify our vision in four steps: (1) Building a cohesive leadership team, (2) Creating Clarity, (3) Overcommunicating Clarity, and (4) Reinforcing Clarity. Step one was to build a cohesive leadership team working for the same goal and ensuring we knew the goals. We focused on the goals given to us by the board of education and set up systems to ensure that we moved toward those goals. A big part of that goal included safety for our students and staff. Without safety, we could not focus on improving student attendance and learning. The next steps included improving the curriculum and classroom learning expectations. For the district, we are following the professional learning community model of school improvement. The model focuses on four main questions: (1) What is it we want all students to learn (the defined actual curriculum), (2) How will we know if they have learned it (the assessment system), (3) what will we do if the students don't learn it (remediation), and (4) what will we do if they have already learned it (Enrichment plan).

These items focus on the curriculum, instruction, and assessment while ensuring student learning. And we answer the three questions that I began with: How do we clarify our vision? What does Vision look like when achieved? Are we on the right path to achieving our vision?

How do we clarify our vision?

We must state what our exemplary, high-quality organization looks like. In our case, it is an organization that collaborates with each other on lesson plans, assessments, and curriculum updates. We set high expectations for student learning and work to ensure high-quality learning happens in each and every classroom. We visit classrooms and make suggestions for improvement. We use data to point out excellence and to define how to achieve it. We work together in our roles to ensure that student learning continues to improve.

What does Vision look like when achieved?

We will have teams of teachers working together to ensure that the four questions are answered for each and every course. Teachers will meet to discuss improving student achievement for classes and individuals. Student learning is what is expected in all classes.

Are we on the right path to achieving our vision?

We are on the right path to achieving our vision and have established systems to ensure we stay on that path. For the administration, all building administrators present monthly to the district administration their Wildly Important Goals (Wigs)

and how well they are doing in achieving their goals. The presentations are based on data. The teachers experience two different kinds of walk-throughs – building and district. Teams of administrators visit and make suggestions for improvement in classrooms. They also use the information to assist in the design of professional development. We are working to create a system of improvement that allows us to work together to achieve the results we want and expect. It is not easy, and sometimes it is even frustrating, but it is what our students and communities deserve for our students.

At 7:35p.m., Dr. Davis moved, Mrs. Lawrence 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, Davis, Lawrence, Brown, Banks, and Graham, and Moody 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

Mrs. Moody moved, Mr. Banks seconded the **Approval of Issuance of Notice to Remedy of Tenured Teacher of Special Programs, Frederic Shipbaugh of Thornridge High School**. On roll call, Members Moody, Banks, Brown, Davis, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

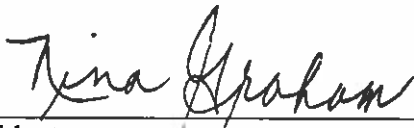
APPROVE ISSUANCE
OF TENURED
TEACHER NOTICE
TO REMEDY

Mrs. Moody moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded the **Approval of Settlement Agreement with Former Student**. On roll call, Members Moody, Lawrence, Banks, Brown, Davis, and Graham voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVE
SETTLEMENT
AGREEMENT WITH
FORMER STUDENT

At 8:52p.m., Mrs. Moody moved, Mr. Banks seconded to **Adjourn the Meeting**. On roll call, Members Moody, Banks, Brown, Davis, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT



President



Secretary