



**Wednesday, August 14, 2024**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:34p.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, Davis, Graham, Lawrence, and Moody answered. Member Brown arrived at 6:37p.m. Member Owens was absent. Dr. Nathaniel Cunningham, Superintendent; Mr. Toriano Horton, Assistant Superintendent of Business Operations; Mr. Brett Fickes, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction; Mr. Thomas Porter, Executive Director of Special Services; Mrs. Rosaura Duran, Director of Human Resources; Mr. Rob Penman, Director of Research and Assessment were also present.

ROLL CALL

**Report from Curriculum Committee:** The last meeting was held in July. Institute Day plans were discussed, ACT updates, Lumite partnership, and the approved E-Learning Plan. The next meeting will be held in early September.

COMMITTEE OF THE  
WHOLE

**Report from Finance Committee:** The last meeting was held August 6. All agenda items presented are on the agenda for approval. The next meeting will be held on August 29.

**Report from Policy Committee:** None.

**Report from Discipline Committee:** None.

**Report from Facilities Committee:** The last meeting was held August 1. All action items were sent to the Finance Committee for review.

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Moody seconded, to **Remove Thornton Township High School Math Teacher David Etheridge from the Consent Agenda so that his proposed resignation may be voted upon separately.** On roll call, Members Lawrence, Moody, Banks, Brown, Davis, and Graham voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed. Dr. Cunningham stated the reason for these motions are that Mr. Etheridge chose to resign after the school year started which is illegal due to new state law. If a teacher hasn't resigned thirty days prior to the start of the school year, you cannot resign without board approval. Mr. Etheridge's resignation would leave our students without a math teacher.

REMOVE TT HS MATH  
TEACHER DAVID  
ETHERIDGE FROM  
CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. Moody moved, Mr. Brown seconded, to **approve the Consent Agenda as presented, minus the proposed resignation of Thornton Township High School Math Teacher David Etheridge,** which includes the following:

CONSENT AGENDA,  
MINUS PROPOSED  
RESIGNATION OF TT  
HS MATH TEACHER  
DAVID ETHERIDGE

- A. Approval of Regular and Executive Session Minutes dated July 10, 2024
- B. The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated July 10, 2024 through August 13, 2024
- C. Personnel dated August 14, 2024 (Resignations, Leave of Absence

MINUTES  
BILLS

PERSONNEL

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

Mrs. Moody moved, Dr. Davis seconded, to **deny acceptance of Thornton Township High School Math Teacher David Etheridge's Resignation.** On roll call, Members Moody, Davis, Banks, Brown, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

DENY ACCEPTANCE  
OF RESIGNATION

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION

- Ms. F. Crayton of Dolton about policies and procedures for parents to review and wanted to be made aware of the Thornridge security gates plan for entrance and exits.

Dr. Doss stated there have been 1 FOIA request since last board meeting. This request has been answered to.

FREEDOM OF  
INFORMATION ACT  
(FOIA)

Mr. Fickes presented the following information:

COMMUNICATIONS

- Thornridge High School:
  - Falcons Fest
    - Freshmen students and parents were introduced to Thornridge staff and activities for everyone. Great fun had by all
- Thornwood High School:
  - Thunderbird 2023-2024 Standout Teacher Award
    - Teachers were selected and agreed upon by the Thornwood Instructional Leadership Team with 90% Attendance and 90% Pass Rate
  - Teacher Institute Day- 8/9/24
    - Building activities for teachers for staff with breakout sessions

**Public Hearing Conducted Concerning the intent of the Board of Education to sell not to exceed \$35,000,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds for the purpose of increasing the working cash fund for the District.** President Graham opened the public hearing. Mr. Horton presented. The District completed its first phase of financing for capital improvements in December of 2023, which generated approximately \$11.98 million of working cash bond proceeds. The second phase of financing began in July, which will be issued for \$35 million of projects in the District. Only \$17.5 million of the \$35 million in 2024 and the remainder of early 2024, will be able to maximize interest earning on the bond proceeds under IRS rules. Dr. Cunningham asked if there were any questions or comments from the public. The documents will be available for review at the District Office for the public. The community was given an opportunity to speak. Mrs. F. Crayton asked if the corresponding information would be made available at the District Office, to which Dr. Cunningham responded, “yes.” Hearing no further public comment, the hearing was closed. The next board meeting on September 11, the board will adopt a resolution to authorize the sale of up to \$35 million in bonds.

Civil Air Patrol Color Guard Recognition- Mr. Fickes

- Major Richardson and Colonel Curtis, along with three students were recognized for their participation in Teacher Institute Day

International Teacher Partnership (Mr. Hedden & Mr. Arvidsson)- Mr. Fickes

- Thornridge Science Teacher Mr. Hedden visited Sweden and toured all levels of education.
- Mr. Arvidsson spoke on the positive collaboration and discussed publishing the findings of how each can improve their students’ education

- Mr. Hedden thanked Principal Dr. Moore for allowing this partnership

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

- Mr. Clark spoke about the Chicago Leadership Summit that MIM students attended on August 3, 2024
- July 10, the Student Board Retreat had a workshop focused on leadership, teamwork, and being a pivotal link for peers and the community. A short recap video was shown
- Multiple students and two parents gave positive testimonials on their experiences with My Influence Matters and their request to have MIM program at all three schools
- Student Board of Education President was asked to speak by President Graham on her excellent speech at Institute Day

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

Mr. Brown moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded the **Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement with South Suburban College Concerning Outlook Academy** as presented by Mr. Fickes. The annual rental fees run through June 30, 2028. Physical Education Teachers will now have access to the gym. Mrs. Fortier was thanked by President Graham. On roll call, Members Brown, Lawrence, Banks, Davis, Graham, and Moody voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

PRESENTATIONS

APPROVAL OF  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
AGREEMENT WITH  
SSC & OUTLOOK  
ACADEMY

Mrs. Moody moved, Mr. Brown seconded the **Approval of Big Brothers, Big Sisters Agreement** as presented by Mr. Fickes. This was presented at a previous Curriculum Committee Meeting. This will be a collaborative relationship with each school. High school students will mentor elementary school students. This will have no cost to our District. On roll call, Members Moody, Brown, Banks, Davis, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF BIG BROTHERS, BIG SISTERS AGREEMENT

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Banks seconded the **Approval of La Rabida Hospital Agreement** presented by Mr. Fickes. This was presented at a previous Curriculum Committee Meeting. The focus will be on sex abuse prevention, human trafficking, and internet safety. On roll call, Members Lawrence, Banks, Brown, Davis, Graham, and Moody voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF LA RABIDA HOSPITAL AGREEMENT

Mrs. Moody moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded the **Approval of Stitch Lab Contract for after-school fashion design program** presented by Dr. Ratliff. Michael Holder, owner of Stitch Lab created the latest technology for fashion design. Students will choose the materials for clothing and create t-shirts, etc. This will encourage students to take the entrepreneurship class their junior year. On roll call, Members Moody, Lawrence, Banks, Brown, Davis, and Graham voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF STITCH LAB CONTRACT

Dr. Davis moved, Mrs. Moody seconded the **Approval of Transportation Contract Extension** presented by Mr. Horton. This is for the 2024-2025 school year that includes a 4.5% raise to continue services. On roll call, Members Davis, Moody, Banks, Brown, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT EXTENSION

Mrs. Moody moved, Mr. Brown seconded the **Approval of Proximity Card Replacement** presented by Mr. Horton. Tri-Electronics was the lowest bidder. The program is web-based to replace all proximity cards and there is no equipment to purchase. The rollout will begin in late October. On roll call, Members Moody, Brown, Banks, Davis Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF PROXIMITY CARD REPLACEMENT

This was a **presentation of the Fiscal 2025 Tentative Budget** presented by Mr. Horton. This will be presented at the September Board Meeting for approval. An overview of the budget by fund, budget history, revenue sources, etc. were presented. No roll call was taken on this item as it was a presentation.

PRESENTATION OF FISCAL 2025 TENTATIVE BUDGET INTERGOVERNMENTAL

Mrs. Moody moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded to table the **Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Harvey Concerning Public Way Closures**. This item was tabled because the contract was not ready for approval. On roll call, Members Moody, Lawrence, Banks, Brown, Davis, and Graham voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF HARVEY CONCERNING PUBLIC WAY CLOSURES

**The First Reading of PRESS Plus Policy Update 114 & 115 (30 Day Review)** was presented by Dr. Doss. These policy updates include many five year reviews and language updates for Title IX Sexual Harassment that are available for view at our District Office. The next board meeting in September will vote to approve these updates as presented.

FIRST READING OF PRESS PLUS POLICY UPDATES 114 & 115 (30 DAY REVIEW)

Dr. Cunningham stated the following:

**Overview:**

Our transportation system encountered several minor issues and concerns on the first day of the new school year. Notably, students at the Peace Center were not picked up because First Student did not enter their routing information. Additionally, our interdistrict transportation faced challenges with timing and delivery.

**Actions Taken:**

In response to these issues, a meeting was convened with the district cabinet to determine the next steps. A comprehensive plan was developed and implemented with the collaboration of key personnel:

- **Dr. Tony Ratliff** coordinated with building staff to address internal logistics.
- **Mr. Bill Garrett** managed and resolved bus-related issues.
- **Mrs. Marilyn Rouse** ensured that all programs were informed and aligned with the new plan.

**Results:**

The collaborative efforts resulted in a functional internal transportation system for the district. It also ensured that the Peace Center students were transported. While we anticipate some challenges as we refine this new system, we are committed to making it work effectively for all students.

**Future Steps:**

In an email today, our Associate Superintendent, Dr. Jerry Doss, emphasized the importance of our Career and Technical Education (CTE) and career-focused programs, which are central to our district's core mission of Enrolled, Enlisted, or Employed. He also said, "It is imperative that our intra-school transportation system operates with fidelity to support these programs.

We will continue to work as a team to address any issues and create a transportation system that serves our students well. We recognize that there will be bumps along the road, but we are dedicated to creating clarity, overcommunicating, and reinforcing our plans to resolve any challenges that arise.

**Appreciation:**

The District leadership team sincerely appreciates the school board's commitment to our students' success. Your investment in new buses is already positively impacting getting our students to their programs. We could not achieve this without your support.

Thank you for your continued dedication to our students, mission, and core values—best wishes for a great and productive school year.

At 7:49p.m., Mrs. Moody 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, Moody, Davis, Banks, Brown, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

At 8:51p.m., Mrs. Moody moved, Dr. Davis seconded to **Reconvene Regular Session**. On roll call, Members Moody, Davis, Banks, Brown, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RECONVENE  
REGULAR SESSION

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

ADJOURNMENT



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President



\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary