

# MINUTES FOR A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2022, VIA WEBEX CONFERENCING AND AT THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL, 15001 BROADWAY AVENUE, HARVEY, ILLINOIS, BEGINNING AT 6:30 P.M.

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 meeting is not feasible due to the disaster.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY  
BOARD PRESIDENT

On roll call, Members Banks, Brown, Graham, Lawrence, Moody, and Whittington answered. Members Butler 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, Executive Director 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  
Report from Finance Committee – Mr. Horton  
Report from Policy Committee – none  
Report from Discipline Committee – none  
Report from Facilities Committee – Mr. Garrett

COMMITTEE OF THE  
WHOLE

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated December 9, 2021, through January 12, 2022
- Personnel dated January 12, 2022 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations)
- Thornton Township High School's Varsity Wrestling Tournament, December 28-30, 2021, Lincoln Community High School, Lincoln, IL
- Thornridge High School's ICCA Cheer Championship Competition, January 8-9, 2022, Bank of Springfield Center, 1 Convention Center Plaza, Springfield IL 62701

BILLS

PERSONNEL

RATIFICATION(S)

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

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- None

Dr. King presented the following information:

COMMUNICATIONS

- Thornridge High School:
  - Boys' Basketball Defeated Crete-Monee High School 78-53
- Thornton Township High School
  - Congratulations Speech team and honor roll students
  - Thank you, Cease Fire, for delivering turkeys to families
- Thornwood High School
  - Two TW IB Students Receive Scholarships to DePaul University
  - Saveon Brown signs letter of intent to Western Michigan University

Ms. Moody moved, Mr. Banks seconded the **Approval of Driver's Education Driving Simulator Maintenance Contract** as presented by Mr. Horton. On roll call, Members Moody, Banks, Brown, Graham, Lawrence, and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVE THE DRIVER'S  
EDUCATION DRIVING  
SIMULATOR  
MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Mr. Brown moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded the **Approval to Conduct of Public hearing concerning the intent of the Board to sell \$2,600,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds for the purpose of increasing the working cash fund of the District** as presented by Mr. Porter. On roll call, Members Brown, Lawrence, Banks, Graham, Moody, and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVE THE PUBLIC  
HEARING CONCERNING  
WORKING CASH FUND  
BONDS

Thornton Township High School District 205 is committed to ensuring the health and safety of students, faculty, and staff while providing high-quality education. Our district serves the communities of Blue Island, Burnham, Calumet City, Dixmoor, Dolton, East Hazel Crest, Harvey, Hazel Crest, Lansing, Markham, Phoenix, Posen, Riverdale, South Holland, and Thornton. As COVID-19 cases continue to surge in Illinois, District 205 shifted to remote learning (also known as Adaptive Pause), beginning today, Wednesday, January 12, 2022. The schedule for remote learning is January 12-14 and January 18-21, 2022. In-person instruction will resume Monday, January 24, 2022, at all schools. COVID-19 testing will be available for students and teachers during the seven-day remote learning period. Testing, provided by Shield Illinois, is open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. as stated on the website. Peace Center and Outlook Academy students may receive COVID-19 testing at their home school or welcome to test on Friday, January 21, at Thornridge. Also, bus service is available for students who want to receive a COVID-19 test. More information regarding bus service is forthcoming on the district's website – district205.net.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

We were able to start and finish the first semester with in-person learning. We had challenges but we were able work our way through those challenges. The district made improvements to our environment including:

- The Safe Schools Initiative (that included)
  - An increased number of security guards to improve safety
  - Added metal detectors
  - Increased cooperation with our municipalities
  - Work with our state reps and senator
- A new access 411 management system
- Freshly painted classrooms
- Promethean Board Installation
- Plan for total computer refresh

Our work has not been easy. The district is still down twenty school bus drivers – several food service workers, and custodians. Our students have had challenges in and out of the classroom. COVID-19 has changed the daily life of all of us but we continue to work to improve the education of our students in this new normal. Before the break, the district and the association met to discuss some of the challenges in the pandemic. Mr. Porter is drafting a document to explain the benefits of our insurance plans and how it can be used for employee support during these challenging times. We continue to look for opportunities for our students and hope to have additional opportunities to present in February. I thank the board, administration, and staff for their hard work as we continue to work through these difficult times.

At 7:10p.m., Mr. Brown moved, Mr. Banks 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, Members Brown, Banks, Graham, Lawrence, Moody, and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

At 7:57p.m., Ms. Lawrence moved, Ms. Moody seconded to **Reconvene Regular Session**. On roll call, Members Lawrence, Moody, Banks, Brown, Graham, and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RECONVENE REGULAR  
SESSION

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Moody seconded to **Approve the Expulsion of Student A to PEACE Center**. On roll call, Members Lawrence, Moody, Banks, Brown, Graham, and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF STUDENT  
DISCIPLINE

Ms. Moody moved, Mr. Banks seconded to **Approve to Adopt Tenured Teacher, Patrick Gaffney, Notice of Remediation**. On roll call, Members Moody, Banks, Brown, Graham, Lawrence, and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF ADOPT  
TENURED TEACHER NOTICE  
OF REMEDIATION

Ms. Moody moved, Ms. Graham seconded to **Approve the Tenured Teacher, Anthony Etheridge, Resignation Agreement and Release**. On roll call, Members Moody, Graham, Banks, Brown, Lawrence, and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF TENURED  
TEACHER RESIGNATION  
AGREEMENT AND RELEASE

Mrs. Whittington moved, Mr. Banks seconded to **Approve to Ratify the New Contract with Buildings, Grounds, and Maintenance Employees of the Union of Support Staff – IEA/NEA**. On roll call, Members Whittington, Banks, Brown, Graham, Lawrence, and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL TO RATIFY THE  
NEW CONTRACT WITH  
BUILDINGS, GROUNDS,  
AND MAINTENANCE  
EMPLOYEES OF THE UNION  
OF SUPPORT STAFF –  
IEA/NEA

Mrs. Whittington moved, Ms. Moody seconded to **Approve to Adopt Board of Education Grievance Decision Concerning Coaches' Pay**. On roll call, Members Whittington, Moody, Banks, Brown, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF ISSUE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
GRIEVANCE DECISION  
CONCERNING COACHES'  
PAY

At 8:02p.m., Mrs. Whittington moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded to **Adjourn the Meeting**. On roll call, Members Whittington, Lawrence, Banks, Brown, Graham, and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

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President

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Secretary