

MINUTES FOR A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, HELD ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2021, AT THE AUDITORIUM AT THORNRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL, 15000 SOUTH COTTAGE GROVE, DOLTON, ILLINOIS, AND VIA WEBEX, BEGINNING AT 6:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30p.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, Moody, and Whittington answered. Members Butler and Lawrence were 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

COMMITTEE OF THE
WHOLE

Report from Finance Committee: Mr. Horton

Report from Policy Committee: None.

Report from Discipline Committee: None.

Report from Facilities Committee: Mr. Garrett.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session dated November 10, 2021
- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated November 11, 2021 through December 8, 2021
- Personnel dated December 8, 2021 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations)
- Boys' Basketball Decatur, IL Turkey Tournament, November 23-27, 2021

MINUTES

BILLS

PERSONNEL

RATIFICATION(S)

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

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Individual concerns of the district were expressed by the community

Dr. King presented school news for:

COMMUNICATIONS

- Thornridge High School:
 - The Adult Transition Program’s Sip & Paint Party
 - The National Technical Honor Society will be hosting its induction ceremony Wednesday December 15th at 5pm in the Thornridge Auditorium
 - Diversity Club made holiday cards for senior citizens
- Thornton Township High School
 - Congratulations to seniors for making a D205 3E Post-High School Plan
 - Speech Team hosted the 37th Annual Turkey Speech Tournament
- Thornwood High School
 - Marching Thunderbirds were honored with an invite to the 2021 Chicago Thanksgiving Day Parade downtown
 - Marching Thunderbirds of Thornwood High School participated in the 2021 South Holland Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 3rd
 - Participated in Build a Bridge Project

Student Board of Education presented the Mid-Year Report – Dr. Doss/Ms. F. Vhora

PRESENTATION(S)

Mr. Fickes introduced Thornridge High School Journalism Class – Mr. Fickes

Mr. Brown moved, Ms. Moody seconded the **Approval of Resolution declaring the intention to issue \$2,600,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds of the District for the purpose of increasing the Working Cash Fund of the District, and directing that notice of such intention be published in the manner provided by law** as presented by Mr. Horton. On roll call, Members Brown, Moody, Banks, Graham and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVE THE
WORKING CASH FUND
BONDS RESOLUTION
FOR \$2,600,000

Property Tax Relief Grant was previously approved by the Board of Education and no additional approval is needed. Item will be skipped/tabled.

Property Tax Relief was previously approved by the Board of Education and no additional approval is needed. Item will be skipped/tabled.

Ms. Moody moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded the **Approval of Final Tax Levy 2021** as presented by Mr. Horton. On roll call, Members Moody, Whittington, Brown, Banks, Graham and voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVE THE FINAL
TAX LEVY 2021

Mr. Brown moved, Mr. Banks seconded the **Approval of Desktop Refresh** as presented by Mr. Horton. On roll call, Members Brown, Banks, Graham, Moody, and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVE THE DESKTOP
REFRESH

Ms. Moody moved, Mr. Banks seconded the **Approval of Sneeze Guards** as presented by Mr. Horton. On roll call, Members Moody, Banks, Brown, Graham and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVE THE SNEEZE
GUARDS

Good evening,

SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT

As we close in on the end of the 1st semester, everyone must acknowledge that being an educator is a really tough job. Rather you are in the classroom, an office, hallway, or lunchroom it is tough, and it is tough all over. Each night you can look on the news and see issues all over the county, the state, and nation. But it is even tougher when it is in your back yard – or worse – in your house. District 205 has had it tough 1st semester – so many changes – so many challenges – and the pandemic, regardless of how some are acting, is not over. We have had issues with fights, weapons, drugs, and attendance.

Last month when I reported to the public that we had 25 expulsion hearings in September, 26 expulsion hearings in October, and ten at that time in November. It kicked off Our Safe Schools Initiative. We stated here, announced at our schools, and posted on our website the following:

- We will not tolerate acts of violence and mob – like fighting in our schools
- We will call the police to our schools (We have a school Resource officer in all three buildings)
- We are prepared to file charges against students who engage in acts of violence, such as fighting,
- We will fully cooperate with police and the State’s Attorney by providing video footage of acts of violence.
- We will ensure students face severe consequences for their actions, including suspension, expulsion, and charges. It goes without saying that violence committed against our staff members will be dealt with in these same manner including charges.

Right before Thanksgiving, we had an incident at Thornton. There was gunfire on the campus, and only by the grace of God, no one was injured. After ensuring no one was physically hurt, my staff and I went to work following the safe school’s initiative. We reviewed the cameras. Identified the people involved, saved the video footage, provided all the relevant data and video to law enforcement. But we went further. We designed an exclusion zone. While reviewing the video of the incident it was evident that we could better organize the campus access to create safety. Our security team and law enforcement agreed and have established the exclusion zone around the school. In addition, the district added five additional security guards to each school, added two additional guards for the exclusion zone, we have connected with a community organization for safe passage, and ordered metal detectors for each school. We expect the metal detectors to be installed this semester. Safety for our students and staff is paramount.

The district continues to work with our municipalities, and the state. We will continue to do what is necessary to keep our students and staff members safe, but it is more than just safety we are after. We want to ensure all of our students are enrolled, enlisted, or employed at graduation. The only way to accomplish our objective is to work with our students and our communities. Some people think that when a student doesn’t attend school – you should give them what they want and kick them out of school. Others believe that if these kids don’t dress right – kick them out of school. Neither of these options are correct or legal. PL 99-0456, or SB 100 establishes specific reasons for removal of students from schools. Those are two examples are not in the law. As I started the report – being an educator is not easy. We must continue to reach out and work with our community to ensure our students are educated and we cannot do that alone. We must work together and there aren’t any easy answers – there are things we cannot and will not accept, but all of it is hard work. I applaud the efforts of my staff, students, and community for persevering through these difficulties in the pandemic. We will continue to give it our best every day, and our students and communities will be the beneficiaries of our work. Thank you – Happy Holidays and that is my report for this evening.

At 7:40p.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, Moody, and voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

At 8:41p.m., Ms. Moody moved, Mr. Brown seconded to **Reconvene Regular Session**. On roll call, Members Moody, Brown, Banks, Graham, and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RECONVENE REGULAR
SESSION

Ms. Moody moved, Mr. Brown seconded to **Approve the Issuance of the Teacher Notice to Remedy for Ms. Fleming-Willis**. On roll call, Members Moody, Brown, Banks, Graham, and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF TEACHER
NOTICE TO REMEDY

At 8:42p.m., Ms. Moody moved, Mr. Banks seconded to **Adjourn the Meeting**. On roll call, Members Moody, Banks, Brown, Graham, and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

President

Secretary