

MINUTES FOR A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, HELD ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2021, AT THORNRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL, 15000 COTTAGE GROVE AVENUE, DOLTON, IL 60419 AND VIA WEBEX CONFERENCING, BEGINNING AT 6:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 6:37p.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 Brown, Graham, Moody and Whittington answered. Members Banks and Butler 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 reported that the last meeting was held on November 4, 2021 at 4:00pm. s

COMMITTEE OF THE
WHOLE

Report from Finance Committee: Mr. Horton reported that the last meeting was held on 11/02/21 at 4:00pm via WebEx. There were six (6) action items approved and will be presented at tonight's meeting for board approval. The next meeting will be held on 11/30/21 at 4:00pm.

Report from Policy Committee: None.

Report from Discipline Committee: The last meeting was held on 11/02/21.

Report from Facilities Committee: Mr. Garrett reported that the last meeting was held on 10/28/21 at 4:00pm. Items approved were sent to the Finance Committee for review and approval next meeting will be held on 11/18/21 at 4:00pm via WebEx.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting dated October 13, 2021
- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated October 14, 2021 through November 10, 2021
- Personnel dated November 10, 2021 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations)
- Ratification(s): Overnight IHSA Cross Country Sectional Metamora, IL, October 29-30, 2021

MINUTES

BILLS

PERSONNEL

RATIFICATION(S)

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

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Thornton Township High School parents, Charwana Morgan and Carolyn Osborn spoke about community concerns. The Faculty Association spoke about concerns on behalf of school educators.

- None

FOIA

Dr. King presented the following information:

COMMUNICATIONS

- Thornridge High School:
 - Thornridge Journalism sponsors are presented with a Third Illinois Press Foundation Grant
 - Congratulations to chess team on winning top two boards against Grant Park
- Thornton Township High School
 - Congratulations on National Honor Society Induction Ceremony
 - Physical Education students participate in Army Challenge
 - Wildcat entrepreneurs on the rise
 - Staff celebrate end of Quarter 1
 - Infant Care Center/Staff fall festival parade
 - Administrative team building activity
- Thornwood High School
 - Student receives Hadiyah Pendleton Legacy Scholarship
 - CTE Classes in Action
 - Mathletes Win 2nd
 - Congratulations Girls Cross Country Team finished 8th out of 11 teams
 - Football record breakers
 - Culinary Class Continue Pumpkin Art Tradition
- Peace Center
 - Financial Literacy partnership in teaching students and parents financial knowledge
- Outlook Academy
 - Congratulations to 26 October 2021 graduates
 - Parent Academies are back

Mr. Fickes introduced the student *SIU Experience – Overnight fieldtrip to Carbondale, IL*

PRESENTATION(S)

Safe and Secure in Learning and Teaching

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

While District 205 continues to address the issues of the COVID-19 pandemic diligently and relentlessly, we find ourselves also battling a new epidemic – violence in school. I refer to this problem as an epidemic due to daily occurrences within our schools. The increase of violence in schools is not happening only at District 205 schools. Incidents of mob-like fighting is occurring in schools all around the State of Illinois and the nation. This is unacceptable in our schools and our communities. As a district, we must provide a safe and secure environment for our students to learn and for our faculty to teach. School safety has and always will be a top priority in District 205. Our students, faculty, and staff have a reasonable expectation to learn and work in a safe environment. We all have a reasonable expectation to not feel threatened as we enter buildings of education. Sadly, we have reached a critical point as school violence jeopardizes our safety. Our current data demonstrates a need for immediate action.

- The district had 25 Expulsion Hearings in September
- 26 Expulsion Hearings in October

- And 13 Expulsion Hearings so far in November including 49 Mob actions, two weapons, and a staff assault.

Students who engage in these vicious attacks are a threat to students, faculty, staff, and to themselves. Their acts of violence against each other are revolving on an all-too frequent basis. Their actions cause chaos in our schools. Their negative behavior has impacted moral, and it must no longer be tolerated. Again, our priority must be to provide a safe environment for our students, faculty, staff, and visitors. 2 | P a g e

Therefore, District 205 is taking an aggressive approach and establishing a plan to address violence in schools. We are leading an initiative to combat this epidemic and ask for the support of our board, facility, staff, students, parents, and the entire community. This plan empowers school officials to respond to school fighting using all measures at their disposal.

Effectively immediately,

- We will not tolerate acts of violence and mob-like fighting in our schools.
- We will call police to our schools.
- We are prepared to file charges against students who engage in acts of violence, such as fighting.
- Students will face severe consequences for their actions, including suspension, expulsion, and charges.
- We will fully cooperate with police and the State's Attorney by providing video footage of acts of violence.

Additionally, District 205 will lead the coordination and execution of what will likely become one of our most important and significant community summits to address this epidemic. While school violence is a national trend, we must take local action now. In forthcoming weeks, we will engage regional school officials, local law enforcement administration, elected officials, including state representatives and our State's Attorney, to respond to this national crisis collectively and aggressively. Our goal is to create a unified approach that brings meaningful change to this difficult and disruptive challenge.

Collectively, our message must be clear. Any incident that disrupts school safety or the ability of teachers to teach and student to learn will be met with serious consequences. We will send this information to our parents, and post it to the community.

Ms. Moody moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded the **Approval of Report Creator Plug-In for PowerSchool** as presented by Mr. Fickes. On roll call, Members Moody, Whittington, Graham, and Brown voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVE THE REPORT
CREATOR PLUG-IN FOR
POWERSCHOOL

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

APPROVE THE INTERIOR
WASTE BIN PROJECT

Mr. Brown moved, Ms. Moody seconded the **Approval of Property Tax Relief Grant Resolution** as presented by Mr. Horton. On roll call, Members Brown, Moody, Graham, and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVE THE PROPERTY
TAX RELIEF GRANT
RESOLUTION

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

APPROVE THE TENTATIVE
TAX LEVY

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

APPROVE THE MOBILE
MIND PROPOSAL

At 7:43 p.m., Ms. Moody moved, Ms. Whittington 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 Moody, Whittington, Brown, and Graham voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

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

RECONVENE REGULAR
SESSION

Ms. Moody moved, Mr. Brown seconded to **Approve the Motion to Put Student in Ombudsman Program**. On roll call, Members Moody, Brown, Graham, and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF THE
MOTION TO PUT STUDENT
IN OMBUDSMAN
PROGRAM

At 8:53 p.m., Mr. Brown moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded to **Adjourn the Meeting**. On roll call, Members Brown, Whittington, Moody, and Graham voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

President

Secretary