

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2020, IN THE AUDITORIUM AT THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL, 15001 BROADWAY AVENUE, HARVEY, ILLINOIS, BEGINNING AT 6:30 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 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 Cruz, Graham, Lawrence and Whittington answered. Members Banks and Butler were absent. Dr. Nathaniel Cunningham, Superintendent, Dr. Jerry B. Doss, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources; Mr. Toriano Horton, Assistant Superintendent of Business; Mr. Brett Fickes, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Mr. Thomas Porter, Director of Special Services; Rob Penman, Director of Research; Mrs. Ebonie Williams, Thornridge Principal; Mr. Don Holmes, Thornton Township Principal and Mr. James Petrungaro, legal counsel, were also present.

ROLL  
CALL

**Report from Curriculum Committee:** Mr. Fickes reported that restorative practice and ALICE was discussed

COMMITTEE OF THE  
WHOLE

**Report from Finance Committee:** Mr. Horton reported that the next meeting will be held on 04/07/20 at 4:00p.m. at the District office.

**Report from Policy Committee:** No report

**Report from Discipline Committee:** No report

**Report from Facilities Committee:** Mr. Garrett reported that the next meeting will be held on March 26, 2020 at 4:00p.m. at the District office.

Mrs. Cruz moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded to the Election of Bernadette Lawrence as Secretary Pro-Tem in Absence of Board Secretary, Almetta Vasser-Moody. On roll call, Members Cruz, Whittington, Graham and Lawrence voted aye, nay, none, motion passed.

SECRETARY PRO-TEM

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting dated February 12, 2020
- Minutes of the Special Meeting dated February 24, 2020
- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated February 13, 2020 through March 11, 2020.
- Personnel dated March 11, 2020 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations
  - **Non-Certified Employment (1):** Chelsea Beckley, Thornton, Administrative Assistant, effective February 18, 2020
  - **Professional Leave (1):** Albert Llorens, Thornridge, Math, effective 2020-2021 school year
  - **Retirement (6):** Patricia Brucki, Thornwood, Librarian, effective first semester of 2023-2024 school year; Linda Johnson, Thornridge, Special Education Teacher, effective end of 2021-2022 school year; Kay Pyron Harts, Thornwood, Counselor, effective end of 2022-2023 school year; Gerald Doughty, Thornton, Librarian, effective end of 2023-2024 school year; Lynn Atchison, Thornridge, Special Education Teacher, effective end of 2022-2023 school year; and James Beckwith, Thornridge, Foreign Language Teacher, effective end of 2023-2024 school year

MINUTES

BILLS

PERSONNEL

- Ratifications:
  - Special Education Overnight Fieldtrip to Basketball Contest, Bloomington, IL, March 12, 2020 through March 15, 2020
  - Special Education Same-Day Fieldtrip to 2020 First to Finish Girls Track Charger Invitational, University of Illinois Armory, Champaign, IL, March 7, 2020

## RATIFICATIONS

On roll call, Members Lawrence, Cruz, Graham and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Mrs. Felita Crayton congratulated National Women's Month and Administration, for taking a stand and diligently planning for coronavirus threat and district's commended communication with the public.

No Report

## FOIA

Mr. Arrington presented the following information:

## COMMUNICATIONS

- Thornridge High School:
  - Thornridge choir students earned an excellent rating for the 2020 IHSA Solo & Ensemble music competition.
  - Hosted Students Against Violence Everywhere (S.A.V.E.) Stomp the Violence Step Show
- Thornton Township High School
  - Congratulations for being selected to this years' Chicago Fire Unified Soccer team. They will play Miami on Sunday, May 9th at Soldier Field and Los Angeles, August 8th here in Chicago. They will travel to Denver, Colorado July 26th with the MLS Professional Soccer team. Special thanks to Coach Feltz for assisting in the training of these young men.
  - The Thornton Township High School Wildcat Varsity Basketball team won this past Friday's playoff game against Lincoln-Way East by a score of 67-39. The Wildcats will play Homewood-Flossmoor in the IHSA Sectional Semi-Finals on Wednesday, March 11th at Bloom High School.
- Thornwood High School
  - This past February, TW hosted a voters' registration drive. A total of 73 Thunderbirds have been registered!
  - We are pleased to recognize eight Thunderbird Scholars who were named 2020-21 State Scholars for their outstanding academic achievement
  - One of our students finishes strong in speech winning 4th place in Poetry Reading at the IHSA State Finals competition.
  - Teacher, Dr. Paul Adams, together with the NEA, participate in an interview on WTTW entitled: [Teachers Unions Decry 'Traumatizing' Active Shooter Drills](#)

Mr. Fickes introduced Thornwood High School IB Student Nigel Grant

## PRESENTATION(S)

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Approve the Second Reading of PRESS Plus (Issue 102) Updates** as presented by Mr. Arrington. On roll call, Members Lawrence, Whittington, Cruz and Graham voted aye, nay, none; motion passed.

## APPROVAL OF SECOND READING OF PRESS PLUS ISSUE 102

- Policies Sections: 2:20, Powers and Duties of the Board of Education; Indemnification; 2:70, Vacancies on the Board of Education - Filling Vacancies; 2:100, Board Member Conflict of Interest; 2:105, Ethics and Gift Ban; 2:200, Types of Board of Education Meetings; 2:220, Board of Education Meeting Procedure; 2:260, Uniform Grievance Procedure; 4:15, Identity Protection; 4:30, Revenue and Investments; 4:60, Purchases and Contracts; 4:80, Accounting and Audits; 4:150, Facility Management and Building Programs; 5:10, Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment; 5:20, Workplace Harassment Prohibited; 5:30, Hiring Process and Criteria; 5:50, Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace; E-Cigarette, Tobacco, and Cannabis Prohibition; 5:90, Abused and Neglected Child Reporting; 5:100, Staff Development Program; 5:120, Ethics and Conduct; 5:200, Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal; 5:250, Leaves of Absence; 5:290, Employment Termination and Suspensions; 5:330, Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves; 6:60, Curriculum Content; 6:150, Home and Hospital Instruction; 6:300, Graduation Requirements; 7:20, Harassment of Students Prohibited; 7:150, Agency and

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Cruz seconded, to **Approve the 2020 School Maintenance Project Grant through the Illinois State Board of Education** as presented by Mr. Arrington in the amount of \$50,000.00 for the upkeep of buildings and structures for educational purposes. On roll call, Members Lawrence, Cruz, Graham and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF 2020  
SCHOOL MAINTENANCE  
PROJECT GRANT  
THROUGH ILLINOIS  
STATE BOARD OF  
EDUCATION

Mrs. Cruz moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Approve the CNC Plasma Cutter for Thornton Township High School** as presented by Mr. Fickes for approximately \$15,000.00, vendor is Swift Cut funded by Technology Manufacturing Association Grant. On roll call, Members Cruz, Whittington, Graham and Lawrence voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF CNC  
PLASMAS CUTTER

Dr. Cunningham stated: About a month ago, the district began preparing for the new Coronavirus. We acted in steps:

SUPERINTENDENT  
REPORT

- 1) The first step the district took was contacting and directing our custodial service to start with deep cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces in our buildings. The deep cleaning included desks, tables, light switches, and doorknobs to name a few.
- 2) The district then sent an email to our staff concerning the virus. The email included items for keeping proper hygiene, including washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands, and to avoid close contact with the sick.
- 3) The next step for the district was contacting our bus company and required them to complete deep cleaning of deep cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces. For buses this included seating, handrails and other frequently touched objects.
- 4) The district then posted a letter for our parents and stakeholders that included ensuring students stayed home when sick, covering your cough or sneeze, and cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- 5) The district contacted the Illinois Department of Public Health, The Cook County Department of Public Health, and the South Cook Intermediate Service Center. Our district nurse ensured that we knew and would follow all required reporting protocols. The nurse also reviewed public health expectations with the administration. I contacted the South Cook Intermediate Service Center to ensure the district was informed concerning school closure. The district wanted to ensure that we are prepared and that we have done everything that we can to put students first, keep them safe and ensure they are able to learn.
- 6) The District will continue to stay vigilant and up to date on all required protocols. I know that when you listen to the news, review social media, or talk to people it is disconcerting, but we are prepared. Thank you for following the directions that reduce the transmission of virus':
  - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
  - Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
  - Avoiding close contact with people who are sick.
  - Staying home when you are sick.
  - Covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
  - Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Please remember, at Thornton Township High School District 205, we put children first - even in trying times. Thank you for your attention.

At 7:11 p.m., Mrs. Cruz moved, Mrs. 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 Cruz, Whittington, Graham and Lawrence voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

At 9:45p.m., Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Cruz seconded to **Reconvene Regular Session**. On roll call, Members Lawrence, Cruz, Graham and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Cruz seconded to **Approve the Student Case 15201811928 Expulsion to Ombudsman until June 30, 2021**. On roll call, Members Lawrence, Cruz, Graham and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF STUDENT DISCIPLINE

Mrs. Whittington moved, Mrs. Cruz seconded to **Approve the Student Case 0121192012 Transfer to PEACE Center**. On roll call, Members Whittington, Cruz, Graham and Lawrence voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF STUDENT DISCIPLINE

Mrs. Cruz moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded to **Approve the Employment Status and Assignment of Administrator, Laquitha Snow**. On roll call, Members Cruz, Whittington, Graham and Lawrence voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF CONSIDERATION OF EMPLOYMENT STATUS AND ASSIGNMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR

Mrs. Whittington moved, Mrs. Cruz seconded to **Approve the 2019-20 Non-Renewal of Probationary Teachers**.

APPROVAL OF 2019-2020 NON-RENEWAL OF PROBATIONARY TEACHERS

Title	First Name	Last Name	SCHOOL	ASSIGNED TEACHING AREA	Yrs in District
Ms.	Arlene	Stephens	TW	Technology Education	4
Ms.	LaQuitha	Snow	TR	Counselor	4
Ms.	Nicikia	Tripp	TR	Science	3
Mr.	Brett	Byron	TR	Speech	3
Mr.	Javon	Smith	TW	English	3
Ms.	Kwanda	Neal	TT	Math	3
Mr.	Andre	Richmond	TT	Math	3
Ms.	Elizabeth	Rivera	TT	Science	3
Ms.	Judy	Ocasio	TT	Science	3
Mr.	Barry	Latham	TT	Science	2
Ms.	Mahogany	Clark	TR	FACS	1
Ms.	Latrice	Anderson	TR	Reading	1
Ms.	Karen	Hernandez	TT	Math	1
Mr.	Sorin	Ariton	TT	Science	1
Mr.	Theodore	Owen	TW	Social Studies	0
Ms.	Jazmen Domynique	Thompson	TT	MTSS Social Worker	0

On roll call, Members Whittington, Cruz, Graham and Lawrence voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

Mrs. Cruz moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded to Approve the Board's Semi-Annual Review of unreleased closed meeting minutes for public inspection. The need for confidentiality still exists as to all remaining closed meeting minutes to protect an individual's privacy or the District's interests. The closed meeting minutes, or portions thereof, from the following dates require confidential treatment:

APPROVAL OF THE  
BOARD'S SEMI-  
ANNUAL REVIEW OF  
UNRELEASED CLOSED  
MEETING MINUTES

July 11, 2018	November 14, 2018	March 13, 2019	July 10, 2019
August 8, 2018	December 12, 2018	April 10, 2019	August 14, 2019
September 12, 2018	January 9, 2019	May 8, 2019	September 11, 2019
October 10, 2018	February 13, 2019	June 12, 2019	October 9, 2019

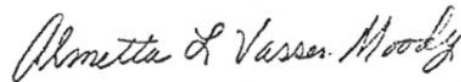
On roll call, Members Cruz, Whittington, Graham and Lawrence voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

At 9:52 p.m., Mrs. Cruz moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Adjourn the Meeting**. On roll call, Members Cruz, Whittington, Graham and Lawrence voted aye; nay, none; motion passed

ADJOURNMENT



President



Secretary