

MINUTES OF A **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 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 6:45p.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, Cruz, Graham and Whittington answered. Members Butler, Lawrence and Moody 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; Mr. John Arrington, Director of College and Careers; Rob Penman, Director of Research; Mrs. Ebonie Williams, Thornridge Principal; Mr. Tony Ratliff, Thornton 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 the last meeting was held on 12/4/19. The next meeting will be held in February 2020. Discussion items will include division leaders' midyear reports, summer school plans and dates, two potential courses - percussionist ensemble course (drumline) and at the senior year level transitional English course, in collaboration with South Suburban College, which would place students in college level English class as they migrate to college and it would eliminate having to take an 095 level course. Incorporating AOPA STEM curriculum for airline pilot program under the leadership of Mr. Holmes

COMMITTEE OF THE
WHOLE

Report from Finance Committee: Mr. Horton reported that there was no meeting this month and no activity. The next meeting will be held on 02/04/20 at 4:00p.m. at District Office.

Report from Policy Committee: None.

Report from Discipline Committee: None.

Report from Facilities Committee: Mr. Garrett reported that the next meeting will be held on 01/30/20 at 4:00p.m. at District Office

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated December 12, 2019 through January 8, 2020.
- Personnel dated January 8, 2020 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations

BILLS

PERSONNEL

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

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Felita Crayton provided Dolton Park District upcoming events flyers

Dr. Doss reported that since the last scheduled Board meeting, one (1) FOIA requests were submitted and zero (0) are pending. All requests have been responded to within the allotted period.

FOIA

Mr. Arrington presented the following information:

COMMUNICATIONS

- Districtwide:
 - MLK Day Celebration will be held at South Suburban College, January 20, 2020 at 9:00a.m.
 - 3rd Annual F.A.C.E. Summit, April 4, 2020, hosted at Thornridge High School, 10:00a.m.
- Thornton Township High School:
 - Hosted Winter Wonderland on December 18, 2020, providing hats, scarves, gloves and toys to the community
 - Varsity basketball team defeated Rich East Rockets(67-44), December 28, 2019,
- Thornwood High School
 - Marching Thunderbirds participate in Auto Zone 61st Annual Liberty Bowl, December 28, 2019, Memphis TN
 - University of Arkansas Pine Bluff and Langston University auditioned band students for potential scholarship opportunities
 - Varsity Girls basketball team participated in the KSA Classic, Orlando, FL.
 - Varsity Co-Education Cheer wins 1st place in the BUCS Winter Classic
- Outlook Academy
 - Congratulations to all fall 2019 graduates. Eighty (80) students received their diplomas.
 - Parent Academies are starting later this month.

Mr. Fickes introduced

PRESENTATION(S)

- Thornwood High School National Youth Challenge Students. The students shared their experiences with the nonprofit organization, [Luber 4 Labor](#)

Mrs. Cruz moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Motion to Table the Approval of Thornton Township High School's ICCA Cheerleading Championship Overnight Fieldtrip** to Springfield, IL January 10-11, 2020. On roll call, Members Cruz, Whittington, Banks and Graham voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

OVERNIGHT FIELDTRIP

I have been the superintendent for approximately 18 Months. In those 18 Months what have we done?

SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT

- We negotiated a five-year contract with teachers and began a collaborative approach to working with the staff to solve issues.
- We have become an ALICE District to ensure student and staff safety in our buildings.
- We have developed processes to identify and assist students that are struggling with classwork.
- We improve the graduation rate at our schools.
- We developed a more robust credit recovery program for assisting students that were behind in credits.
- We met with federal, state, and local officials to helped develop a plan for assisting our students and our communities with safety.
- We have created a district wide restorative justice program that supports student growth and development.
- We have met with judges to have a Law Day for our students in our three schools that assist them in knowing their rights. It also gives them the opportunity to talk to our judges informally in a comfortable setting about law careers.
- We worked with TALF and developed and established a Machine Shop for our students. Keeping the focus on ensuring our students are enrolled, enlisted, or employed.
- We added the Naviance System to help students identify their strengths and career aspirations.
- We upgraded the bathrooms at Thornton and Thornridge.
- We developed a College and Career handbook that identifies the pathways to student careers.
- We were able to get all of our school to commendable status.

This work has been completed together. The school board, the administration and the staff.

What is on the horizon?

- We are looking to build a district wide Cosmetology Program
- We are working with TALF and Lewis University to develop and establish an aeronautics program that includes – pilots, mechanics, and engineering.
- We are working to give students the opportunity to take more classes while increasing the amount of time that our staff members have for professional development and collaboration.
- We are working with our state representatives to find ways to offer students and community more time and support at school.
- We are working with our courts to help us support students that are struggling in the legal system.
- We are working to develop and implement one-to-one computing for our students.

Together we are building a stronger community – children first.

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Not applicable

RECONVENE REGULAR
SESSION

At 7:10p.m., Mr. Banks moved, Mrs. Cruz seconded to **Adjourn the Meeting**. On roll call, Members Banks, Cruz, Graham and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT



President



Secretary