

MINUTES of A **REGULAR MEETING** of the BOARD of EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2019** IN the AUDITORIUM AT THORNRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL, 15000 COTTAGE GROVE AVENUE, DOLTON, IL, BEGINNING AT 6:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 6:38p.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 Lawrence answered. Members, Butler, Moody and Whittington were absent. Dr. Nathaniel Cunningham, Superintendent, Dr. Jerry B. Doss, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Mr. Brett Fickes, Director of Curriculum; Mr. Thomas Porter, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; Mr. Toriano Horton, Assistant Superintendent for Business; Mr. John Arrington, Director of College and Career Partnerships; Mrs. Ebonie Williams, Thornridge Principal; Mr. Tony Ratliff, Thornton Principal; Mr. Don Holmes, Thornwood Principal; and Mr. Adam Dauksas, legal counsel, were also present.

ROLL  
CALL

**Report from Curriculum Committee:** Mr. Fickes reported at last meeting they reviewed student board and curriculum meeting, standards-based learning. Discussed the drivers' education program and new vehicles that were purchased.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**Report from Finance Committee:** Mr. Horton reported last meeting was held 09/30/19 at 4:00p.m. The agenda contained action items that will be presented at tonight's meeting for approval. Next meeting will be 11/05/19 at 4:00p.m. at the District office.

**Report from Policy Committee:** None.

**Report from Discipline Committee:** None.

**Report from Facilities Committee:** Mr. Garrett reported the next meeting will be 10/24/19 at 4:00p.m. at the District office.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes: Regular Meeting and Executive Session of July 10, 2019
- Minutes: Special Meeting and Executive Session of August 14, 2019
- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated September 12, 2019 through October 9, 2019.
- Personnel dated October 9, 2019 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations).
- Ratifications: Approval of Overnight and/or Out-of-State Fieldtrips
  - Thornwood High School Special Olympics Flag Football Overnight Fieldtrip Contest, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL, September 13-14, 2019
  - Thornton Township High School Cross Country Invitational Overnight Fieldtrip, Peoria Central High School, Peoria IL, October 4-5, 2019
- Modification: Thornwood High School Girls' Basketball Overnight Fieldtrip Change from Previously Approved Nike Tournament of Champions, Phoenix, AZ to the KSA Events Classic Basketball Tournament, Orlando, FL, December 18-22, 2019

MINUTES

BILLS

PERSONNEL

RATIFICATIONS

MODIFICATION

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

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Kathryn Ragland, Southland, IL, Donna Hampton, Dolton, IL, Sandra Coulter, Riverdale, IL, Sabrina Bocclair, Dolton, IL and Martuan Henderson, Dolton, IL all expressed concerns regarding the Navistar bus and other bus transportation. The Board President stated the district administration will get back to each parent individually. Ms. Graham stated the appreciation of the parents' coming forth and sharing their concerns about hazards of being a walker during perilous times.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public Hearing Request Concerning the Amended Budget for FY2020 as presented by Mr. Horton. There were no questions from the public or Board members.</li> </ul>	PUBLIC HEARING
Dr. Doss reported since last Board meeting, two (2) FOIA requests were submitted and zero (0) are pending. All requests have been responded to within allotted period.	FOIA
Mr. Arrington presented the following information:	COMMUNICATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thornridge High School: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CBS Chicago – Inside an <a href="#">Active Shooter</a> Drill</li> <li><a href="#">Fox32 Live Pep Rally Friday</a>, Friday, September 20, 2019</li> </ul> </li> <li>Thornton Township High School: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Wildcat Unified soccer team won HF sectional by beating Metea Valley 10-1; Wildcats will move on to State tournament in Schaumburg, IL, November 2, 2019</li> <li>Counseling Team -very successful Senior Parent Financial Aid FAFSA Kick off</li> </ul> </li> <li>Thornwood High School <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Celebrated National Bullying Prevention Month to StoPM OUT all forms</li> <li>Special Olympics flag football first place at regional tournament, Northern Illinois University</li> <li>Marching Thunderbirds earned 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Chicago Football Classic at Soldier Field Chicago; 2<sup>nd</sup> place honor in The Circle City Classic parade, Indianapolis, IN</li> <li>Division Leader Marilu Gonzalez recipient of Premio Cuauhtémoc from Thornton Township, Human Relations Commission and Supervisor, Frank M. Zuccarelli in appreciation for outstanding contributions and dedication to the Latino community</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
Mr. Fickes introduced ALICE (armed intruder) Training support students. The Board of Education members presented the students with medals.	STUDENT PRESENTATIONS
Mr. Fickes introduced Standard-Based Learning Initiative Update by Michael Rouse and Jennifer Mitchell	STUDENT PRESENTATIONS
Mr. Fickes introduced the Math Division Update regarding mathematics and business curriculum by William Brown, Jennifer Mitchell and Ron Peterson	STUDENT PRESENTATIONS
Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Cruz seconded to <b>Approve of Thornwood High School Special Olympics Volleyball State Contest Overnight Fieldtrip</b> , Machesney Park, IL, October 25-27, 2019 as presented by Mr. Porter for 12 students and 2 chaperones, cost is \$7,088.31, funded by FY20 IDEA Flow Through B Grant. On roll call, Members Lawrence, Cruz, Banks and Graham voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.	APPROVAL OF THORNWOOD HIGH SCHOOL OVERNIGHT FIELDTRIP, MACHESNEY PARK, IL
Mr. Banks moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded to <b>Approve of Thornwood High School Special Olympics Football State Contest Overnight Fieldtrip</b> , Pekin, IL, November 1-3, 2019 as presented by Mr. Porter for 13 students and 3 chaperones, cost is \$7,398.36, funded by FY20 IDEA Flow Through B Grant. On roll call, Members Banks, Lawrence, Cruz and Graham voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.	APPROVAL OF THORNWOOD HIGH SCHOOL OVERNIGHT FIELDTRIP, PEKIN, IL
Ms. Graham, board president tabled the <b>Approve to Take from the Table the Revised Board Resolution Concerning Expense Reimbursements</b> as presented by Dr. Doss.	TABLED APPROVAL TO TAKE FROM THE TABLE THE REVISED BOARD RESOLUTION CONCERNING EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENTS
Ms. Graham, board president tabled the <b>Approve Revised Board Resolution Concerning Expense Reimbursements</b> as presented by Dr. Doss.	TABLED APPROVAL OF THE REVISED BOARD RESOLUTION CONCERNING EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENTS
Mr. Banks moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to <b>Approve Amended Budget for FY2020</b> as presented by Mr. Horton. On roll call, Members Banks, Lawrence, Cruz and Graham voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.	APPROVAL OF AMENDED BUDGET FOR FY2020

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Cruz seconded, to **Adopt the Resolution Authorizing FY2020 General Procurement Plan** as presented by Mr. Horton. On roll call, Members Lawrence, Cruz, Banks and Graham voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL TO ADOPT THE  
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING  
FY2020 GENERAL  
PROCUREMENT PLAN

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dr. Cunningham stated, the passing of SB 100, the rules that remade school exclusionary discipline, was a watershed event for our district. Exclusionary discipline describes any school disciplinary action that removes or excludes a student from his or her usual educational setting.

- Most common exclusionary discipline practices at schools include suspension and expulsion.
- To improve processes and support students, instead of excluding them, the district created two district programs and new processes for internal exclusion.
  - Internal (in-school suspension), suspension 1-10 days
  - Expulsion, more than 10 days
- The district reduced all exclusions and specifically changed how internal exclusion is completed. Changes were made to ensure that students were not severely impacted by exclusionary discipline.
- The district's internal exclusion plan changed significantly. Previous plan had students serving full days of in-school suspension. Current system based on needs of students. Issues that requires internal exclusion:
  - Student placed in a restorative justice program designed to support needs while keeping out of class as little as possible.
  - Designed to teach students, not to punish them. This system will improve our school's internal culture, student behavior and student academic skills.

The district's suspension system was split into two parts by law.

- 1<sup>st</sup> part - Exclusions from one to three days. According to ILCS 5/10-22.6 b-15, Out-of-school suspensions of 3 days or less may be used only if the student's continuing presence in school would pose a threat to school safety or a disruption to other students' learning opportunities. This can be used for fights, threats, bullying, etc.,. It is important that it is noted that each incident is individual and is looked upon on its own.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> part - Exclusions of greater than three days but less than eleven days. ILCS 5/10-22.6 b-20 states, "out-of-school suspensions of longer than 3 days may be used only if other appropriate and available behavioral and disciplinary interventions have been exhausted and student's presence in school would either (i) pose a threat to the safety of other students, staff or members of school community or (ii) substantially disrupt, impede or interfere with the operation of the school.
- Final process of exclusionary discipline is expulsion. Expulsion in the state of Illinois is any exclusionary discipline that is longer than 10 days and shorter than two years and only available in the state of Illinois up to two years. ILCS 5/10-22.6 b-20 states, "expulsions, and disciplinary removals to alternative schools may be used only if other appropriate and available behavioral and disciplinary interventions have been exhausted and student's presence in school would either (i) pose a threat to safety of other students, staff or members of school community or (ii) substantially disrupt, impede or interfere with operation of school. In our district, we have developed a process to avoid expulsion if at all possible (Expulsion is required if a gun is brought to school).

District 205 has two district programs designed to offer students the opportunity to remediate their behavior or credits.

- Peace Program is a therapeutic program that works to help students deal with behavior issues and allows focus on their academics as they improve social and behavior skills.
- Outlook Academy (OA) is for juniors and above who are significantly behind in credits. Also accepts students who have dropped out of school. There are students that would not be able to graduate without the intervention of OA. Both programs, Peace Center and OA, offer our students an opportunity to get back on track for graduation. Since their inception, they have allowed students that have made mistakes an opportunity to receive high school diploma.

As for exclusion, we continue to use where necessary, while working on programs that alleviate the practice. One such program:

- Restorative Justice Program. Dr. Shaniqua Jones and her team are working to train staff members, intervene inappropriate student behavior and teach students how to



deal with difficult situations in a positive manner. This program again focuses on teaching students not punishing them. In order to do better, we have to know better.

The Restorative Justice program is teaching our students.

Final note, each building reduced the number of exclusionary discipline issues last year while the district had no expulsions. We will continue to work on reducing exclusionary discipline to ensure our students are enrolled, enlisted or employed upon graduation.

At 7:46p.m., Mrs. Lawrence 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 Lawrence, Banks, Cruz and Graham voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

At 9:15p.m., Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Cruz seconded to **Reconvene Regular Session**. On roll call, Members Lawrence, Cruz, Banks and Graham voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RECONVENE REGULAR  
SESSION

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Cruz seconded, to **Approve Resolution to Authorize Participation in Lawsuit Against Pharmaceutical Companies and to Approve the Related Attorney Representation Agreement**. On roll call, Members Lawrence, Cruz, Banks and Graham voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

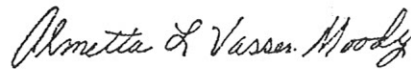
APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION  
TO AUTHORIZE  
PARTICIPATION IN LAWSUIT  
AGAINST PHARMACEUTICAL  
COMPANIES AND ATTORNEY  
REPRESENTATION  
AGREEMENT

At 9:17p.m., Mr. Banks moved, Mrs. Cruz seconded to **Adjourn the Meeting**. On roll call, Members Moody, Banks, Cruz, Graham and Lawrence voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT



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President



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Secretary