

Thornton Township High School District 205

Board of Education Meeting

December 11, 2013

Serving All or Portions of the Following Communities:

Blue Island * Burnham * Calumet City * Dixmoor * Dolton * East Hazel Crest * Harvey *
Hazel Crest * Lansing * Markham * Phoenix * Posen * Riverdale * South Holland
* Thornton

Open Session



Roll Call



Pledge of Allegiance



Committee of the Whole



- Report from Curriculum Committee
- Report from Finance Committee
- Report from Policy Committee
- Report from Discipline Committee

Consent Agenda

- ❧ **Approval of District 205 Bills for the month of November**
- ❧ **Personnel:** Approval of Resignations, Leave of Absence and Employment dated: December 11, 2013
- ❧ **Approval of the Response to IEA Grievance No. 101013**
- ❧ **Approval of the Response to IEA Grievance No. 101513**
- ❧ **Approval of the Response to IEA Grievance No. 102113**
- ❧ **Approval of Minutes:** Regular Meeting and Executive Session of October 9, 2013 and November 13, 2013

Public Participation

We now open the Public Participation section of our agenda. At this time, members of the community are invited to address the Board. We ask that you state your name and town, limit your total time to two minutes, and talk only about items on the current Board Agenda.

In addition, if your comments are of a crucial nature about specific people, the Board requests that you present your comments during the personnel portion of the “executive session.”

Your name will not be called if you do not sign in and list a topic or the topic is not on the current Board agenda or if public participation has begun.

FOIA



☞ Mr. Jerry Doss

Unfinished Business



- ✧ **Approval of Minutes:** Regular Meeting and Executive Session of September 11, 2013
- ✧ **Approval of Minutes:** Special Meeting of August 26, 2013 and September 18, 2013
- ✧ **Approval of District 205 Bills for the month of October**
- ✧ **Personnel:** Approval of Resignations, Leave of Absence and Employment dated: November 13, 2013

New Business



- ∞ Recommended Approval of Out-of-State Field Trip, Thornwood NFTE Program (*Policy Section 4:28*) –

Mr. Willis (Approval Needed)

New Business



- ☞ Recommended Approval of 2013 Tax Levy and Resolution (*Policy Section 4:10*) –

Mr. Grossi (Approval Needed)

Thornton Township High School District 205

Presentation of Final Levy

December 11, 2013

Timetable for Tax Levy Adoption

➤ November 13, 2013

Presentation of Estimated Aggregate Tax Levy **(Done)**

➤ December 11, 2013

At the regular board meeting, adopt the 2013 Tax Levy, including all appropriate resolutions. **Note since levy request is less than 5% higher than prior year extension, the District is not required to hold a hearing.**

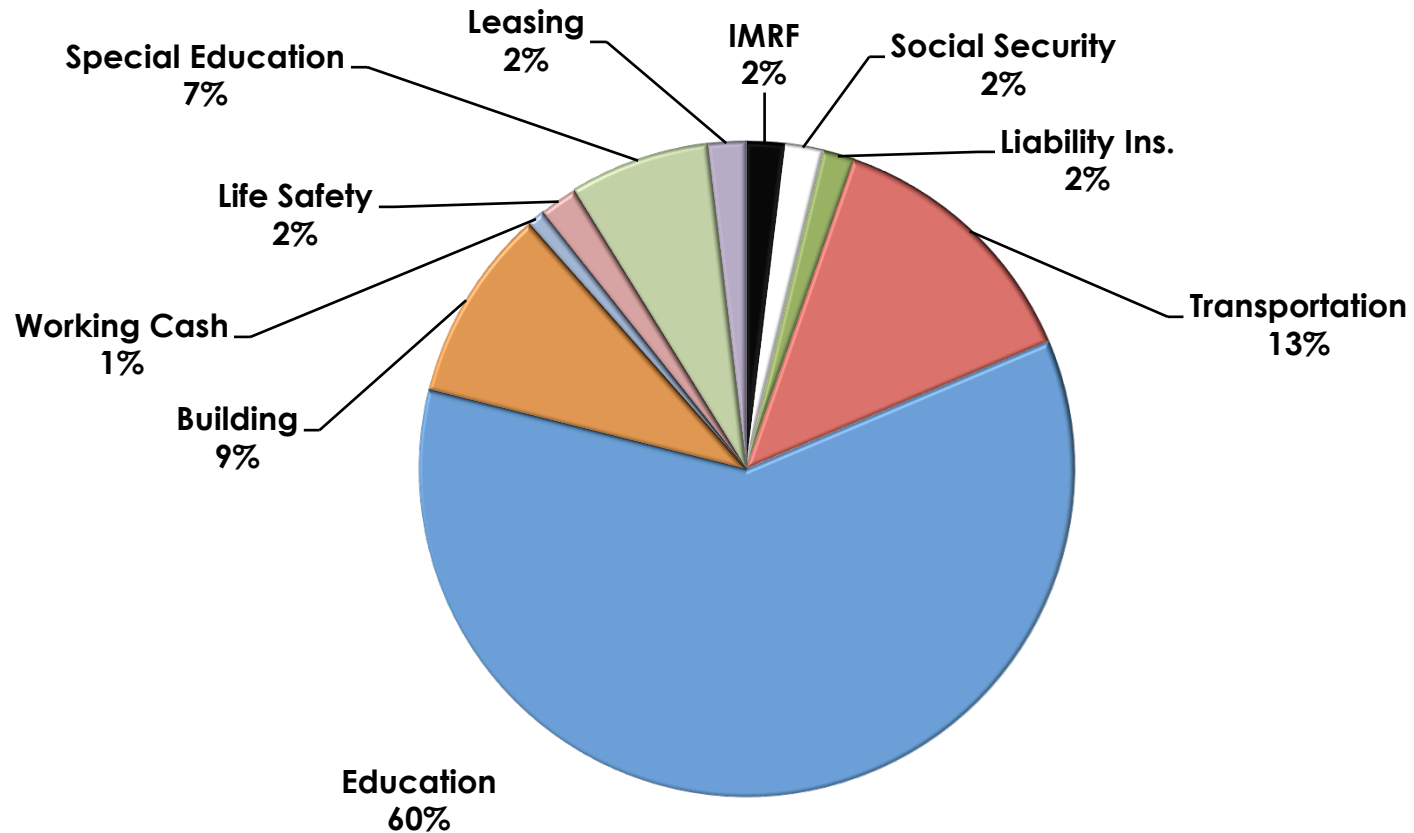
➤ December 31, 2013

File necessary documents with the County Clerk on or before this date

Breakdown of Levy Request

Fund Description	Levy Amount
IMRF Fund	1,200,000
Social Security Fund	1,200,000
Liability Insurance Fund	1,000,000
Transportation Fund	8,500,000
Education Fund	38,500,000
Building Fund	6,100,000
Working Cash Fund	570,000
Life Safety Fund	1,200,000
Special Education Fund	4,400,000
Leasing Fund	<u>1,200,000</u>
Total Levy	63,870,000

Breakdown of Levy Request



Estimated Impact to District (Versus Prior Year)

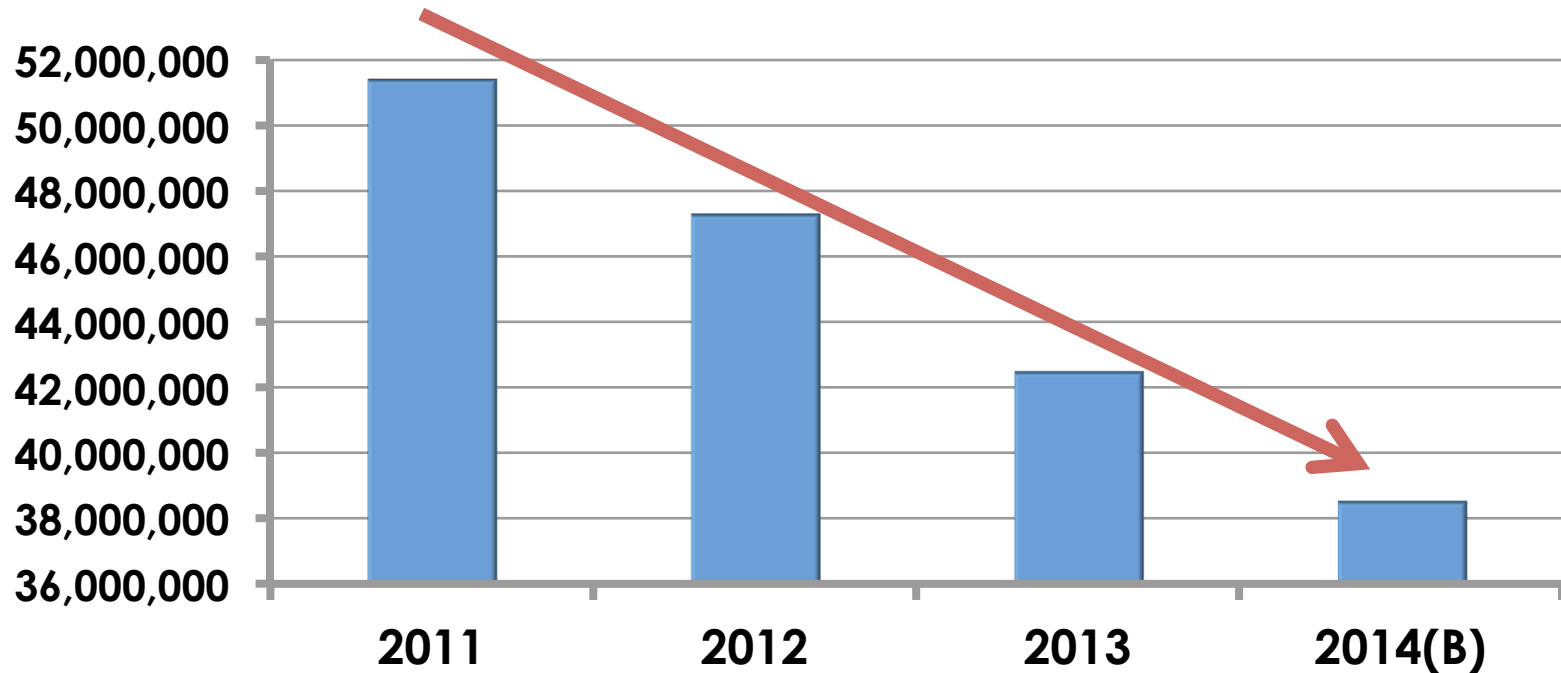
- It is estimated that the tax extension for non-bond and interest funds will increase \$1,150,000.
- It is estimated that the tax extension for the bond fund will be unchanged.
- Therefore, the total tax increase is estimated to be approximately \$1,150,000 (approximately 1.6% tax increase).

Estimated Impact to Taxpayers (Assuming \$80,000 MV Home)

- The annual increase due to non-bond and interest levy is approximately \$15 versus the previous tax year.
- The change in the bond and interest fund levy is approximately \$0 versus the previous tax year.
- Therefore, the total annual increase is estimated to be \$15 versus the previous tax year.

Why Must The District Consider This Tax Levy?

Total State and Federal Revenues – Thornton District 205



The District has reduced expenses by \$8.9 million from FY 2011 to FY 2013 to partially offset this loss in revenues.

Additional Concerns/Threats:

- ▣ Shifting of pension obligations from the State to the District.
 - ▣ Estimated Impact: \$1.5-\$3 million per year
- ▣ Legislation limiting real estate tax growth to 0% when property values decline.
 - ▣ Estimated Impact: \$1.8 million per year
- ▣ State considering further decrease in proration of General State-Aid
 - ▣ Estimated Impact: \$300,000 for every 1% decrease
- ▣ Possible Charter School Coming Into District
 - ▣ Estimated Impact: \$7.5 million annual loss of revenues

Tax Levy Presentation

▣ Questions?

New Business

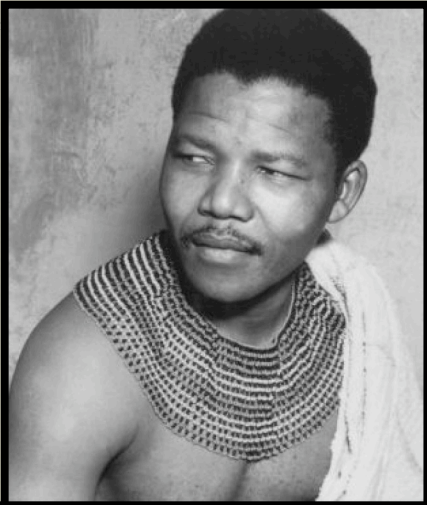


- ❧ Recommended Approval to Extend the Contract for 2013-2014 Snow Removal (*Policy Section 4:60*) –

Mr. Charnot (Approval Needed)

Superintendent's Report





Nelson Mandela

1918 -2013

"There is no passion to be found playing small--in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living."

— Nelson Mandela

"It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that the son of a mineworker can become the head of the mine, that a child of farm workers can become the president of a great nation. It is what we make out of what we have, not what we are given, that separates one person from another." — Nelson Mandela

"A good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination." — Nelson Mandela



English, Reading, and Library Sciences

Area Instructional Leader
Mike Sanders

Literacy Coaches

TT – Laurel Ransom

TR – Michael Skawinski

TW – Jennifer Honeycutt

English Courses

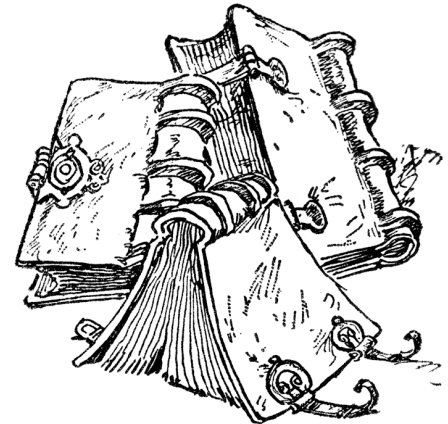
Regular Education

- English I – Writing Intensive
- English II – Reading Intensive
- English III – PSAE Intensive
- English IV – Research Intensive
- Journalism
- Yearbook



Honors Track

- English I Honors
- English II Honors
- English III AP (Language)
- English IV AP (Literature)

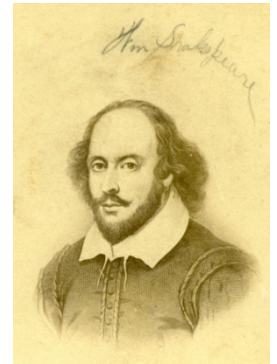


The Senior Year

All senior students take *Advanced Composition and Research* the first semester and choose from the following for second semester:



British Literature
World Humanities
Multicultural Literature
Shakespeare
Creative Writing



PARCC Examples Linking English, Social Studies, and Science

English/Language Arts

What makes something funny? After reading selections from Mark Twain and Dave Barry, write a review that compares their humor and explains which type of humor works for a contemporary audience and why. Be sure to support your position with evidence from the texts.

Social Studies

Do presidential policies really make a difference in the lives of Americans? After reading primary and secondary sources, write an essay that compares John F. Kennedy's New Frontier social policies with Lyndon Johnson's Great Society social policies and argues which had a more significant impact on Americans. Be sure to support your position with evidence from the texts.

Cross-Curricular Writing Initiative

Science

Which is the better energy source? After reading scientific sources, write an essay that compares the chemistry involved in producing nuclear energy and fossil fuels and argues which is the better energy source for urban communities. Be sure to support your position with evidence from the texts.

District 205

ECRA Writing Assessment –

School–Wide and District Average

	Total # of Students	AVG. INT-FALL	AVG. INT-SPRING	AVG. INT- DIFFERENCE	AVG. POS-FALL	AVG. POS-SPRING	AVG. POS- DIFFERENCE	AVG. FOC-FALL	AVG. FOC-SPRING	AVG. FOC- DIFFERENCE	AVG. SUP-FALL	AVG. SUP-SPRING	AVG. SUP- DIFFERENCE	AVG. ORG-FALL	AVG. ORG-SPRING	AVG. ORG- DIFFERENCE	AVG. CON-FALL	AVG. CON-SPRING	AVG. CON- DIFFERENCE	AVG. PACT-FALL	AVG. PACT-SPRING	AVG. PACT- DIFFERENCE
THORNBRIDGE HS	910	2.8	3.4	0.6	3.1	3.7	0.8	2.8	3.4	0.7	2.7	3.2	0.6	2.8	3.2	0.5	3.1	3.5	0.5	5.7	6.8	1.3
THORNTON HS	1348	2.9	3.6	0.7	3.2	3.8	0.7	2.9	3.6	0.7	2.7	3.5	0.7	2.8	3.4	0.6	3.1	3.5	0.4	5.8	7.1	1.4
THORNWOOD HS	1399	2.7	3.4	0.8	3	3.7	0.7	2.7	3.5	0.8	2.6	3.3	0.7	2.6	3.3	0.7	2.9	3.5	0.7	5.4	6.9	1.5
DISTRICT-WIDE	3657	2.8	3.5	0.7	3.1	3.7	0.7	2.8	3.5	0.8	2.6	3.3	0.7	2.7	3.3	0.6	3	3.5	0.5	5.6	6.9	1.4
6 Point Scale																				12 Pt. Scale		



Reading Courses



Course

Grade Equivalent

Reading Foundations

2.0 – 6.0

High School Reading

6.1 – 8.9

Reading Seminar

9.0 – Post High School

READ 180/Sophomore Reading

For students yet to master necessary skills to be successful. These students are pulled from the Foundations courses based on Gates Post-Test scores and teacher recommendation.



GATES-MACGINITIE READING TEST RESULTS 2010-2013
ALL FRESHMAN READING COURSES
 Pre/Post



All Reading Classes		2010-11		2011-12		2012-13		2013-14	
		PRE	POST	PRE	POST	PRE	POST	PRE	POST
TR n=249 (2010-11) n=240 (2011-12) n=219 (2012-13) n=270 (Fall 2013)	mean GE	7.5	8.3	7.4	8.1	7.6	8.3	6.8	
	median GE	7.3	8.3	7.0	7.9	7.3	8.8	6.4	
TT n=359 (2010-11) n=351 (2011-12) n=334 (2012-13) n=408 (Fall 2013)	mean GE	6.7	8.4	7.4	8.3	7.0	9.0	6.9	
	median GE	6.4	7.9	7.3	7.9	7.0	9.0	6.7	
TW n=351 (2010-11) n=355 (2011-12) n=359 (2012-13) n=388 (Fall 2013)	mean GE	8.0	8.5	7.5	8.5	7.7	8.7	8.0	
	median GE	7.9	8.3	7.3	8.3	7.6	8.7	7.9	

Literacy Professional Development Plan

Professional development offerings through the literacy coaches will take multiple forms, the primary being on-demand during common planning time:

Sample PD Schedule



September	Building Schema and Vocabulary
October	Content Area Vocabulary and Root Words
November	Inference and Q.A.R.
December	Summarizing
January	Text Connections and Graphic Organizers
February	Text Selection and Reading Primary Texts
March/April	Reading and Writing for Argument

Top 5 Strategies Implemented

- **Balanced Literacy Plan**
 - 3 Initiatives in Full-Swing, 2 in Initial Implementation
- **Team Re-alignment for Freshman Reading Support**
 - Common Assessment Structure: Skill and Strategy Matrix
 - Collaboration with Counselors and SPED for Schedule adjustments and service delivery
 - **Read 180**
- **Ongoing Shaping of Professional Development Offerings Our Strongest PD Year Yet!**
 - “Drop and Shop” PD, Sub Plan Initiative
 - 19 New Participants added, 54 of 58 Returning from 2011–1012, 15 Repeat Visitors
- **Focus on Building Culture of Literacy--Growing!**
 - Student Ownership, Opportunities, Individualized Support
 - Parent Support, Involvement
 - Teacher Leadership, Buy-In to Initiatives
- **Focus on Collaboration, Consultation with Teams and Parents**
 - Literacy Support Letters (one per quarter)
 - Book Fair
 - Reading Team
 - Data Teams/Interim Assessments, CCC Groups, RTI



Success Stories

► Reaching and Motivating Stakeholders

- Book Fairs
- CCC and Data Meetings
- Creative PD Offerings
- Student-Owned Initiatives
- School Teams, Administration



► Major Culture Shifts: Celebration of Literacy

- Literary-Arts Magazine
- Tailored Literacy Plans (Physics, History, Geometry)
- Writing Packet
- Writing Lab



Library Services



Date	Patrons	Classes
August 29, 2011 – September 2, 2013	684	26
September 5 – 9, 2013	1,176	51
September 12 – 16, 2013	1,314	46
September 19 – 23, 2013	1, 050	12
September 26 – 30, 2013	1,513	53
First 5 Weeks of School	5,737 Students	188 classes

2012–2013
School Year

38,115
Individual
Students

1,521
Classes
Served

Sample: 1 of 3 libraries

5th Annual Family Reading Night And Poetry Slam

Enjoy an evening filled
with activities for the
entire family.

Come together to
embrace the love for
books and reading
through food, fun and
the spoken word!



Thursday, April 3rd
5:00 – 8:00
Location: Thornridge

- Free Dinner
- Poetry Slam
- Puppet Show
- Book Swap
- Guest Poet
- And Much More . . .



Child Care Will Be Provided!

Executive Session



- ❧ **Employee Grievances**
- ❧ **Interview for candidates interested in becoming a Board Member**
- ❧ **Student Discipline**

Reconvene Open Session



- ☞ **Employee Grievances:** Faculty Association Case No. 101013
- ☞ **Student Discipline** Case No. 05-TW-1314-1

Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting: January 8, 2014

Time: 6:30pm

Location: Thornton Township High School