



**Wednesday, November 13, 2024  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205  
HELD AT THORNRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL 15000 COTTAGE GROVE AVENUE, DOLTON,  
ILLINOIS, AT 6:30 PM**

- 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, Brown, Davis, Graham, Lawrence, and Moody answered. Member Owens was absent. Dr. Nathaniel Cunningham, Superintendent; Mr. Toriano Horton, Assistant Superintendent of Business Operations; Mr. Brett Fickes, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction; Mr. Thomas Porter, Executive Director of Special Services; Mrs. Rosaura Duran, Director of Human Resources were also present.
- ROLL CALL
- Report from Curriculum Committee:** The next meeting will be held November 21, 2024 to discuss Science/CTE Reports, possible Financial Literacy Course, etc.
- COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
- Report from Finance & Facilities Committee:** The last meeting was held October 30, 2024 and all action items on the agenda were approved for this agenda.
- Report from Policy Committee:** None.
- Report from Discipline Committee:** None.
- Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Brown seconded, to **Approve the Consent Agenda**, which includes the following:
- CONSENT AGENDA
- A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes dated October 9, 2024
- MINUTES
- B. The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated October 9, 2024 through November 12, 2024
- BILLS
- C. Personnel dated November 12, 2024 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations)
- PERSONNEL
- D. Ratification(s)
- RATIFICATION
- i) Approval of the Boys Cross Country Sectionals, Overnight Trip, Normal, IL, November 1-2, 2024
- ii) Approval of the Special Olympics State Finals, Overnight Trip, Schaumburg, IL, November 1-2, 2024

iii) Approval of the Mu Alpha Thera Mathlete Fieldtrip, Lafayette, IN,  
November 11, 2024

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

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

- No public participation

Dr. Doss stated there have been no FOIA requests since last board meeting.

Ms. Thornton presented the following information:

- Thornridge High School:
  - Questbridge Finalists
    - Connects high-achieving students from low-income backgrounds with a thriving community and transformative educational, career, and life opportunities that help propel them to lives of fulfillment, meaning, and purpose.
  - 3E Expo
    - Some students received “On the Spot Admission” to Lincoln University in Missouri
  - Bonfire
    - Students and staff gathered for a fun evening
  - October Fest
    - Students and staff enjoyed a day filled with trunk-or-treat, games, treats, etc.
- Thornton High School:
  - Infant Care Center
    - 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Halloween Hallway Festivities with staff and 19 infant care students
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Think Pink & Fight Like a Wildcat Breast Cancer Event
    - Over 100 attendees, board members participated in workouts, walking the track, etc.
- Thornwood High School
  - Males 2 Men Mentoring Seminar at Chicago State University
    - The primary goal of the event was to bring men & young males on the road towards manhood together, interacting through strategic activities, challenges and small group discussions
  - Football Program
    - Thunderbirds won 24-25 District 205 Championship
  - IB Ceremony
    - Ceremony held to induct students into the International Baccalaureate Program
  - Tiny Tots Students
    - Trick-or-Treating throughout the hallways and some staff members dressed in costume
- Special Education
  - Floor Hockey
    - First loss of the season, great photos shared
  - Field Trip to Siegel’s Cottonwood Farm

PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION

FREEDOM OF  
INFORMATION ACT

COMMUNICATIONS

- Communication Development students attended and enjoyed ziplining, feeding animals, etc.

**Annual AVID Presentation – Mr. Fickes & AVID Coordinators**

- Elizabeth Bourne of Thornridge, Jill Lupescu of Thornton, and Jasara Hines of Thornwood presented and spoke about how successful the AVID Program is to our students staying on track, passing all classes, higher GPA, better attendance.
- Two Thornridge students (Jabari Burks & Harmony Collier) gave testimonials on how AVID has positively impacted them

**Preliminary Tax Levy- Mr. Horton**

- The estimated aggregate tax levy was presented. The Tax Levy will be on the agenda for approval next month.

Students, parents, and coaches were given medals for their exemplary participation (for all presentations)

Mrs. Moody moved, Dr. Davis seconded the **Approval of Audit Engagement Letter** as presented by Mr. Horton. The Illinois Combined Statutes require each school district to have its accounts audited by an entity lawfully qualified to practice public accounting as regulated by the Illinois Public Accounting Act. John Kasperek Company will conduct the District’s annual audit. On roll call, Members Moody, Davis, Banks, Brown, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

PRESENTATIONS

APPROVAL OF  
AUDIT  
ENGAGEMENT  
LETTER

Dr. Cunningham stated the following:

**Good evening, members of the board, faculty, staff, and community members,** A District Strategic Plan is a long-range plan founded on the district’s vision, mission, and values. The district strategic plan is visionary and focuses on the district’s long-term goals. By providing a unified summary of the district’s priorities, the district strategic plan is realized in the continuous improvement efforts of each district school.

A School Improvement Plan (SIP) is created to improve student outcomes through improved leadership, systems, and processes within a school. The SIP is a shorter-range plan that defines the steps needed to achieve the district’s long-term goals. It is operational and includes short-term goals specific to the needs of each individual school in the district. The SIP includes detailed action steps for each SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound) goal and is evaluated more frequently than the district strategic plan.

I review these quick definitions because November 15th is School Board Members Day in Illinois. This day is meant to recognize the efforts of the state’s elected school board members and raise awareness of their role in a representative democracy. Our district’s board members have been heavily involved in updating our vision, mission, and values. During the pandemic, when many were not available to connect and do the work on these items, our district spent time with Lunch and Learns to develop, define, and implement our updates. The updates included our mission statement to ensure our students are enrolled, enlisted, or employed at graduation. We had our second annual Three E’s Expo. At the Expo, our seniors and their parents met with schools, the military, and employers. It is where we start moving our seniors toward their plans for their post-high school lives.

SUPERINTENDENT  
REPORT

also has improved teacher attendance by 27.8%. These improvements continue to drive the district toward the goal of being exemplary. The district school ratings currently are commendable – the second highest level for the state of Illinois. We will continue to strive to get to the highest rating. We thank the board for its work on the strategic plan that has helped guide our improvement. Thank you for your attention and continued support.

At 7:12p.m., Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Moody 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, Lawrence, Moody, Banks, Brown, Davis, and Graham voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

At 9:14p.m., Mr. Banks moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded to **Reconvene Regular Session**. On roll call, Members Banks, Lawrence, Brown, Davis, Graham, and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

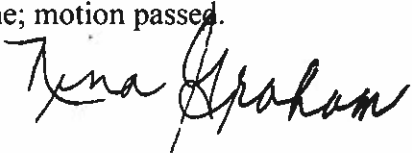
RECONVENE  
REGULAR SESSION

Dr. Davis moved, Mrs. Moody seconded the **Approval of Tenured Teacher Matthew Carlson's Dismissal**. The board accepts this dismissal as presented. On roll call, Members Davis, Moody, Banks, Brown, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed

APPROVAL OF M.  
CARLSON  
DISMISSAL

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

ADJOURNMENT



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President



\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary