



**Wednesday, January 8, 2025  
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 6:31p.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 Brown, Davis, Graham, Lawrence, and Moody answered. Member Banks and Member Owens were 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:** Pat Fortier, Program Administrator of Outlook Academy was honored for her Annual Thanksgiving Giveaway. Ms. Fortier puts together items for families in need to have a Thanksgiving feast.

COMMITTEE OF THE  
WHOLE

**Report from Finance & Facilities Committee:** The last meeting was held January 6, 2025. The items discussed are on this agenda for approval. The next meeting will be held January 30, 2025.

**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

- MINUTES
- A. Approval of Regular Meeting and Executive Session Minutes dated December 18, 2024 and September- December 2023
  - B. The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated December 18, 2024 through January 7, 2025
- BILLS

C. Personnel dated January 7, 2025 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations)	PERSONNEL
D. Ratification(s)	RATIFICATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Approval of the Thornton ICCA Cheer State Championship, Overnight Trip, Springfield, IL, January 10-11, 2025</li> </ul> <p>On roll call, Members Lawrence, Brown, Davis, Graham, and Moody voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.</p>	
<p>The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. F. Crayton of Dolton- discussed the meaning of preparation.</li> </ul>	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
<p>Dr. Doss stated there have been two FOIA requests since last board meeting. Both have been responded too.</p>	FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT
<p>Mr. Fickes presented the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thornwood High School: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scholars <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two students are semi-finalists for the “Modeling the Future Challenge”</li> </ul> </li> <li>All-State Concert Band <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mateo Summers, junior has been selected to join the All-State Concert Band. It has been over a decade since anyone in our district has received this honor</li> </ul> </li> <li>United Nations Climate Summit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kolagade Kolawole invited to attend this summit in Baku, Azerbaijan</li> </ul> </li> <li>Dirksen Middle School Visit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TW Staff visited Dirksen Middle School to meet with 8<sup>th</sup> graders, highlighting all TW has to offer</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	COMMUNICATIONS
<p><b>3E Expo – Mr. Fickes &amp; Dr. Ratliff</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Short video was played, and Mr. Fickes and Dr. Ratliff spoke of this successful event. This event continues to grow each year, engaging our students in their futures.</li> </ul>	PRESENTATIONS
<p>Students, parents, and coaches were given medals for their exemplary participation (for all presentations)</p>	
<p>Mrs. Moody moved, Dr. Davis seconded the <b>Approval of the Thornton Speech Team Competition, Overnight Trip, Downers Grove, IL, January 24-25, 2025</b> as presented by Mr. Whitaker. The Speech Team qualified and will be competing with 11 students. On roll call, Members Moody, Davis, Brown, Graham, and Lawrence, voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.</p>	THORNTON SPEECH TEAM COMPETITION APPROVAL
<p>Mr. Brown moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded the <b>Approval of the Thornton Basketball Fieldtrip to the Davison High School Cardinal Classic Shootout, Overnight Trip, Davison, MI, February 8-9, 2025</b> as presented by Mr. Whitaker. This is an annual trip that Thornton’s Boys’ Basketball Team will attend. On roll call, Members Brown, Lawrence, Davis, Graham, and Moody voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.</p>	THORNTON BASKETBALL FIELDTRIP, OVERNIGHT APPROVAL

Mrs. Moody moved, Dr. Davis seconded the **Approval of the Multi-Function Copier/Printer/Scanner Service Contract Renewal** as presented by Mr. Horton. This agreement with Proven IT will cover all copiers/printers/scanners, supplies, within our district for a term of 60 months (5 years). This is a reduction of \$1,500.00 per month from our current contract. On roll call, Members Moody, Davis, Brown, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

MULTI-FUNCTION  
COPIER/PRINTER/  
SCANNER SERVICE  
CONTRACT  
APPROVAL

Mrs. Moody moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded the **Approval of the Bus Lot Lease Agreement** as presented by Mr. Horton. This agreement with Family Centered Educational Agency will allow storage of our school buses on their property for one year. On roll call, Members Moody, Lawrence, Brown, Davis, and Graham voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

BUS LOT LEASE  
AGREEMENT

Mr. Brown moved, Dr. Davis seconded the **Approval of the District-Wide Turf Football Field and Stadium Renovations Bid Award** as presented by Mr. Crump and Mr. Reid of Planera Architects. The bid and award for this contract went to Henry Brothers Construction for the performance of District-Wide football field and stadium renovations and improvements, subject to attorney review and approval of all documents. Renderings were provided for all three schools. On roll call, Members Brown, Davis, Graham, Lawrence, and Moody voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

DISTRICT-WIDE  
TURF FOOTBALL  
FIELD & STADIUM  
RENOVATIONS BID  
AWARD

Dr. Cunningham stated the following:  
Good evening,

SUPERINTENDENT  
REPORT

I am pleased to share some exciting news about our district's academic progress. Over the past six years, Thornton Township High School District 205 has significantly increased our 9th-grade on-track rating. This achievement is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our students, teachers, staff and Board of Education.

### **Understanding the 9th Grade On-Track Metric**

The 9th Grade On-Track metric measures the percentage of 9th-grade students on course to graduate high school within four years. Typically, a student is considered "on track" if they:

- Earn at least one credit in core subjects like English, math, science, and social studies.
- Maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- Have no Ds or Fs in core subjects.
- Avoid in- or out-of-school suspensions or expulsions.

### **Why is it Significant?**

1. **Predictive of Future Success:** Research shows that students on track in 9th grade are significantly more likely to graduate on time. For instance, on-track 9th graders have graduation rates more than double those of their off-track peers.
2. **Early Intervention:** Identifying students who are off track allows schools to provide targeted support early, addressing issues before they become insurmountable.
3. **Equity and Support:** The metric helps highlight disparities among different student groups, ensuring that all students receive the support they need to succeed.

## What Does This Mean for Our Students?

- **Higher Graduation Rates:** With more students on track, we can expect higher overall graduation rates, which opens more opportunities for postsecondary education and career success. It helps us to ensure our students are enrolled, enlisted, or employed at graduation.
- **Improved Academic Performance:** Students who stay on track in 9th grade tend to perform better academically throughout high school.
- **Better Preparedness for the Future:** Being on track in 9th grade sets a strong foundation for future academic and personal achievements.

## Celebrating Our Success

The significant increase in our 9th grade on-track rating over the past six years is a testament to the hard work of our students, teachers, staff, and board of education. It reflects our commitment to providing a supportive and effective learning environment. Let's continue to build on this success and ensure that every student has the opportunity to thrive.

In 2018, Thornton Township High School District 205's 9th Grade On-Track Rate was 65.3%; this year, it is 83.2%. We have improved by 17%, moving from just two in three being prepared for graduation to four in five. Our goal is 95%, and while we have not yet achieved it, it is well within our sights.

## The state of Illinois assigns its annual Summative designations based on the following factors for our schools:

1. **Academic Indicators** (75% of the rating):
  - **ELA Proficiency:** 7.5%
  - **Math Proficiency:** 7.5%
  - **Science Proficiency:** 5%
  - **Graduation Rate:** 50% (composite of 4-, 5-, and 6-year rates)
  - **English Learner Progress to Proficiency:** 5%
2. **School Quality and Student Success Indicators** (25% of the rating):
  - **Chronic Absenteeism:** 10%
  - **Climate Survey:** 6.67%
  - **9th-Graders on Track to Graduate:** 8.33%

According to the state, these indicators help provide a comprehensive view of how well schools are performing and meeting the needs of their students. For the past five years, our district has been rated commendable. (1<sup>st</sup>) **Commendable** is the second-highest rating for schools in the state. The state ratings are **Exemplary** – top ten percent of all schools, (2<sup>nd</sup>) **Commendable**, no underperforming groups and not in the top ten percent in the state; (3<sup>rd</sup>) **Targeted** support one or more student groups performing at or below all students' group of the lowest performing five percent of schools, (4<sup>th</sup>) **Comprehensive support**, Schools with a graduation rate of below 67 percent that have completed a targeted support cycle, and finally (5<sup>th</sup>) **Intensive** - A school that has completed a full comprehensive support cycle whose performance remains in the lowest performing 5 percent of Title I eligible schools. The district has moved from a graduation rate of 67.1% to a graduation rate of 82.4%. As previously stated, the district has also moved from a freshman on-track rating of 65.3% (2018) to a rating of 83.2%. These improvements were made through the hard work of many administrators, teachers, and students. We continue to focus on student success

and to find ways to assist students in reaching their goals. Thank you all for what you do and the impact it has on our students.

There was no Executive Session this evening.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Dr. Davis moved, Mrs. Moody seconded the **Approval of the Board of Education Decision Regarding Faculty Association Grievance #093024- Evaluation Presentation.** The board denies this grievance and agrees with the Superintendent's decision. On roll call, Members Davis, Moody, Brown, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
BOARD DECISION  
REGARDING FA  
GRIEVANCE  
#093024

Mrs. Moody moved, Dr. Davis seconded the **Approval of the Board of Education Decision Regarding Faculty Association Grievance #100424- TR MTSS Position.** The board denies this grievance and agrees with the Superintendent's decision. On roll call, Members Moody, Davis, Brown, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
BOARD DECISION  
REGARDING FA  
GRIEVANCE  
#100424

Mrs. Moody moved, Dr. Davis seconded the **Approval of the Board of Education Decision Regarding Faculty Association Grievance #092324- Consecutive Year Evaluation at Thornton.** The board denies this grievance and agrees with the Superintendent's decision. On roll call, Members Moody, Davis, Banks, Brown, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

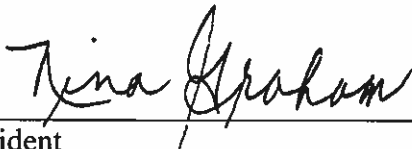
APPROVAL OF  
BOARD DECISION  
REGARDING FA  
GRIEVANCE  
#092324

Mrs. Moody moved, Dr. Davis seconded the **Approval of the Resolution Authorizing a Notice of Remediation for Tenured Teacher.** The board decided to table this until the February Board Meeting due to no Executive Session. On roll call, Members Moody, Davis, Brown, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
NOTICE TO REMEDY  
FOR TENURED  
TEACHER

Mr. Brown moved, Mrs. Moody seconded the **Approval of Tenured Teacher At 7:16p.m., Mr. Brown moved, Dr. Davis seconded to Adjourn the Meeting.** On roll call, Brown, Moody, Davis, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT



President



Secretary