



**Friday, February 14, 2025  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205  
HELD AT THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL 15001 BROADWAY AVE., HARVEY,  
ILLINOIS, AT 5:00 PM**

The meeting was called to order at 5:04p.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, and Moody answered. Member Lawrence and Member Owens were absent. Dr. Nathaniel Cunningham, Superintendent; Mr. Toriano Horton, Assistant Superintendent of Business Operations; Mr. Thomas Porter, Executive Director of Special Services; were also present.

ROLL CALL

**Report from Curriculum Committee:** None.

COMMITTEE OF THE  
WHOLE

**Report from Finance & Facilities Committee:** The last meeting was held on January 30, 2025. All items discussed are on this agenda for approval. The next meeting will be held February 27, 2025 at 4pm.

**Report from Policy Committee:** None.

**Report from Discipline Committee:** None.

Dr. Davis moved, Mr. Brown seconded, to **Approve the Consent Agenda**, which includes the following:

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes dated January 8, 2025
- B. The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated January 8, 2025 through February 11, 2025
- C. Personnel dated November 12, 2024 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations)
- D. Ratification(s)
  - i. Approval of the Thornwood Cheerleading Competition, Overnight Trip, Springfield, IL, January 11- January 12, 2025
  - ii. Approval of the Thornton Girls Wrestling Tournament, Overnight Trip, Carbondale, IL, January 24- January 25, 2025
  - iii. Approval of the Thornwood All State Music Festival, Overnight Trip, Peoria, IL, January 30- February 1, 2025

MINUTES

BILLS

PERSONNEL

RATIFICATION

- iv. Approval of the Thornwood Competitive Dance IHSA Competition, Bloomington, IL, January 30- February 1, 2025
- v. Approval of the Special Olympics Snowshoe State Games, Galena, IL, February 11- 13, 2025
- vi. Approval of the Thornton Chess IHSA State Competition, Overnight Trip, Peoria, IL, February 13- February 15, 2025
- vii. Approval of the Thornwood Chess IHSA State Competition, Overnight Trip, Peoria, IL, February 13- February 15, 2025
- viii. Approval of the Thornwood Competitive Dance IDTA State Competition, Overnight Trip, Springfield, IL, February 14- 16, 2025

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

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation: There was no public participation at this meeting.

PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION

Dr. Doss stated there have been two FOIA requests since last board meeting and both have been answered.

FREEDOM OF  
INFORMATION ACT

Ms. Thornton presented the following information:

COMMUNICATIONS

- Thornridge High School:
  - Science Club
    - Three Seniors participated in the regional Bridge Building Competition at the Illinois Institute of Technology. Special thank you to Mr. Hedden for preparing the students since November.
  - Biomedical Class
    - Students experienced a demonstration of a variety of routine tests conducted during a visit to the doctor's office, preparing future physicians.
  - HBCU College Panel with TR Alumni
    - TR Alumni currently attending HBCUs visited TR to give essential college advice and tips.
  - Illinois State Scholars
    - 5 Seniors were recipients of the Illinois State Scholar Program
  - D205 Girls Bowling Team
    - Placed 1<sup>st</sup>, becoming Conference Champions and 7<sup>th</sup> Place for individuals with the most pin count. Thank you to head Coach Goodwin and Asst Coach Lawson for a great season.
- Thornton High School:
  - Wildcat Cheerleaders
    - Won 1<sup>st</sup> Place at the ICCA State Competition and Mason Bryant was named to the ICCA All State cheerleading team.
  - Honor Roll Celebration
    - Students received certificates and donuts to celebrate.
  - Shot of Art Experience
    - Aligns with the Vent Programs Mission, providing students with therapeutic, art-based activity that supported their SEL development.

- Thornwood High School:
  - Dance Team
    - Participated in the IHSA State Dance Competition, the only teams in our conference from dance or cheer that qualified for state, ranking 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - POPs Patrol Winter Clothes Drive
    - Winter clothing collected and donated to Restoration Ministries for community members in need
  - Saluting Michael Blair & Tyrone Richardson
    - Founded Push to Be Great to make a difference in the lives of who needed it most for the past 11 years.
    - Both men were nominated for the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award
  - Chess Team
    - Qualified for the 2025 Team Chess IHSA State Finals, with Club Sponsor, Michael Blair
  - Varsity Cheer Squad
    - Won 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Conference
  - Speech Team
    - Competed at the 49<sup>th</sup> Theater

**Student Board of Education's Breaking the Cycle Event Presentation** – Dr. Doss & the Student Board of Education presented this 2<sup>nd</sup> annual event. It will be held on Saturday, March 15 at Thornton Township HS with a focus on mental health with a variety of activities for the community. Everyone is invited to attend.

PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Davis moved, Mrs. Moody seconded the **Approval of the Single Reading (Special Conditions/Legal Compliance) Adoption of Revised Policy 2:265 ("Title IX Grievance Procedure)** as presented by Dr. Doss. This is to revert to the 2020 version of this policy as a court recently overturned the changes that were made within the past year regarding Title IX. On roll call, Members Davis, Moody, Banks, Brown, and Graham voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF THE  
SINGLE READING  
ADOPTION OF  
REVISED POLICY  
2:265, TITLE IX

Dr. Doss presented the First Reading of PRESS Plus Policy Update 117 for a 30-day review. This included policy draft updates and policies for review and monitoring. A copy is available to view at our district office. These policies will be approved at our April Board Meeting.

FIRST READING OF  
PRESS PLUS POLICY  
UPDATE 117, 30 DAY  
REVIEW

Mr. Brown moved, Mr. Banks seconded the **Approval of the District 205 TV and Digital Signage Pilot Program.** This is a pilot that includes 22 digital screens in the most highly visible areas. Approximately 5-6 screens will be in the cafeteria, most office areas (inside or out). This will allow for students and staff to visually see morning announcements, upcoming events, etc. The expected rollout is April 14, 2025, to go live. The cost is approximately \$35,000.00. On roll call, Members Brown, Banks, Davis, Graham, and Moody voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

D205 TV & DIGITAL  
SIGNAGE APPROVAL

Mrs. Moody moved, Mr. Brown seconded the **Approval of the Resolution Authorizing the Second Property Tax Abatement for the 2024 Property Tax Relief Grant, returning \$3,486,096.00 to the Taxpayers.** The County Clerk of

RESOLUTION TO  
ABATE PROPERTY  
TAXES PURSUANT TO

Cook County is authorized to lower the District's levy that will be adopted in 2024 for taxes collected in 2025 (Tax Year 2024) by \$3,486,096.00, thereby abating the same amount of taxes to the taxpayers. On roll call, Members Moody, Brown, Banks, Davis, and Graham voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

RECEIVING THE 2024  
PROPERTY TAX  
RELIEF GRANT

Mrs. Moody moved, Mr. Brown seconded the **Approval of the Resolution Authorizing the Second Property Tax Abatement for the 2024 Property Tax Relief Grant, returning \$3,334,512.00 to the Taxpayers.** The County Clerk of Cook County is authorized to lower the District's levy that will be adopted in 2024 for taxes collected in 2025 (Tax Year 2024) by \$3,334,512.00, thereby abating the same amount of taxes to the taxpayers. On roll call, Members Moody, Brown, Banks, Davis, and Graham voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

RESOLUTION TO  
ABATE PROPERTY  
TAXES PURSUANT TO  
RECEIVING THE 2025  
PROPERTY TAX  
RELIEF GRANT

Dr. Cunningham stated the following:

SUPERINTENDENT  
REPORT

Good evening, members of the board and community,

I want to address the many changes happening within our district, state, and nation, and I assure you that, despite these changes, the sky is not falling. Our Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for working with law enforcement, federal grants, and weather remain consistent. We have a system in place, and it has proven effective.

Earlier this year, there was concern about how the district would deal with law enforcement. The district has partnerships with local law enforcement agencies, and we work together to keep our schools safe. We deal with state and federal law enforcement based on the law. We cannot and will not share records or release students or student information; that is the law, and we follow it. When parents send their children to our schools, we are responsible for caring for them. We operate in loco parentis—in place of parents—and ensure that all students are treated fairly.

Next, there was concern about federal funding; the district confirmed that all our funding was in place. We assured our employees that nothing was changing (for this year) and the community that we would not have interruptions in service. We have continuously operated based on the funding we receive and will continue to do so.

When mentioning finances, it reminds me that our district has made significant financial progress with assistance, moving from 60% Adequacy in 2018 to 98% Adequacy in 2025. In Illinois' Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) for education, financial adequacy refers to the funding necessary for a school district to provide a high-quality education to all its students. Additional state funding is then allocated to help us meet our Adequacy Targets. We thank Senator Harris, Representative Davis, and Representative Jones for all their work to get us to adequacy and to continue reducing the reliance on property taxes. This ensures we have the funding to educate our students while properly rebating taxes to the public.

We live in the Chicago Suburbs, and the weather will always be what it is: Hot in the Summer and cold in the Winter, with lake-effect snow and flooding from our creeks and rivers. The district has five eLearning days each year to work to ensure students and staff do not have to extend the school year because of inclement weather. Last year, we finished a major overhaul of our air conditioning systems,

and we feel that heat will not be an issue that interrupts school. In October, we made plans for our Winter Weather issues with our employees, contractor support, and planning system. The employees and contractors will ensure our parking lots and sidewalks are clear and safe. The district will make weather determinations by 5:00 a.m. so that employees and buses do not commute on days we deem unsafe for travel. These are our processes – again the system works.

We continue to do the necessary work to educate our students and ensure they are enrolled, enlisted, or employed by graduation. This requires us to create and maintain systems that support our goals. Even in tough times, we must not fall into the trap of saying, "The sky is falling!" like Chicken Little. Instead, we stay true to our systems that continue to move us forward. All three of our schools are commendable, and we are on the road to exemplary status. Our kids and community deserve it, and I appreciate the teamwork we created to get us there. Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our students and district.

At 5:29p.m., Mrs. Moody moved, Dr. Davis 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, Moody, Davis, Banks, Brown, and Graham voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

At 6:36p.m., Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Brown seconded to **Reconvene Regular Session**. On roll call, Members Banks, Brown, Davis, and Graham voted aye; nay, none; motion passed. Member moody left the meeting after Executive Session commenced.

RECONVENE  
REGULAR SESSION

Mr. Brown moved, Dr. Davis seconded the **Approval of the Resolution Authorizing a Notice of Remediation for Tenured Teacher, Robert Easton**. The board accepts this resolution as presented and agrees with the Superintendent's decision. On roll call, Members Brown, Davis, Banks, and Graham voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
NOTICE TO REMEDY  
R. EASTON

Mr. Banks moved, Dr. Davis seconded the **Approval of the Resignation Agreement and Release for Tenured Teacher, Cedric Henderson**. The board accepts this resignation as presented. On roll call, Members Moody, Davis, Banks, Brown, and Graham voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
RESIGNATION &  
RELEASE  
AGREEMENT FOR C.  
HENDERSON

At 6:42p.m., Mr. Brown moved, Mr. Banks seconded to **Adjourn the Meeting**. On roll call, Brown, Banks, Davis, and Graham voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT



President



Secretary