



**Wednesday, December 13, 2023
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

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

- The meeting was called to order at 6:37p.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, Moody, and Owens answered. Member Lawrence 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; Mr. Adam Dauksas, Legal Counsel were also present.
- ROLL CALL
- Report from Curriculum Committee:** The last meeting held discussed the Science Division, 1st quarter grades, etc. The next meeting will be held in January.
- COMMITTEE OF THE
WHOLE
- Report from Finance Committee:** The last meeting was held December 7, 2023. All agenda items presented are on the agenda for approval. The next meeting will be held in January.
- Report from Policy Committee:** None.
- Report from Discipline Committee:** None.
- Report from Facilities Committee:** The last meeting was held November 30, 2023. All agenda items presented are on the agenda for approval. The next meeting will be held in January.
- Mrs. Moody moved, Mr. Brown seconded, to **Approve the Consent Agenda**, which includes the following:
- CONSENT AGENDA
- A. The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated November 9, 2023 through December 13, 2023
- BILLS
- B. Personnel dated December 13, 2023 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations)
- PERSONNEL

C. Ratification(s)

RATIFICATION

- i. Approval of the Thornton Township High School Overnight Wrestling Tournament, Rockford East High School, December 1-2, 2023, Rockford, Illinois
- ii. Approval of the Thornton Township High School Boys Basketball Team to participate in the Southern Illinois Classic, December 16-17, 2023, Normal, Illinois
- iii. Approval of the Thornton Township High School Overnight Wrestling Tournament, December 28-30, 2023, Lincoln, Illinois

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

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Ms. F. Crayton wished everyone happy holidays.

Dr. Doss stated there have been two FOIA requests since last board meeting. All have been responded to.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA)

Mr. Fickes presented the following information:

COMMUNICATIONS

Thornridge High School:

- Thornridge Music
 - The choir performed at South Suburban College Music Students' Recital
 - The band performed at Richton Park's Veterans' Day Parade
- Purdue University Main Campus Visit
 - Students visited the College & Career Center to learn more about what Purdue has to offer
- Senior Spotlight
 - Three students featured earned scholarships over \$118,000!

Thornton High School:

- My Influence Matters
 - In partnership with Restoration Ministries will assist in their Food Pantry Giveaway December 16
- First Wildcat Classic Alumni Battle of the Decades Basketball Tournament
 - Over 1,100 students, parents, alumni, and community members attended. The event featured food trucks, bouncy houses, giveaways, etc. Great time was had by all.
- Feed My Starving Children
 - Seniors traveled to Schaumburg and helped package over 35,000 meals that feed almost 100 children for a year.
- Quarter 1 Honor Roll Students
 - Celebration held honoring students that made Q1 Honor Roll

Thornwood High School:

- United Nations' Conservation Conference
 - Avery Smith (Thornwood Senior) streamed on December 6, at 11 CT. from Dubai's COP28 UN event. They shared their experiences as delegates at this year's United Nations' Conservation Conference

- Avery Smith
 - Senior Student gave a tour of the South Holland CEDA plant to the Under Secretary of the Department of Energy.
- Feeder School Visit
 - Dr. Covington and team visited 6 of 8 feeder schools
- Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC)
 - Thornwood Received Platinum Honor, which recognizes a completion rate of 66% or higher for FAFSA completion.
- ASVAB Exam
 - Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)- largest exam administration in five years

Special Olympics:

- Floor Hockey
 - Participated in the state floor hockey tournament, winning silver medals
- Snowshoe Event
 - Student Miyannah Holloway placed gold in the 50-meter and 1000-meter dash

Student Board of Education Mid-Year Report- Ms. Gonzalez

PRESENTATIONS

- Ms. Gonzalez provided an overview of the recent events and activities the Student Board has been engaged in and various goals for the future.

3E College and Career Fair- Mr. Fickes, Dr. Ratliff, College & Career Counselors

- This event was well attended by our students. It gave them an opportunity to explore pathways to be enrolled, enlisted, or employed upon graduating. It is anticipated this event will continue to grow each year.

Mrs. Moody moved, Dr. Davis seconded the **Resolution providing for the issuance of not to exceed \$12,200,000 General Obligation Limited Tax School Bonds of the District for the purpose of increasing the Working Cash Fund of the District, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax to pay the principal and interest on the bonds, and authorizing the sale of the bonds to the purchaser thereof-** presented by Mr. Horton. This resolution sets forth the parameters for the issuance of said bonds and sale thereof by designated officials of the District and summarized the pertinent terms of said parameters, including the specific parameters governing the manner of sale, length of maturity, rates of interest, purchase price and tax levy for said bonds. On roll call, Members Moody, Davis, Banks, Brown, Graham, and Owens voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
ISSUANCE OF
SCHOOL BONDS
NOT TO EXCEED
\$12.2M

Mrs. Moody moved, Dr. Davis seconded the **Approval of the 2023 Tax Levy** as presented by Mr. Horton. The recommended Tax Levy captures the maximum allowable growth within tax cap restrictions (3.4%) plus anticipated revenues. On roll call, Members Moody, Davis, Banks, Brown, Graham, and Owens voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF THE
2023 TAX LEVY

Mr. Brown moved, Mr. Banks seconded the **Approval of the 2023-2024 School Calendar (printing & mailing)** as presented by Dr. Doss. The district prints and mails school calendars. On roll call, Members Brown, Banks, Davis, Graham, Moody, and Owens voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF THE
2023-2024 SCHOOL
CALENDAR (PRINT
& MAIL)

Mrs. Moody moved, Mr. Banks seconded the **Approval of the PRESS Plus Issue 112** as presented by Dr. Doss. The Policy Committee reviewed the draft updates and review and monitoring policies. They were available for review at our district office. On roll call, Members Moody, Banks, Brown, Davis, Graham, and Owens voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
PRESS PLUS ISSUE
112

Dr. Cunningham stated the following:

SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT

Good evening:

We the leaders of Thornton Township High School District 205 have decided to improve the learning of our students. We will use the ***aggregation of marginal gains system***, which is the philosophy of searching for a tiny margin of improvement in everything you do. The whole principle comes from the idea that if you break down everything you could think of that goes into improving education and then improving it by 1 percent, you will get a significant increase when you put them all together.

People believe that they can just stay the same every day if they don't change, but the truth is that you are either improving or declining. If your choices are bad and you are declining just one percent a day you will move nearly to zero, while if you are improving, one percent a day for a year will get you nearly thirty-eight percent better. The effects of small habits compounded over time become significant if you are disciplined and focused.

We must work on creating educational habits that improve your learning. It is said that habits are the compound interest of self-improvement. The same way that money multiplies through compound interest, the effects of your habits multiply as you repeat them. On the other hand, when we repeat one percent errors, day after day, by replicating poor decisions, duplicating tiny mistakes, and rationalizing little excuses, our small choices compound into toxic results. These results can ensure we never meet goals or create systems that improve us. It doesn't seem that habits make little difference on any given day and yet the impact they deliver over the months and years can be enormous. These positive processes in a well-designed system ensure success. It is only when looking back two, five, or perhaps ten years later that the value of good habits and the cost of bad ones becomes strikingly apparent. We must ensure that we notice and create systems that benefit us.

What matters for us is whether our habits are putting us on the path toward success. You should be far more concerned with your current trajectory than with your current results. Meaning we must work on positive habits in a positive system because - Success is the product of daily habits—not a once-in-a-lifetime transformation. You guys understand this reference because of our reading - our outcomes are the lagging measure of our habits. We will get what we repeat. Time magnifies the margin between success and failure. It will multiply whatever you feed it. Good habits make time your ally. Bad habits make time your enemy.

I come to you today asking you to create allies – by making your habits your friends. Choose to do what assists you – not just what is comfortable. Thank you for your time and attention.

At 7:33p.m., Mr. Brown 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, Brown, Moody, Banks, Davis, Graham, and Owens voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

At 9:09p.m., Mr. Banks moved, Mr. Brown seconded to **Reconvene Regular Session**. On roll call, Members Banks, Brown, Davis, Graham, Moody, and Owens voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RECONVENE
REGULAR SESSION

Mrs. Moody moved, Dr. Davis seconded the **Approval of the Resolution Authorizing Tenured Thornton Special Ed Teacher Ms. Sirena Donaldson of Notice to Remedy**. The superintendent’s decision will be upheld based on the evidence provided. On roll call, Members Moody, Davis, Banks, Brown, Graham, and Owens voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

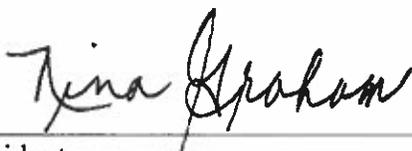
APPROVAL OF
RESOLUTION OF
NOTICE TO REMEDY
OF TENURED
TEACHER

Mr. Brown moved, Mr. Owens seconded the **Approval of Teacher Suspension Without Pay (teacher name needed)**. The superintendent’s decision will be upheld based on the evidence provided. On roll call, Members Brown, Owens, Banks, Davis, Graham, and Moody voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
TEACHER
SUSPENSION
WITHOUT PAY

At 9:14p.m., Mrs. Moody moved, Mr. Banks seconded to **Adjourn the Meeting**. On roll call, Moody, Banks, Brown, Davis, Graham, and Owens voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT



President



Secretary