



**Wednesday, September 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 6:36p.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, Davis, Graham, Lawrence, Moody, and Owens answered. Member Brown 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 next meeting will be held on October 5 to discuss Learning Walk data, PSAT Testing online, Annual Report from Social Studies and Fine Arts Division Leaders. Studio 205 Ribbon Cutting event information is forthcoming.

COMMITTEE OF THE
WHOLE

Report from Finance Committee: The last meeting was held September 6. Two agenda items presented are on the agenda for approval. The next meeting will be held on October 3.

Report from Policy Committee: None.

Report from Discipline Committee: None.

Report from Facilities Committee: The

Mrs. Moody moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded, to **Approve the Consent Agenda**, which includes the following:

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Regular Meeting and Executive Session Minutes dated July 12, 2023
- B. Approval of Regular Meeting and Executive Session Minutes dated August 9, 2023

MINUTES

- C. The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated August 10, 2023 through September 13, 2023 BILLS
- D. Personnel dated September 13, 2023 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations) PERSONNEL

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

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

- Ms. F. Crayton of Dolton asked about handicapped signs being covered in the lot with other designated parking signs for the board meeting. Dr. Cunningham stated he will address her concerns.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Dr. Doss stated there have been three 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:

- Back to School Night
 - Many families attended Back to School Night and met with teachers and staff
- AVID BBQ
 - Annual Back to School BBQ was well attended and fun was had by all

Thornton High School:

- Back to School Night
 - Many families attended Back to School Night and met with teachers and staff
- Sneaker Fest
 - My Influence Matters Campaign, students connected with shoe entrepreneurs and and designers

Thornwood High School:

- College Board National Recognition Program Awards
 - Celebrating the many award recipients
- Cross Country
 - Freshmen/Sophomore Team took second place and Varsity won against Hillcrest and Crete-Monee
 - Addison Perkins was the race champion, making this the third time she won this invitational
- Chicago Football Classic
 - Students had a great time and experienced many firsts at Soldier Field

Jumpstart Private Pilot Program:

- Students were featured on the AC Green Show to speak about the new program

Annual International Baccalaureate (IB) Program- Mr. Fickes

PRESENTATIONS

- Thornridge- 32 IB Students, 12 full IB attending many prestigious colleges and universities. This school year there are 79 IB students. Many events are planned throughout the year.
- Thornton- 38 IB diplomas in first 7 years. 190 IB exams, most yet! 66% of IB all IB students earned college credit and go on to attend prestigious colleges and universities
- Thornwood- 70% earned college credits, 14 students passed the IB Spanish and 2 received perfect scores. Continued increase of participation is a key goal.

Mr. Owens moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded the **Approval of Thornton Township HS National Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge Overnight Fieldtrip, October 2-4, 2023, New York, New York** as presented by Mr. Whitaker. This is the most high-stakes business plan and pitch competition of the year. Students will engage in many activities and networking. On roll call, Members Owens, Lawrence, Banks, Davis, Graham, and Moody voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
OVERNIGHT
FIELDTRIP TO NYC,
NY

Mrs. Moody moved, Mr. Banks seconded the **Approval of the Student Board of Education, in partnership with Mayor Christopher Clark and the City of Harvey, to hold Hands Across Harvey Event, October 14, 2023** as presented by Dr. Doss. This event aims to bring the community of Harvey together for a day of support and solidarity. On roll call, Members Moody, Banks, Davis, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
HANDS ACROSS
HARVEY EVENT

Public Hearing Conducted Concerning the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget. President Graham opened the hearing. Mr. Horton presented the 2024 Budget. There were no questions from the public.

PUBLIC HEARING
CONCERNING
FY2024 BUDGET

Mr. Owens moved, Mrs. Moody seconded the **Approval of the District Fiscal year 2024 Budget and Procurement Plan** as presented by Mr. Horton. This project On roll call, Members Owens, Moody, Banks, Davis, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF FY24
BUDGET &
PROCUREMENT
PLAN

Mr. Owens moved, Mr. Banks seconded the **Approval of Districtwide HVAC Replacement and Repair** as presented by Mr. Horton. This will allow all schools to have updated heating and cooling systems. On roll call, Members Owens, Banks, Davis, Graham, Lawrence, and Moody voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
HVAC
REPLACEMENT AND
REPAIR

Dr. Cunningham stated the following:

Good evening,

I am happy to share a significant development that will greatly assist our ongoing efforts to address the infrastructure issues of our aging school buildings. Recently, our district received a substantial amount of funding specifically designated for infrastructure improvement projects. This funding presents a unique opportunity to address the pressing challenges faced by our aging school facilities and create an optimal learning environment for our students.

SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT

It is crucial to emphasize the importance of maintaining and upgrading our school infrastructure to support our district's educational vision and ensure a safe and conducive environment for all students and staff members. Fortunately, we have access to approximately \$120 million in borrowing authority, providing a reliable and fiscally appropriate opportunity to achieve our district's goals. Since our

outstanding debt levels are historically low- because of the district's good fiscal decisions, the district will be able to issue this debt without increasing the debt levy above current levels. By utilizing this funding, the district can transform our schools through targeted projects such as updating HVAC systems, improving electrical components, renovating classrooms, and modifying exterior surfaces.

To prioritize improvement projects, we conducted a community survey to gather input from stakeholders, ensuring transparency, accountability, and involvement. The survey included students, parents, faculty, staff, and community members. The Investing in Schools (Improvement Projects) survey was quite successful, with a total of 644 respondents. Here are the main details of the survey:

- The survey was released on Friday, August 25, 2023, through various communication channels such as all-staff emails, emails to parents and students via PowerSchool/SwiftK12, social media, and the school website. The survey concluded on September 5, 2023.
 - The survey made use of a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 indicating low importance and 5 indicating high importance.
 - Respondents were asked to rate the importance of 11 different projects:
 - The survey also included an open-ended question where respondents could recommend additional projects.
- Out of the 644 respondents, the following projects ranked the highest in terms of importance:
 - refreshing/upgrading classrooms at all schools,
 - new roofs,
 - athletic A/C upgrades in the gyms and fieldhouses,
 - replacing windows and doors,
 - and reconstructing and resurfacing parking lots at all schools.

On behalf of the administrative team, I want to stress the importance of initiating these projects as soon as possible. Doing so will minimize potential risks and maximize long-term cost savings. We earnestly seek your support and involvement in strategically utilizing this funding to improve the infrastructure of our aging school buildings. Ultimately, these improvements will enhance our students' overall academic experience and safety.

This is just an introduction to the opportunity. Mr. Horton will bring the beginning steps of the project to the board next month once he gains approval from the facility and finance committees. Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions my team and I are happy to do our best to answer them.

At 7:46p.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, Davis, Graham, and Owens voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

At 8:29p.m., Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Moody seconded to **Reconvene Regular Session**. On roll call, Members Lawrence, Moody, Banks, Davis, Graham, and Owens voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RECONVENE
REGULAR SESSION

At 8:30p.m., Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Moody seconded to **Adjourn the Meeting**. On roll call, Lawrence, Moody, Banks, Davis, Graham, and Owens voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT



President



Secretary