



**Wednesday, November 8, 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. No members 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; Mr. Adam Dauksas, Legal Counsel were also present.
- ROLL CALL
- Report from Curriculum Committee:** The last meeting held discussed Mielle Cares, College & Careers, updates on the PSAT process, and Learning Walks debriefs
- COMMITTEE OF THE  
WHOLE
- Report from Finance Committee:** The last meeting was held November 1. All agenda items presented are on the agenda for approval.
- Report from Policy Committee:** None.
- Report from Discipline Committee:** None.
- Report from Facilities Committee:** The last meeting was held November 3. All agenda items presented are on the agenda for approval.
- Mr. Owens 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 October 12, 2023 through November 8, 2023
- BILLS
- B. Personnel dated October 11, 2023 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations)
- PERSONNEL

C. Ratification(s)

RATIFICATION

- i. Approval of the Special Olympics Soccer Team, Thornton Township High School Overnight Trip, November 4-5, 2023, Schaumburg, Illinois
- ii. Approval of the Thornridge High School College & Career Exploration Experiences, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, November 9, 2023
- iii. Approval of the Thornridge Varsity Boys Basketball Team to participate in the Orion Thanksgiving Tournament, Orion, Illinois, November 24-25, 2023, and the Bosco Institute at the Dean & Barbara White Center, Merrillville, Indiana, December 9, 2023

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

**Public Hearing Conducted Concerning the intent to issue up to \$12,200,000 working cash fund bonds for the purpose of increasing the working cash fund of the District** as presented by Mr. Horton. President Graham opened the hearing. Mr. Horton presented. The District will complete its first phase of financing for capital improvements in December of 2023, which generated approximately \$11.98 million of working cash bond proceeds. Dr. Cunningham asked if there were any questions or comments from the public. The documents will be available for review at the District Office for the public. Hearing no public comment, the hearing was closed. The next board meeting on December 13, the board will adopt a resolution to authorize the sale of up to \$12,200,000.00 in bonds.

PUBLIC HEARING

President Graham requested a motion be made to close the public hearing. Mr. Owens moved, Mr. Banks seconded to close the public hearing. On roll call, Members Owens, Banks, Brown, Davis, Graham, Lawrence, and Moody voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Ms. F. Crayton had some concerns regarding Thornridge

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

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA)

Mr. Fickes presented the following information:  
National School Board Members Day:

COMMUNICATIONS

- District 205 Board Members
  - We both celebrate and thank our Board of Education for everything they do to support our students and community

Thornridge High School:

- Homecoming Dance
  - Special thank you to Student Council, Activity Director Ms. Ousley, and Asst. Activity Director Ms. Gibson for hosting a wonderful dance
- Resilience & Wellness Update
  - Two committees joined together to have staff social events after testing to help build morale
- Health Screening
  - Wellness Screening and flu shot event, 65 people took part
- Science Dept

- The Department headed by Dr. Kimberly Hodges, has implemented a testing remediation program for Biology, Chemistry, and Physics students.
- Band & Drum Line
  - Shoutout to the director and coaches who has worked diligently with the musicians and jammers. This year we were able to host our very first District 205 Fall Classic.
- Volley for a Cure
  - Volleyball game hosted to promote Breast Cancer Awareness

Thornton High School:

- Digital PSAT Exams
  - Staff and students participated in a slime challenge to promote the exams

Thornwood High School:

- IB Induction Ceremony
  - Students inducted held a ceremony to celebrate their accomplishments
- National Honors Society
  - Students took a field trip to Camp Manitoqua and engaged in team building activities

Special Olympics:

- Floor Hockey
  - Recent game was tied against Oak Lawn. Five new participants this year.

Hands Across Harvey:

- This event brought the community of Harvey together for a day of support and solidarity

3E Expo:

- District seniors attended a college & career fair expo in Tinley Park

**2023 Thornton IB Chemistry & McKinley Middle School Lab Presentation-**  
Mr. Fickes

PRESENTATIONS

- Separation Lab with the IB Juniors
- Simple Distillation Lab with the IB Seniors
- Collaboration with our middle schools bonds our students together

**Thornwood Girls Cross Country Presentation-** Mr. Fickes

- Mr. Fickes and the Girls Cross Country Coach spoke about a great season the team had. Each member received a medal to honor their exemplary performance

**Mr. Owens moved, Mr. Brown seconded the Approval of a Few Good M.E.N. Program** as presented by Mr. Fickes & Mr. Blair. This is a male mentoring group aimed at young men to teach, educate, build confidence, and mold young men on the path towards being independent, productive, citizens of their community. On roll call, Members Owens, Brown, Banks, Davis, Graham, Lawrence, and Moody voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF A  
FEW GOOD M.E.N.  
PROGRAM

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Moody seconded the **Approval of Terrace Metrics Software and Service Agreement** as presented by Mr. Fickes. This software is a

APPROVAL OF  
TERRACE METRICS

population-based classification systems that will assess students and recommend intervention as needed, specifically with MTSS. On roll call, Members Lawrence, Moody, Banks, Brown, Davis, Graham, and Owens voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

SOFTWARE AND  
SERVICE  
AGREEMENT

Mr. Owens moved, Mr. Banks seconded the **Approval of the Thornwood HS Tennis Court Replacement** as presented by Mr. Horton. The current tennis courts are in need of replacement. On roll call, Members Owens, Banks, Brown, Davis, Graham, Lawrence, and Moody voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
THORNWOOD  
TENNIS COURT  
REPLACEMENT

Mr. Brown moved, Mrs. Moody seconded the **Approval of Thornridge HS Athletic Supplies** as presented by Mr. Horton. This will replace all the current athletic supplies for the various physical education classes. On roll call, Members Brown, Moody, Banks, Davis, Graham, Lawrence, and Owens voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
THORNTRIDGE HS  
ATHLETIC SUPPLIES

**The Tentative Tax Levy for 2023 was presented by Mr. Horton.** The recommended Tax Levy captures the maximum allowable growth within tax cap restrictions (3.4%) plus anticipated revenues. This will be voted on at the next board meeting in December.

TAX LEVY 2023  
PRESENTATION

Mrs. Moody moved, Dr. Davis seconded the **Approval of Resolution declaring an intent to issue up to \$12,200,000.00 of working cash fund bonds and directing that notice of such intent be published by the manner of the law** as presented by Mr. Horton. This is to approve publication of notice of intent. The purpose of increasing the Fund and enabling the District to have in its treasury at all time sufficient money to meet demands thereon for expenditures for corporate purposes. On roll call, Members Moody, Davis, Banks, Brown, Graham, Lawrence, and Owens voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

RESOLUTION TO  
ISSUE WORKING  
CASH FUND BONDS

Dr. Cunningham stated the following:

SUPERINTENDENT  
REPORT

On Our Way – We may not be where we want to be but thank God We are not where we used to be. I think I’ll say that again: we may not be where we want to be, but thank God we are not where we used to be. It’s a long journey to labor peace, but we just signed our 2<sup>nd</sup> 5-year contract with our Faculty Association. We continue teaming together to move us forward. Our focus always includes our students; for the fifth year in a row, all three of our schools are rated commendable. Not only commendable, but we continue to make strides to improve behavior, attendance, and grades – our BAG. Every time we improve our Bag, our student opportunities improve.

We see our many challenges – starting with behavior – We established a standard of behavior, and our discipline administrators have worked tirelessly to improve the culture in our schools – our hallways are better, our classrooms are better, making our schools better.

Mr. Toriano Horton did research last year on attendance – truancy is under his department. In his research, he discovered that students who are regular attenders have a 3.08 average. A regular attendee is a student who is absent one or fewer days a month. The worst attenders – Severe Chronic Attenders – Those who are absent more than 20 percent of the time - on the other hand, have a GPA of 1.60. With that in mind, we have focused on getting our students to school. Thus far

this fall, we have seen a marked improvement in regular attendance at our schools.

Once they are at school, we have focused on ensuring that they are learning. One of our goals is to have 95% of our Freshmen on Track for graduation. Although we haven't hit our goal yet, each school scored improvement in their Freshmen on Track Rates. Each School also continues to improve its graduation rates.

Again, we may not be where we want to be, but thank God We are not where we used to be. We appreciate the leadership, support, and focus the Board of Education provides us. We continue to get better – we are on our way – continuing on this journey of improvement!

At 7:56p.m., Mrs. Moody moved, Mr. Banks 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.

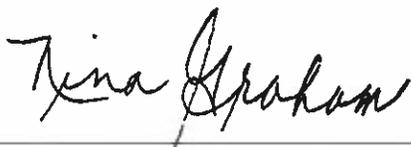
On roll call, Moody, Banks, Brown, Davis, Graham, Lawrence, and Owens voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

At 8:40p.m., Dr. Davis moved, Mr. Banks seconded to **Reconvene Regular Session**. On roll call, Members Davis, Banks, Brown, Graham, Lawrence, Moody, and Owens voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RECONVENE  
REGULAR SESSION

At 8:41p.m., Mr. Owens moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded to **Adjourn the Meeting**. On roll call, Owens, Lawrence, Banks, Brown, Davis, Graham, and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT



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President



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Secretary