



**Wednesday, September 10, 2025
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205
HELD AT THORNWOOD HIGH SCHOOL 17101 SOUTH PARK AVE., SOUTH HOLLAND,
ILLINOIS, AT 6:30 PM**

The meeting was called to order at 6:38p.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 Bowman, Davis, Graham, and Lawrence answered. Members Banks, Bradley, and Moody were absent. Dr. Nathaniel Cunningham, Superintendent; Dr. Jerry Doss, Associate Superintendent; Dr. Tony Ratliff, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Toriano Horton, CSBO, Dr. Anderson, Director of Special Services, and Ms. Rosaura Duran, Director of Human Resources were also present.

ROLL CALL

Report from Curriculum Committee: The next meeting will be held September 18, 2025 at 4pm at T-107.

COMMITTEE OF THE
WHOLE

Report from Finance & Facilities Committee: All items on the agenda were reviewed at the last committee meeting. The next meeting will be held September 26 at 4pm at District Office.

Report from Policy Committee: None.

Report from Discipline Committee: None.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES

- Regular Meeting Minutes and Executive Meeting Minutes dated August 13, 2025
The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated August 13, 2025 through September 9, 2025

BILLS

- Personnel dated September 9, 2025 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations)

PERSONNEL

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

There was no public participation this evening.

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION

Dr. Doss stated there have been five FOIA requests since last board meeting, all have been answered.

FREEDOM OF
INFORMATION ACT

- Thornridge HS
 - Annual Falcon Fest
 - Freshmen welcomed with food, fun, and fellowship
 - Alumni Highlight
 - Celebrated Alumni Private First Class Flanagan
 - Homecoming Week
 - Students and staff engaged in events to promote unity and community
 - Pre-ACT Rising Stars
 - Three students placed among the top academic achievers nationwide for 2024-2025
 - Varsity Football
 - FACE Coordinator, Mr. Clark shared a video recap of the team and new turf field
- Thornton HS
 - Wise Freshmen Workshop
 - FACE Coordinator, Mr. Clark shared a video recap for the recent workshop held for incoming Seniors and Thornton Alumni
- Thornwood HS
 - ISBE & SAC
 - Student Danielle Moore was nominated to be a member of the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Student Advisory Council (SAC) for the school year.
 - IHSTA (Illinois HS Tennis Coaches Assoc) Coach of the Year
 - Congrats to Tennis Coach Daniel Biesiada
 - Speech Degree Winners
 - National Speech & Debate Association recognized 3 TW students
 - Congresswoman Robin Kelly Art Show
 - Leylani Kramer won the 45th Annual Congressional Art Competition sponsored by Congresswoman Robin Kelly, complete with a trip to Washington, D.C.
- District 205 Flag Football
 - Video Recap
 - Media Production Teacher, Frank Rice and his students captured the team's season opener against Hillcrest.
- PEACE Center
 - Institute Training Highlights
 - Focus on mission and vision
 - Back-to-School
 - First Week Activities: Team building exercises, peace circles, etc. to bring students together
 - Back-to-School Night
 - Best turnout in years!

The Student Board of Education gave a presentation on their upcoming event, **Turn Up for Peace Fall Festival**. This free event will take place at Thornridge HS on October 18, 2-7pm.

PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Ratliff presented the **State Award of Thornton Teacher, Dr. Marie Wojdelski**. She was honored for her integral work with our students in theater. This was a great honor and well deserved for her many years of work.

Ms. Rouse gave a brief presentation for the **CTE Recognitions**. Two students passed the Illinois CNA Licensing Exam. Special thank you to Thornridge Counselor, Ms. Annette Johnson for her contributions in ensuring our students were well prepared for this exam, very few pass.

Dr. Ratliff introduced the **Seloc Energy Electric Vehicles** group. There was a converted vehicle available for demonstration in the parking lot prior to the start of the meeting. They gave a presentation on their training program and possible partnership with students of District 205.

Dr. Davis moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded the **Approval of Thornridge Southern Illinois University Visit, Carbondale, IL, Overnight Trip, September 25-26, 2025**, as presented by Dr. Brown. Students will have an opportunity to visit the campus and learn about what this university has to offer. On roll call, Members Davis, Lawrence, Bowman, and Graham voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF THORNTRIDGE OVERNIGHT TRIP TO SIU

Dr. Davis moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded the **Approval of Thornridge Band Circle City Classic, Indianapolis, IN, Overnight Trip, September 26-27, 2025**, as presented by Dr. Brown. This is a tremendous honor for our students to perform, as the event receives applications from hundreds of bands, Greek organizations, and other performing ensembles each year. President Graham commented how wonderful this event is and how happy she is our students were selected to perform. On roll call, Members Davis, Lawrence, Bowman, and Graham voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF TR OVERNIGHT TRIP TO CIRCLE CITY CLASSIC

Mr. Horton presented the **Approval of the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget**. A public notice of the budget was posted to all required outlets. For the past 6 years, over \$35M has been rebated back to the taxpayers through the Property Tax Relief Grant Fund. Ms. Graham opened the Public Hearing for the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget. Hearing no questions or comments, the Public Hearing was closed. Mrs. Lawrence moved, Dr. Davis seconded the Approval of District Fiscal Year 2025 Procurement Plan. On roll call, Members Lawrence, Davis, Bowman, and Graham voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARING AND APPROVAL OF DISTRICT FY26 BUDGET

Mr. Horton presented the **Approval of the Fiscal Year 2026 Procurement Plan Resolution**. The goal of a procurement plan is to increase the efficiency, effectiveness, and transparency of the procurement process. Dr. Davis moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded the Approval of District Fiscal Year 2025 Procurement Plan. On roll call, Members Lawrence, Davis, Bowman, and Graham voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF DISTRICT FY26 PROCUREMENT PLAN RESOLUTION

Dr. Davis moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded the **Approval of the PRESS Plus Policy Updates Issues 118 & 119**. This included policy draft updates and policies for review and monitoring. A copy was available at our district office for review. On roll call, Members Davis, Lawrence, Bowman, and Graham voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF PRESS PLUS POLICY ISSUES 118 & 119- 30 DAY REVIEW

Dr. Cunningham stated the following:
Good evening,

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Tomorrow marks the 24th anniversary of the September 11 attacks—a day that forever changed our nation. On Patriot Day, we pause to remember the lives lost at the World

Trade Center, the Pentagon, and in Pennsylvania, as well as the families and communities who still carry that loss.

We honor the 343 New York firefighters, 55 military personnel, and 23 New York City police officers who made the ultimate sacrifice while trying to save others at the Twin Towers and the Pentagon. Their bravery and selflessness are etched into our collective memory, much like the days our parents recall when they lost JFK, Dr. King, or RFK. Just as they recall where they were during those moments, we, too, remember where we were on 9/11.

I vividly recall being in the high school library when someone turned on the television. Together, we watched in horror as the second plane hit the tower. We witnessed firefighters and police officers desperately working to save as many lives as possible. We saw the choking smoke and dust envelop the city as the towers fell. Amidst the chaos, we also saw lives being saved because of the courageous service of others. On this Patriot Day, we honor the firefighters, police officers, and military personnel whose courage reminds us of the meaning of service and the responsibility we share to strengthen our communities.

I also want to extend gratitude closer to home. Service takes many forms, and in District 205 we see it every day:

- Teachers who dedicate themselves to the success of every student.
- Principals and administrators who guide with both vision and care.
- Support staff who ensure our schools remain welcoming, safe, and strong.
- Parents, guardians, and community partners who stand with us in supporting children.
- Board of Education members whose service and leadership keep our mission moving forward.

As we honor the memories of those we lost, let us also thank all who serve—whether in classrooms, offices, neighborhoods, or on the front lines. Your commitment makes a lasting difference.

Thank you for your service to District 205 and to the communities we represent.

At 7:36p.m., Mrs. Lawrence 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
- The selection of a person to fill a public office, including a vacancy in a public office, when the public body is given power to appoint under law or ordinance

On roll call, Lawrence, Davis, Bowman, and Graham voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

At 8:46p.m., Mrs. Lawrence moved, Dr. Davis seconded to **Reconvene Regular Session**. On roll call, Members Lawrence, Davis, Bowman, Graham voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RECONVENE
REGULAR SESSION

Mr. Bowman moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded the **Approval to Terminate the Transportation Agreement with Positive Connections**. This authorizes the Administration to serve notice of termination of the transportation services from Positive Connections at Thornwood High School, effective September 25, 2025. On roll call, Members Bowman, Lawrence, Davis, and Graham voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
TERMINATION OF
TRANSPORTATION
AGREEMENT

At 8:51p.m., Dr. Davis moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded to **Adjourn the Meeting**. All in favor voice voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT



President



Secretary

