



**Wednesday, January 14, 2026  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205  
HELD AT THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL 15001 S. BROADWAY, HARVEY,  
ILLINOIS, AT 6:30 PM**

The meeting was called to order at 6:47p.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, Bowman, Bradley, Davis, Graham, Lawrence, and Moody answered. 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 January 22, 2026 at 4pm at T-107.

COMMITTEE OF THE  
WHOLE

**Report from Finance & Facilities Committee:** None.

**Report from Policy Committee:** None.

**Report from Discipline Committee:** None.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES

- Regular Meeting Minutes Meeting Minutes dated December 10, 2025
- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated December 10, 2025, through January 13, 2026
- Personnel dated September January 13, 2026 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations)
- Ratification:
  - Approval of the Thornton Varsity Wrestling Tournament, Overnight Trip, Lincoln, IL, December 28- 30, 2025
  - Approval of the Thornton ICAA Cheerleading Championship, Overnight Trip, Springfield, IL, January 9-10, 2026
  - Approval of the Thornwood ICAA Cheerleading Championship, Overnight Trip, Springfield, IL, January 10-11, 2026
  - Approval of the Thornton Speech Competition, Overnight Trip, Downers Grove, IL, January 23-24, 2026

BILLS

PERSONNEL

RATIFICATION

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

The following individual addressed the board:

- Mr. Robert Edwards, South Holland, had concerns regarding his son's Special Education services at Thornwood HS.

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

News from the Schools- as presented by Dr. Ratliff

- Thornridge HS
  - Quest Bridge & Gates Scholarship
    - Two students have earned full scholarships and are semi-finalists for the Gates Scholarship
  - NABSE (National Alliance of Black School Educators) Conference
    - Asst. Principal Smith presented "Chick-fil-A vs. Popeyes: Which One Are You?"
  - ComEd Student Discovery Workshop
    - Students and staff engaged in real-world technical skills
- Thornton HS
  - Students of the Month
    - Celebration recognition for PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports)
  - Culinary Arts
    - Chili feast made and served by students during staff lunch periods
- Thornwood HS
  - Women's Pro Baseball League Inaugural Draft
    - Amira Hondras was drafted in the 4<sup>th</sup> round
  - Illinois State Scholars & Quest Bridge Scholarship
    - Congrats to our 16 IL State Scholars and one student received the Quest Bridge Scholarship for a full ride to University of Chicago
  - Varsity and JV Cheerleading Teams
    - 1<sup>st</sup> place at the Marian Catholic HS Competition
    - Both teams qualify for the ICCA State Comp in Springfield
  - Marching Band
    - Extensive TV coverage via Pluto for Chicago's Thanksgiving Day Parade
  - Mentor Celebration for New Teachers
    - Mentors and new teachers celebrated their first semester

**Public Hearing Conducted Concerning the intent of the Board of Education to sell not to exceed \$40,000,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds for the purpose of increasing the working cash fund for the District.** President Graham opened the public hearing. Mr. Horton presented. 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. The community was given an opportunity to speak. Hearing no public comment, the hearing was closed. The next board meeting on February 11, the board will adopt a resolution to authorize the sale of up to \$40 million in bonds.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT COMMUNICATIONS

PUBLIC HEARING TO SELL WORKING CASH FUND BONDS

Mrs. Moody moved, Dr. Davis seconded, to **adjourn the Public Hearing**. On roll call, Members Moody, Davis, Banks, Bowman, Bradley, Davis, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

SUPERINTENDENT  
REPORT

Dr. Cunningham stated the following:

Good evening,

I'm pleased to share some very positive news about our district's academic progress.

Over the past six years, Thornton Township High School District 205 has made significant gains in our **9th Grade On-Track rate**. This progress reflects the collective effort of our students, teachers, staff, administrators, and Board of Education.

#### **What is the 9th Grade On-Track Metric?**

The 9th Grade On-Track metric measures whether freshmen are on track to graduate within 4 years. A student is generally considered on track if they:

- Earn credits in core subjects such as English, math, science, and social studies
- Maintain solid academic performance, typically a 3.0 GPA or better
- Avoid Ds or Fs in core classes
- Stay engaged in school without suspensions or expulsions

Simply put, it tells us whether students are building the academic foundation needed for graduation early in high school.

#### **Why does this metric matter?**

First, it is one of the strongest predictors we have of future success. Students who are on track in 9th grade are more than twice as likely to graduate on time as students who fall off track.

Second, it allows for early intervention. When students struggle in 9th grade, we can respond quickly with targeted academic and social-emotional supports before challenges become harder to reverse.

Third, it supports equity. The metric helps us identify gaps among student groups and ensures that support is directed where it is most needed.

#### **What does this mean for our students?**

- Higher graduation rates
- Stronger academic performance throughout high school
- Better preparation for life after graduation, whether students are enrolled in college, enlisted in the military, or employed in the workforce

This aligns directly with our district commitment to ensuring students leave us prepared for what comes next.

#### **Celebrating the progress**

In 2018, our district's 9th Grade On-Track rate was **65.3 percent**. This year, it stands at **83.2 percent**. That is a **17-point increase**, moving us from roughly two out of three freshmen being prepared for graduation to more than four out of five.

Our long-term goal is **95 percent**. While we are not there yet, it is clearly within reach.

This improvement did not happen by chance. It reflects consistent effort, intentional support, and a shared commitment to student success. We will continue to build on this progress, and our students will continue to benefit both during high school and beyond.

Thank you.

At 7:13p.m., Mrs. Moody 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
- 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

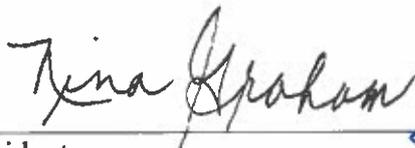
On roll call, Moody, Banks, Bowman, Bradley, Davis, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

At 8:44p.m., Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Banks seconded to **Reconvene Regular Session**. On roll call, Members Lawrence, Banks, Bowman, Bradley, Davis, Graham, and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RECONVENE  
REGULAR SESSION

At 8:45p.m., Mrs. Lawrence moved, Ms. Bradley seconded to **Adjourn the Meeting**. All in favor voice voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT



President

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Secretary

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