



**Wednesday, February 11, 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 6:33p.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, and Lawrence answered. Member Moody arrived during Executive Session at 7:50pm. 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:** No report.

COMMITTEE OF THE  
WHOLE

**Report from Finance & Facilities Committee:** All items recommended for approval from the last meeting on January 29, 2026. The next meeting will be held on February 26, 2026.

**Report from Policy Committee:** None.

**Report from Discipline Committee:** None.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES

- Regular Meeting Minutes Meeting Minutes dated January 14, 2026
- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated January 14, 2026, through February 10, 2026
- Personnel dated September February 9, 2026 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations)
- Ratification:
  - Approval of the Thornton Girls Varsity Wrestling Invitational, Overnight Trip, Carbondale, IL, January 23-24, 2026
  - Approval of the Thornton IHSA Cheer State Finals, Bloomington, IL, Overnight Trip, February 6-7, 2026
  - Approval of the Special Olympics Snowshoe State Competition, Galena, IL, Overnight Trip, February 10-12, 2026

BILLS

PERSONNEL

RATIFICATION

- Approval of the Thornton IHSA Chess State Finals, Peoria, IL, Overnight Trip, February 12-14, 2026
- Approval of the Thornton Davison High School Cardinal Classic Basketball Shootout, Overnight Trip, Davison, Michigan, February 13-15, 2026
- Approval of the Thornwood Varsity Competitive Dance IDTA State Competition, Overnight Trip, Springfield, IL, February 13-15, 2026

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

The following individual addressed the board:

PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION

- Ms. F. Crayton of Dolton celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Black History Month. She also expressed concerns over published high school rankings.
- Mr. K. Wendorff of the Faculty Association wanted information regarding a Cell Phone Policy to limit usage during the day. A book regarding that topic was given to each board member.
- Mr. M. Danielson of the Faculty Association had concerns about the proposed policy amendments. Dr. Cunningham responded that the FA members were present during the committee meetings.

Dr. Doss stated there have been five FOIA requests since last board meeting. Two have been responded to and three are pending.

FREEDOM OF  
INFORMATION ACT

News from the Schools- as presented by Dr. Ratliff

COMMUNICATIONS

- Thornridge HS
  - Winter Sports Pep Rally
    - Dancing, games, and nonstop cheers as our winter athletes were celebrated and sent off with school pride for their upcoming games.
  - Q2 Honor Roll
    - 274 Scholars were celebrated and earned a special lunch
  - Lynwood Skating Rink
    - Students Activities Committee planned this event and was enjoyed by all
  - Illinois State Scholars
    - Six students were recognized for academic achievement and protentional success in college
  - D205 Girls Varsity Bowling Team
    - The entire team has advanced to sectionals
- Thornton HS
  - ESL Students Visit Holocaust Museum
    - Bringing their textbooks to life, students heard stories from Holocaust survivors and their families
  - Wildcat Champions Headed to State
    - Cheer team won 25-26 SAC Conference, headed to state
    - Chess Team advancing to the State Finals
- Thornwood HS
  - Mathletes Conference Competition
    - Placed 2<sup>nd</sup> overall, with many students receiving perfect scores
  - Black History Prose
    - Sin'Que Dorsey performed at the City of Markham, with the mayor presenting him with an award

**University Partnership Update-** Dr. Ratliff

Thornridge Senior, Melody Martin and Thornwood Senior, Austin Anderson were both awarded full ride scholarships to Southern Illinois University, valued at \$108,000 each. Representatives from SIU presented each student with a life-size check and spoke how honored they are to have this partnership. Both students thanked the board. Ms. Graham and Mr. Banks both congratulated the students for their hard work and determination.

**CEDA Partnership-** Dr. Ratliff

Ms. Anderson gave an overview of the Shot of Art Experience some of our students attended. Two students spoke about their positive experience with CEDA and presented the board with a custom piece of art to hang at District Office.

**Student Board of Education Update-** Dr. Doss

SBOE President Jeyson Vazquez provided a mid-year report for everything the student board has completed and the upcoming events.

**First Reading of PRESS Plus Policy Update Issue 120-** Dr. Doss

This included policy draft updates & amendments and policies for review and monitoring. A copy is available to view at our district office. These policies will be approved at our March Board Meeting.

All students honored were awarded medals for their outstanding service.

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Banks seconded the **Approval of the Resolution to Sell Bonds to Increase to the Working Cash Fund**, as presented by Mr. Horton. The resolution provided for the issue of not to exceed \$40,000,000 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 sales of the bonds to the purchaser thereof. On roll call, Members Lawrence, Banks, Bowman, Bradley, Davis, and Graham voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

BOND RESOLUTION

Dr. Davis moved, Mr. Banks seconded the **Approval of Custodial Contract Extension 2026-2027**, as presented by Mr. Garrett. This is to renew ABM, the custodial contractor for the 2026-2027 school year. On roll call, Members Davis, Banks, Bowman, Bradley, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

CUSTODIAL  
CONTRACT  
EXTENSION

Ms. Bradley moved, Mr. Bowman seconded the **Approval of Institute Day Funding 2025-2026**, as presented by Dr. Ratliff. We have teamed up with Solution Tree to provide sustained trainings across major curriculum concepts to improve the culture of student learning in our district. On roll call, Members Bradley, Bowman, Banks, Davis, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

INSTITUTE DAY  
FUNDING

Dr. Cunningham stated the following:

Good evening, Members of the Board of Education and community, I would like to take a moment during my Superintendent's Report to reflect on the significance of **Black History Month** and why it remains important not only to our district, but to our nation.

SUPERINTENDENT  
REPORT

There is a well-known quote that reminds us of the responsibility we carry as educators and as leaders:

**“Those that don’t know their history are doomed to repeat it.”**

That statement is not simply about the past. It is about learning from our history to build a stronger future.

Black History Month began because of the work of **Dr. Carter G. Woodson**, a historian and scholar who believed that the story of America could not be told fully or truthfully without recognizing the contributions, achievements, struggles, and leadership of Black Americans.

In 1926, Dr. Woodson established what was first known as **Negro History Week**, held in February. Over time, that week grew into what we now recognize nationally as Black History Month.

We celebrate this month because for generations, African American history was too often excluded from classrooms, textbooks, and public understanding. Black History Month serves as a reminder that African American history is not separate from American history. It is essential to the American story.

It is also essential to our work in public education.

Understanding history helps students develop identity, purpose, and perspective. It helps them recognize the progress that has been made and the work that still lies ahead. And it helps them understand what it means to live in a democratic society where every voice matters.

At Thornton Township High School District 205, our mission is clear:

To ensure that every student graduates, is **enrolled, enlisted, or employed**.

That mission requires more than academic preparation. It requires that we educate the whole child, preparing students to participate thoughtfully in the world, to lead with knowledge, and to contribute to society with confidence and responsibility.

Black History Month is an opportunity for our students **to learn something new, to deepen their understanding of our shared history, and to recognize the excellence and resilience that has shaped this country.**

It is also an opportunity for us, as educators and leaders, to reaffirm that we will not forget what we have learned, and we will continue building schools where every student feels seen, valued, and prepared for the future.

Thank you for your continued leadership and support as we work together to ensure that every student in District 205 is positioned for success.

At 7:23p.m., Mrs. Lawrence 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
- 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, Banks, Bowman, Bradley, Davis, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

At 8:41p.m., Mrs. Lawrence moved, Dr. Davis seconded to **Reconvene Regular Session**. On roll call, Members Lawrence, Davis, Banks, Bowman, Bradley, Graham, and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

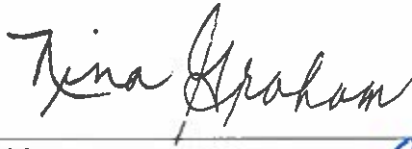
RECONVENE  
REGULAR SESSION

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Moody seconded the **Approval of the Attendance & Retention Bonus for Administrators & Exempt Non-Union Employees Plan**, as presented by Ms. Duran. The Administration is recommending the following addition to align administrator and exempt non-union employee eligibility with the attendance incentive currently available to certified teaching staff. On roll call, Members Lawrence, Moody, Banks, Bowman, Bradley, Davis, and Graham voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

ATTENDANCE &  
RETENTION BONUS

At 8:43p.m., Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Moody seconded to **Adjourn the Meeting**. All in favor voice voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT



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President

*STB*



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Secretary