



**Wednesday, September 9, 2026
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205
HELD AT THORNRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL 15000 COTTAGE GROVE AVE, DOLTON,
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 Bowman, Bradley, Davis, Graham, Lawrence, and Moody answered. Member Banks arrived at 6:35p.m. Dr. Nathaniel Cunningham, Superintendent; Dr. Jerry Doss, Associate Superintendent; Dr. Tony Ratliff, Assistant Superintendent; Dr. Sheila Johnson, Assistant Superintendent; Dr. Anderson, Director of Special Services were also present.

ROLL CALL

Report from Curriculum Committee: Next meeting will be held September 24, 2026 at 4pm in T-107 at Thornton HS.

COMMITTEE OF THE
WHOLE

Report from Finance & Facilities Committee: Next meeting will be held September 28, 2026 at 4pm at District Office.

Report from Policy Committee: None.

Report from Discipline Committee: None.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES

BILLS

PERSONNEL

RATIFICATION

- Regular Meeting Minutes and Executive Meeting Minutes dated August 12, 2026
- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated August 12, 2026, through September 8, 2026
- Personnel dated September 8, 2026 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations)
- Ratification:
 - Approval of Thornwood HS Emergency Football Field Repairs

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

The following individual addressed the board:

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION

- None

Dr. Doss stated there have been two FOIA requests since last board meeting. One is pending.

FREEDOM OF
INFORMATION ACT

News from the Schools- as presented by Dr. Ratliff

COMMUNICATIONS

- Developing Our Youth Program Director Mr. Cheney presented Board Members Banks and Graham with a Medal of Appreciation. DOY organized a free youth football camp for almost 230 children.

Dr. Johnson presented the **Approval of the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget**. A public notice of the budget was posted to all required outlets. For the past 7 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 2027 Budget. Hearing no questions or comments, the Public Hearing was closed. Dr. Davis moved, Mr. Banks seconded the Approval of the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget. On roll call, Members Davis, Banks, Bowman, Bradley, Graham, Lawrence, and Moody voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARING AND
APPROVAL OF
DISTRICT FY27
BUDGET

Ms. Bradley moved, Mr. Banks seconded the **Approval of the Transportation Contract with R&W Transportation**, as presented by Dr. Anderson. This contract is for limited and specific services related to students' out-of-district therapeutic transportation. On roll call, Members Bradley, Banks, Bowman, Davis, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; voted nay, none; Mrs. Moody abstained; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
TRANSPORTATION
SERVICES CONTRACT
(1 OF 3)

Dr. Davis moved, Mr. Bowman seconded the **Approval of the Transportation Contract with Abundant Living Transportation**, as presented by Dr. Anderson. This contract is for limited and specific services related to students' out-of-district therapeutic and McKinney-Vento transportation. On roll call, Members Davis, Bowman, Banks, Bradley, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; voted nay, none; Mrs. Moody abstained; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
TRANSPORTATION
SERVICES CONTRACT
(2 OF 3)

Dr. Davis moved, Ms. Bradley seconded the **Approval of the Transportation Contract with Visions Transportation**, as presented by Dr. Anderson. This contract is for limited and s specific services related to students' out-of-district therapeutic and McKinney-Vento transportation. On roll call, Members Davis, Bradley, Banks, Bowman, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; voted nay, none; Mrs. Moody abstained; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
TRANSPORTATION
SERVICES CONTRACT
(2 OF 3)

Dr. Doss presented the **First Reading of PRESS Plus Policy Updates, Issue 122 for a 30-day review**. This included policy draft updates and policies for review and monitoring. A copy is available to view at our district office. These policies will be approved at our October Board Meeting.

FIRST READING OF
PRESS PLUS POLICY
UPDATE, ISSUE 122

Dr. Cunningham stated the following:

SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT

Good evening, President Graham, members of the Board of Education, staff, students, and members of our District 205 community.

The day I became an administrator in District 205, I remember looking around our district and having one very simple thought:

Our kids deserve better.

That thought has stayed with me throughout my time in District 205. Every day since then, our team has worked to make “better” a reality for our students, our staff, and our community.

When we started this journey, we had buildings with unstable roofs. We did not have dependable air conditioning and HVAC systems. I had to use three of our five emergency days in September one year to avoid cooking children in our overheated facilities. Our electrical infrastructure needed significant attention.

These were not cosmetic issues. They affected the daily experience of our students and staff.

Today, our systems work.

And that picture looks very different.

We have new roofs. We have new HVAC systems. We have working generators supporting our buildings. We have new athletic fields, renovated classrooms, new instructional spaces, and major improvements occurring throughout the district.

When the work of our **Securing Tomorrow Today** plan is completed, our community will essentially have three renewed high schools built to serve another generation of District 205 students.

But what makes this story particularly important is **how** we are doing it.

We are rebuilding our schools while returning tax dollars to our constituents.

We are investing in our facilities while continuing to put money into our rainy-day fund because, as I often say, **you don’t have to get ready when you stay ready.**

And while we improve our buildings, we are also investing in our people and strengthening our instructional practices so that what happens inside those buildings continues to improve for students.

In August, we met with our financial advisor, Dr. Rob Grossi, to assess the financial position of District 205. His assessment was significant: **Thornton Township High School District 205 is in the strongest financial position it has likely experienced in decades.**

I think we should take a moment to recognize what that means.

Our financial conversations are no longer primarily about instability, emergencies, or how we are going to make it through the next challenge. Today, our conversations are about how we responsibly use financial strength to create long-term assets while protecting the district’s operating stability for the next generation.

That is a fundamentally different conversation.

And I think it is important for this Board, our staff, and our community to recognize that **this is happening under our watch.**

Together, we are taking care of the students who walk through our doors today while making decisions that will benefit students who have not yet entered kindergarten.

That is what stewardship looks like.

That is what our work has become.

We are not simply repairing what was broken. **We are building something that can last.**

Our kids deserve better. They always have.

And through the collective work of this Board, our administration, our staff, and our community, we are continuing to make good on that promise while **Securing**

Tomorrow Today.

Thank you.

Ms. Graham commended Board Member Bradley on her service with the Student Board of Education, both as a student and now her continued work as a Board Member.

BOARD PRESIDENT
REMARKS

At 7:04p.m., Mrs. Lawrence moved, Ms. Bradley 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, Bradley, Banks, Bowman, Davis, Graham, and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

At 8:43p.m., Dr. Davis moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded to **Reconvene Regular Session**. On roll call, Members Davis, Lawrence, Banks, Bowman, Bradley, Graham, and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RECONVENE
REGULAR SESSION

Mrs. Moody moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded the **Approval of the Resignation Agreement and Release of Tenured Teacher pertaining to Curtis Martin**. The board upholds the decision for the reasons set forth in by Administration. On roll call, Members Moody, Lawrence, Banks, Bowman, Bradley, Graham, and Moody voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

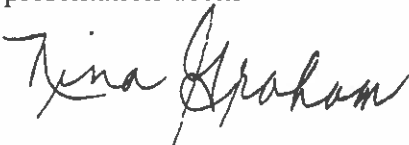
APPROVAL OF
TENURED TEACHER
RESIGNATION

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

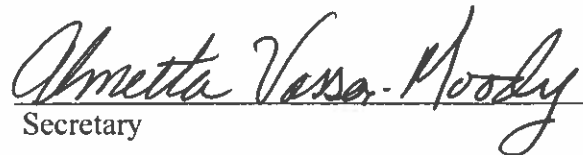
ADJOURNMENT

The Board of Education Regular Meeting Presentation is available on our website at <https://www.district205.net/board-of-ed/board-of-education/board-of-education-meeting-presentation-decks>

PRESENTATION DECK



President



Secretary