

# MINUTES

## Curriculum Committee Meeting February 26, 2020

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### In Attendance

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B. Fickes, A. Martinez, B. Ablin, V. Rodriguez, L. Pietraszewski, I. Turpin, C. Hampton, T. King, R. Sieber, J. Arrington, R. Penman, R. Peterson, A. Whittington, L. Cruz, M. Brown, P. Adams, C. Friedl, J. Steward, K. Hodges, J. Curl, E. Williams, Q. Dillard, C. Covington,

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### Report by Student Board Curriculum Committee by Victoria Rodriguez and Brett Fickes

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Student Board members have participated in personalized Sylvan SAT prep which runs for six weeks, two days a week for two hours each session. Members are significantly benefitting from this opportunity.

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### Mid-year report from the International Baccalaureate Team presented by Brad Ablin, Jason Curl and Cerelia Hampton

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#### Thornton High School

Since 2017: 19 students have earned IB Diplomas (the most in the South Suburbs); over 60% of IB exams have earned students college credit. In 2019, 95% of TT IB Students earned college credit in at least one course. Student growth has grown from 23 diploma students in 2016 to a projected 63 full diploma students in 2020. 12 different courses are now offered, with a projected 20 staff members trained in 2020.

#### Thornridge High School

Student scores have grown from a 2 average to over a 3 average. Multiple scores have had college credit offered. Scores have grown at a 10% average in most subjects. IB Physics has been replaced with Environmental Systems and Societies to help foster student achievement.

There has been a 50% growth from the 2018-2019 to the 2019-2020 school year. Eight courses are offered, with 14 teachers and two prospective teachers joining the team in the next school year. Eight full ride scholarships have been offered to IB students, worth approximately 1.7 million dollars.

#### Thornwood High School

In the past four years, passing exam scores (of 4 or better) have grown by approximately 29%. In the last year, the number of IB students have increased by 67%: the class of 2017 had 17 students (16 diploma) and next year, there will be a total of 107 IB students. IB Visual Arts and IB Film are now being offered, with IB Biology being offered next year.

Last year, over 1.7 million dollars were offered in scholarships. One IB scholar plans to join the US Navy as a Nuclear Technician.

#### Extended Essay (EE) Process

All diploma students are required to do an Extended Essay, which requires students to write a 4000 word independent research paper on a topic of student's choosing over the course of two years. The purpose of the EE is to expose students to the academic research process that will help build time management skills, research skills and self-discipline. Students choose an advisor to help with their work. Students are provided with a general timeline, and are required to submit a rough draft. The EE process is the same at all three schools.

The International Baccalaureate Program looks at each school as its own; not as a district program. District 205 continues to support IB based on performance data given by ECRA (IB is currently outperforming their expected performance).

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### Mid-Year report from the AVID Team presented by Adrienne Martinez, Tammy King and Brett Fickes

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Thornridge High School has 10 sections of the AVID classes running, with 145 students. The site team has 25 staff members and all 5 DL's. Students continue to take AP and IB courses: 2018-19 school year had 32% of students in AP and IB courses, while 2019-2020 had 435 of AVID students enrolled in AP and IB courses.

AVID students go on field trips to different colleges/universities, and participate in career –based field trips. During the year, there are monthly newsletters, student of the month recognition, SAT celebration, live professional development for staff with AVID students assisting, and Camp Manitoqua for team building days. The program goals is to increase the percentage of students who earn A's, B's and C's.

Thornwood High School has six sections of the AVID class running, three elective teachers, with 97 students total. There are 10 members on the site team. 54% of students in semester 1 of the 2018-2019 school year had all A's, B's or C's, while 66% of students in semester 1 of the 2019-2020 school year had all A's, B's or C's.

The program goals are to recruit and market to community members, parents, businesses and feeder schools; solicit and sustain AVID college tutor and expand the site team. School wide, AVID demonstration classrooms are available, more PLM's available to teachers and AVID connects to CCC teams.

Thornton High School has six sections, with four elective teachers and 18 members on the site team. In both the 2018-2019 and the 2019-2020 school year, 80% of the AVID students had no F's.

Part of the AVID curriculum includes college visits, and special events (including guest speakers, alumni day and TT AVID family day). An email to TT staff is regularly sent out with a staff spotlight, strategies and a newsletter. The goals of the program are to increase students without F's to 90%, increase enrollment, and continue effective communication with all stakeholders. School wide, there is routine use of AVID strategies and WICOR tools, more AVID demonstration classrooms and follow-up with AVID resource strategy emails.

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### Mid-Year report from the Restorative Justice/Practice Coordinator presented by Brett Fickes on behalf of Shaniqua Jones

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Restorative Justice is providing holistic support to students. During spring break, students will participate in BCU tours. We are working on changing our truancy numbers, the district is doubling down on resilience. We are still trauma informed with our instructional practices.

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### Update on our ALICE/Violence Intruder Drill Initiative presented by Paul Adams

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A timeline of the ALICE implementation plan was provided. Everything was done according to the plan, and the schools/District has been highlighted on the news and TV. There has been live training provided to students and staff. In the future, there will be meetings with the parent advisory committees, updates to EOP, planning for next drills and site assessments. Improvements that need to be made are have cameras next to the PA systems, and new reunification places need to be established.

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### FACE Summit

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The FACE summit will be held April 4<sup>th</sup> at Thornridge High School. Promote and share the information.

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