

MINUTES OF A **SPECIAL MEETING** OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD ON **MONDAY, JULY 27, 2020, AT THE CAFETERIA AT THORNWOOD HIGH SCHOOL, 17101 SOUTH PARK AVENUE, SOUTH HOLLAND, ILLINOIS AND VIA WEBEX CONFERENCING, BEGINNING AT 5:00 P.M.**

The WebEx meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.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 Butler, Cruz, Graham, Lawrence, Moody, and Whittington answered. Member Banks was absent. Dr. Nathaniel Cunningham, Superintendent, Dr. Jerry B. Doss, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources; Mr. Toriano Horton, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Mr. Adam Dauksas, legal counsel, was also present.

ROLL CALL

There were over 26 public participants who sent emails stressing concerns regarding returning to school (face-to-face or remotely) for SY 2020--21.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Dr. Cunningham stated the following: **COVID-19 RE-OPENING PLAN APPROVAL RESOLUTION**

SUPERINTENDENT
RECOMMENDATION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of Thornton Township High School District 205, Cook County, Illinois, as follows with respect to the re-opening and operation of the District's offices, facilities, programs and schools for the 2020-2021 school year while the State of Illinois continues to operate under the Emergency Disaster Proclamation issued by Governor J.B. Pritzker in March of 2020 related to the COVID-19 pandemic:

1. The preliminary plan for the re-opening and operation of the District's offices, facilities, programs and schools for the 2020-2021 school year, as recommended by the Superintendent and developed with extensive community and staff input, which is attached hereto as Exhibit A and entitled "Thornton Township High School Reopening Plan for 2020-2021" and dated July 27, 2020, is hereby approved by the Board of Education.
2. The Superintendent and Administration are hereby authorized and directed to implement and effectuate the Plan, and are further authorized to require students, staff, parents, visitors and other participants in the District's programs and schools to comply with the Plan and with the directives of the Superintendent and Administration when implementing and effectuating the Plan.
3. The Superintendent is hereby authorized to modify and add to the Plan from time to time to conform to the requirements of, or guidance from, any entity with jurisdiction over the District, including, but not limited to, the Governor of Illinois, the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois High School Association and the Cook County Department of Public Health, and as otherwise appropriate to facilitate the operation of the schools and ensure as best as possible the safety of students, staff, visitors and other participants in the District's programs and schools. Any substantive changes to the Plan shall be made in consultation with the President of the Board and then promptly reported to the entire Board which may subsequently affirm, modify or disapprove of the changes at its next meeting. Any such changes made by the Superintendent shall, however, remain in full force and effect until such time as the entire Board acts, unless otherwise required by law.
4. This Resolution, and the Plan as may be modified from time to time pursuant to number 3 above, are adopted, and are to be implemented and enforced, in the

exercise of the discretionary powers granted to the Board by Sections 10-20 and 10-20.5 of the Illinois School Code and any other applicable law. The Plan constitutes rules adopted by the Board pursuant to Section 10-20.5 of the School Code which shall be filed in the District's central administrative office and posted on the District's website. In accordance with Board Policy 2:240, the Plan, and the authority granted to the Superintendent and Administration by this Resolution, supersede any policy or other rule of the Board to the extent any such policy or rule is inconsistent with the Plan.

5. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon adoption.

District 205 School Re-Opening Plan for the 20-21 School Year
Framework:

The District 205 school re-opening plan for the 2020-2021 school year is based on joint guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH).

After long and careful consideration, the district has determined that any form of in-person learning as we begin school in August, based on current local health conditions, may a) compromise the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff; b) fall significantly short of our high expectations for teaching and learning; and c) not provide any of the social experiences that we would want students to have.

Accordingly, after extensive input from all school community stakeholders, District 205 has made the difficult decision to begin the 2020-21 school year with the **Enhanced Remote Learning Model**.

- The state's Restore Illinois [document](#) provides overarching guidance and a broad framework for the "reopening" of the state.
- Due to the uncertainty of the pandemic and evolving nature of the State's guidance, the District's 20-21 re-opening plan is subject to change, as conditions may require or allow.

Guiding principles for school re-opening:

- Maintain a healthy and safe environment for all students and staff;
- Maintain our commitment to equity;
- Provide meaningful and engaging academic experiences for all students;
- Address the social and emotional needs of all students and staff;
- Provide consistency and stability for all students and staff; and
- Provide professional development for staff that enhances e-learning.

Educators have been asked to transform the educational environment. Therefore:

- School, at least to start the 20-21 school year, will not look or feel the same as before.
- Flexibility remains essential.
- District 205 is constantly monitoring local health conditions, which change daily.

District 205 Planning Process:

District 205 values the relationship between students, teachers, families, and the community. Our goal is to return to in-person learning with **careful and deliberate planning that ensures the safety of all concerned**.

- During the past few months, District 205 has been working on a reopening plan led by the district superintendent and administration. The original planning process included a survey, building committees, and a town hall meeting.
 - A Student Survey was distributed on June 30, 2020 to July 17, 2020.
 - A Parent Survey was distributed on June 30, 2020 to July 17, 2020.
 - A Staff Survey was distributed on June 30, 2020 to July 17, 2020.
 - The building committees met during July.
 - The District Town Hall Meeting was held July 20, 2020 to review the survey results and the building committees' recommendations.

Enhanced Remote Learning Model:

Starting August 17th, every District 205 student will participate in Enhanced Remote Learning, until further notice.

- School will take place on scheduled student attendance days through the remote learning model, both synchronous and asynchronous.
- Enhanced remote learning will include high academic expectations and requirements for attendance, grading, live synchronous class sessions, and assessments.
- The remote learning model at District 205 has been improved since emergency remote learning in the spring.

Additional information is available in [Enhanced E-Learning Guidelines for 2020-21](#).

General student expectations

- Students will use Google Classroom as the Learning Management System in all of their classes.
- Students will attend school via e-learning every school day and complete a daily attendance check-in form in Google Classroom.
- Students will attend live learning sessions during scheduled periods.
- Assignments are completed as assigned.

Enhanced Remote Learning includes social emotional learning.

- Efforts to meet social emotional needs of students within academic instruction and curriculum have been further developed including time within the day for discussions with counselors and social workers.
- Access to mental health services for students, resources for families and staff, communication, and school-wide support for social emotional learning has increased and now includes a Friday schedule that will allow individuals, and groups to meet to discuss concerns.

If conditions permit, District 205 may transition to a hybrid model that includes in-person instruction for students. Further, if the state moves into phase 5, the district will move to a full in-person model.

- District 205 has developed hybrid and in-person learning models, adhering to safety requirements and will continue building the models to be responsive and adaptable to changing conditions.
- District 205 will continue to prioritize the health and safety of all students and staff.

Next Steps:

District 205 Staff will prepare for the 2020-21 school year remotely.

- District 205 will not delay the start of the school year. The first day of school is Monday, August 17th.
- District 205 staff will receive COVID-19 training.
- Participation in extracurricular activities, including sports, will be determined at a later date.
- In-person events will not be held on any District 205 campus without the Superintendent's approval.

Expectations and protocols

- **Health screenings:** District 205 will have a self-certification process to enter the building.
- District 205 will continue to follow guidelines for wearing face coverings, social distancing, and other health measures.
- For the health, well-being and safety of all staff, frequent cleaning and sanitizing on campus will continue.
- For visits to District 205 will be kept to a minimum. Visitors must have a confirmed appointment and follow all protocols.

Look for details in the coming weeks.

- District 205 back-to-school information will be framed with the remote plan in mind.
- There will be a curbside plan for receiving learning materials and classroom supplies.
- Meal distribution information will be shared prior to the first day of e-learning.

Planning for the unknown

- Please understand guidance will change as the state moves in and out of different phases and as the community landscape remains fluid.
- District 205 staff, students, and families will be notified in advance if and when the reopening details are updated.
- Communication is key for the success of our district. Let us continue to work together and do what is best for our students, staff, families, and community.

Ms. Moody moved, Mrs. Cruz seconded, **Approval of the Superintendent's Recommendation for Returning to School for SY 2020-2021.** On roll call, Members Moody, Cruz, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

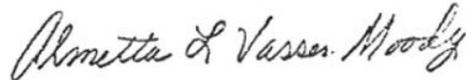
APPROVE
SUPERINTENDENT'S
RECOMMENDATION
FOR RETURNING TO
SCHOOL FOR SY 2020-
2021

At 6:15pm Mr. Moody motioned, Mrs. Cruz seconded to **Adjourn the Meeting.** On roll call, Members Moody, Cruz, Butler, Graham, Lawrence, and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed

ADJOURN THE MEETING



President



Secretary