

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, HELD ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2020, AT THORNTRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL, 15000 COTTAGE GROVE AVENUE, DOLTON, IL 60419, ILLINOIS AND WEBEX CONFERENCING, BEGINNING AT 6:30 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. President Graham made the following announcement: Call to Order. Tonight’s meeting is being streamed live via videoconferencing on WebEx and is video recorded. The Board President declares that an in-person meeting is not practical or prudent because of the current Disaster Proclamation issued by the Governor. Physical presence for the meeting is not feasible due to the disaster.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY  
BOARD PRESIDENT

On roll call, Members Banks, Butler, Cruz, Graham, Lawrence, and Moody answered. Member and Whittington was absent. Dr. Nathaniel Cunningham, Superintendent, Dr. Jerry B. Doss, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Mr. Toriano Horton, Assistant Superintendent for Business; Mr. Brett Fickes, Director of Curriculum; Mr. Thomas Porter, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; Mr. James Petrungaro, legal counsel, were also present.

ROLL  
CALL

**Report from Curriculum Committee:** Mr. Fickes reported that the last meeting the committee discussed two mentoring programs and the Z-Mart food pantry partnership with Thornton Township which will be located at Thornridge and Thornton Township High Schools. The next meeting will be tentatively scheduled for January 14, 2021 to discuss pre-advanced placement courses for freshman as well as additional T-Mobile hotspots at no cost to the district. Also discussed was the Thornton Township High School college acceptance rates since the inception of the IB program - 88% acceptance rate.

COMMITTEE OF THE  
WHOLE

**Report from Finance Committee:** Mr. Horton reported that the last meet was held on December 1, 2020 at 4:00pm. There were three action items approved and will be presented at tonight’s meeting. The next will be held on January 5, 2020 at 4:00pm via WebEx.

**Report from Policy Committee:** None.

**Report from Discipline Committee:** None.

**Report from Facilities Committee:** Mr. Garrett reported that the next meeting will be held on January 7, 2021 at 4:00pm and will be discussing the scope of upcoming projects as well as the scope for wrapping up the tuckpointing project.

At 6:36p.m. Mr. Butler left the meeting

MR. BUTLER LEFT THE  
MEETING

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated November 19, 2020 through December 9, 2020
- Personnel dated December 9, 2020 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations)

BILLS

PERSONNEL

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

At 6:38p.m. Mrs, Whittington joined the meeting.

MRS. WHITTINGTON  
JOINED THE MEETING

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- None
- None
- None

FOIA

COMMUNICATIONS

Good Evening, Madame President, Dr. Cunningham, and the School Board of District 205. My name is Dwayne Bearden, President of the Faculty Association. I am here with Debra Mitchell, President for the ESPs of District 205. While he could not physically be here, Al Llorens, Vice President of the IEA has been and continues to be a supporter of the District 205 educators, students and community.

PRESENTATION BY  
FACULTY ASSOCIATION

To say that virtual school has been a challenge is an understatement. Our educators miss their students, the students miss their classmates, and parents could probably benefit from time and space to miss them both. At the heart of this upheaval is technology—understanding and mastering all the platforms that have replaced face-to-face interactions for the last eight plus months. But while COVID has disrupted teaching and learning right now, remote education is the safest option, so we have to make it work. I am happy to announce the Family Support for Remote Learning Project coming to District 205. This is the Union’s part in ensuring parents are equipped to support their child’s learning via the Google platform. COVID has forced us to pivot and this represents another thread of the South Suburban Public Engagement Project, powered by the USS of 205, IEA, and NEA and in partnership with District 205 Administration. Thornwood’s own Susan Hudson and Thornridge’s Anne Bludgen are leading the effort to leverage the Union’s resources in District 205 for the schools our students deserve.

The initial training will start with the District 205 paraprofessionals. They will be provided with the necessary training from Dr. Jasara Hines and Mr. Chuck Surina. Dr. Hines and Mr. Surina have done an excellent job training the teachers of 205 to become versed in the Google platform for our district. From there, the trained paraprofessional will train the parents to apply the significant components within the Google Classroom Platform.

This is a win-win for all the stakeholders. The ultimate outcome is the success of our students, their families, and the community.

Ms. Moody moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Approve the of Intergovernmental Agreement with Township for Community Assistance Program** as presented by Mr. Fickes. On roll call, Members Moody, Whittington, Cruz, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; nay, Banks voted none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
AGREEMENT WITH  
TOWNSHIP FOR  
COMMUNITY  
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Ms. Moody moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Approve the Final Tax Levy 2020** as presented by Mr. Horton. On roll call, Members Moody, Whittington, Banks, Cruz, Graham and Lawrence voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF FINAL  
TAX LEVY 2020

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Ms. Moody seconded, to **Approve the Baker Tilly Statement of Work** as presented by Mr. Horton. On roll call, Members Lawrence, Moody, Banks, Cruz, Graham and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF THE  
BAKER TILLY  
STATEMENT OF WORK

Ms. Moody moved, Mr. Whittington seconded, to **Approve the Resolution declaring the intention to issue \$2,600,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds of the District for the purpose of increasing the Working Cash Fund of the District and directing that notice of such intention be published in the manner provided by law** as presented by Mr. Horton. On roll call, Members Moody, Whittington, Banks, Cruz, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF THE  
RESOLUTION  
DECLARING THE  
INTENTION TO ISSUE  
WORKING CASH FUND  
BONDS

Yesterday, I had an interview with the Thornridge Bagpipe Newspaper. Jacob Summers and Maurice interviewed me about issues in dealing with the pandemic. We talked about sports, the safety of the community, parents, students, and staff. How what we do at the district level impacts everything else. This really got me thinking about how we got here.

SUPERINTENDENT  
REPORT

I became the superintendent of District 205 in July of 2018. I developed my leadership team and prepared for the challenges of running a school district. One of my first challenges was technology. The district technology committee asked me to meet with them and make some decisions. The district had been working on becoming a 1 to 1 district for quite a while. A one-to-one school district is a school system that has a computer for every student and teacher to use at home and at school. The first task was choosing a device. There are many devices: laptops, iPads, MacBook's, and Chromebooks to name a few. The recommendation of the committee was Chromebooks. I checked with our IT departments about our ability to service and support those devices. The devices are all sold for use in schools even if they are not really designed for schools. The popularity of iPads made theft an issue. It is also difficult to deliver the applications to the devices. We later found out there are some limitations on its abilities to deliver WebEx, and other conferencing programs. MacBook's are very expensive and sensitive to shock (All kids drop things, and you cannot drop this high-quality machine). Laptops are more expensive to repair and according on who builds them the parts are difficult to get. So, I confirmed the recommendation of Chromebooks. The devices met the requirements, but they are not a computer that anyone is going to steal or pawn. It is designed for the internet, and to be functional. Once we chose a device, it was time to ensure that we could all connect to the internet and each other.

I talked to Mr. Horton about preparing the district to become a 1 to 1 system. He had the district IT Department ensure that the school system had enough bandwidth for our students to be 1 to 1. The district adjusted the system to support a 10 Gig network. There may be others that are the same size but no other system in the area is bigger. We have the ability to support all our students on a 1 to 1 system.

Next, we needed a plan to train and prepare for students to become 1 to 1. The Tech committee developed a plan to move the district to 1 to 1. It was a three-year system that started with admin and teacher training. The district planned to hand out the Chromebooks to student in August of 2021 after admin and teachers were trained. At the same time, we were working on the plans, we were having challenges with our district telephones. We needed to upgrade to new internet protocol phones to save the district money and improve our ability to communicate. While we were looking for new phones, I also requested that we have a way to complete phone conferencing. The software that was chosen was WebEx. The program included both telephone and computer conferencing programs. Shortly after we installed the software, the pandemic hit.

When the pandemic hit, the district moved to set up WebEx as the program to deliver all admin meetings. The district used those meetings to plan for the fall, to set up our food distribution system, and to move forward during a very difficult time. Part of the plan for the Fall was recommending that the BOE purchase 4,500 Chromebooks and escalate the 1 to 1 program to the Fall of 2020 over the Fall of 2021. So, the district was prepared to start remote learning because of the hard work the district was doing before the pandemic started. I say all of this to thank you, our employees, and our community for the hard work during these difficult times. You never have control of what happens to you, but you always have control of how you react to it. We are working hard for the success of our students, staff, and community. We are not finished but we will get to the finish line. Happy Holidays and thank you for your support.

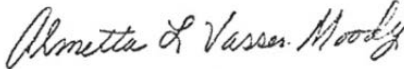
None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:58p.m., Ms. Moody moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded to **Adjourn the Meeting**. On roll call, Members Moody, Whittington, Banks, Cruz, Graham and Lawrence, voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary