

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2021, AT THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL, 15001 BROADWAY AVENUE, HARVEY, ILLINOIS AND WEBEX CONFERENCING BEGINNING AT 6:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 6:32p.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, Graham, Moody, and Whittington answered. Members Butler, Cruz and Lawrence were absent. Dr. Nathaniel Cunningham, Superintendent, Dr. Jerry B. Doss, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources; Mr. Toriano Horton, Assistant Superintendent of Business; Mr. Brett Fickes, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Mr. Thomas Porter, Director of Special Services; Rob Penman, Director of Research; Dr. Justin Moore, Thornridge Principal; Mr. Tony Ratliff, Thornton Principal; Mr. Don Holmes, Thornton Township Principal and Mr. James Petrunaro, legal counsel, was also present.

ROLL
CALL

Report from Curriculum Committee: Mr. Fickes reported that the next meeting will be held on January 27, 2021 at 4:00pm. Will bring back student success stories at the next board of education meeting.

COMMITTEE OF THE
WHOLE

Report from Finance Committee: Mr. Horton reported that tonight’s hearing item will be presented at tonight’s meeting.

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 28, 2021. at 4:00pm via WebEx.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Meeting of November 11, 2020
- Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 9, 2020
- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated December 10, 2020 through January 13, 2021
- Personnel dated January 13, 2021 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations

MINUTES

BILLS

PERSONNEL

At 6:39pm, Mrs. Cruz joined the meeting.

MRS. CRUZ JOINED THE
MEETING

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

Mr. Porter read a greeting card during Public Participation:

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- To Mr. Porter and District 205 Board Members, it is with much gratitude, love, and thankfulness that I write. I could not let another year pass without letting you all know that we appreciate you! The thanksgiving baskets that we have received from District 205, goes far beyond anyone's expectations, and always do. Our basket and shopping bag came complete with everything we needed and more to enjoy a very blessed and enjoyable Thanksgiving feast. No one takes care of families at Thanksgiving the way Mr. Porter and District 205, and donors do. Also, thank you Mr. Porter and board members for the support, education, love, concern, care, and resources that my family has received from you all. Thank you, Mr. Porter, for helping keep the faith because we found out that the majority do not really understand families who are dealing with homelessness, mental health or what we endure, etc., but you do, and I thank you! Because of you, we no longer look at ourselves as homeless. We consider ourselves a resilient family on an adventurous journey toward reaching our permanent home. Board members, thank you because none of the programs and/or services that we received would not be possible without your input or approval. So, we thank you for caring! Respectfully, G.Anderson Family. Ms. Graham thanked Mr. Porter, Pat Fortier, and all others.

Conduct of public hearing concerning the intent of the Board to sell \$2,600,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds for the purpose of increasing the working cash fund of the District as presented by Mr. Horton. There were no additional questions or comments from the public or board members. There was no written testimony. Roll call - Banks, Cruz, Graham, Moody, and Whittington

PUBLIC HEARING

None.

FOIA

Dr. King presented the following information:

COMMUNICATIONS

- Districtwide:
 - A moment of silence was requested to honor the life and legacy of Mr. William Wright, who transitioned on Monday, January 11, 2021. Mr. Wright is the father of board member Mrs. Lawrence,
- Thornwood High School
 - Students increase the number of earned grades in comparison to first semester of the 19/20 SY, students have increased the number of earned A's by 11%. Stated another way, students improved upon the earned A count from the 1st semester in 19/20 (In-Person) of 2,796 to 4,041 for the 20-21(Remote) school year.
 - This indicator will potentially increase the number of students who earn honor roll status, improve our grade level on track rates, and increase GPAs schoolwide.
 - We still have a great deal of work and obstacles ahead of us. However, kudos is in order Thunderbird Nation, for performing well, in the face of all the odds being stacked against us! We will continue to work hard to facilitate an even-better 2nd semester

Mr. Fickes introduced

PRESENTATION(S)

- City of Harvey, "PCs for People" District 205 Initiative - PCs for People is a nonprofit that provides affordable computers, mobile internet, and tech support / training to low-income individuals.

Ms. Moody moved, Mrs. Whittington seconded, to **Approve Five Hundred and Twenty-Eight (528) T-Mobile Hotspots at No Cost to District 205** as presented by Mr. Fickes. On roll call, Members Moody, Whittington, Banks, Cruz, and Graham voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF T-MOBILE HOTSPOTS AT NO COST TO DISTRICT 205

The Superintendent stated that he would like to thank the entire community as we have successfully run a semester remotely. We did not have computers, training, and resources at the beginning, we obtained them all. We had help from the township, municipalities, parents, community members, teachers, and staff. Administrators and staff have ensured that students receive lunch every day. Our work has to be applauded and I sent a video to them as such. Good job and we will continue to be successful.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

At 7:01p.m., Mrs. Whittington moved, Ms. Moody seconded to **Adjourn the Meeting.** On roll call, Members Whittington, Moody, Banks, Cruz, and Graham voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT



President



Secretary