

**MINUTES FOR A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205, HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2022, THORNWOOD HIGH SCHOOL 17101 SOUTH PARK AVENUE, SOUTH HOLLAND, ILLINOIS, AND WEBEX CONFERENCING BEGINNING AT 6:30 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 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, Brown, Graham, Lawrence, and Moody answered. Members Butler and Whittington were absent. Dr. Nathaniel Cunningham, Superintendent, Dr. Jerry B. Doss, Associate Superintendent of Human Resources; Mr. Toriano Horton, Assistant Superintendent of Business; Mr. Brett Fickes, Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Mr. Thomas Porter, Executive Director of Special Services; and Mr. Adam Dauksas, legal counsel, were also present.

ROLL  
CALL

**Report from Curriculum Committee:** Mr. Fickes reported that the next meeting will be held on June 2, 2022 ;via WebEx.

COMMITTEE OF THE  
WHOLE

**Report from Finance Committee:** Mr. Horton reported that the last meeting was held on May 3, 2022. Each action item approved will be presented at tonight’s meeting for board approval. The next meeting will be held on June 7, 2022, 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 May 26, 2022, at 4:00pm via WebEx.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes dated April 13, 2022
- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated April 14, 2022, through May 11, 2022
- Personnel dated May 11, 2022 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations)

MINUTES

BILLS

PERSONNEL

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

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- A faculty member spoke on concerns about the schools
- None

FOIA

Mr. Fickes presented the following information:

- District:
  - IB students volunteer at Feed My Starving Children
  - Congratulations to our staff who have reached the professional milestone of 25 years of service
  - Congratulations and thank you to our 2021-2022 retirees for their services and commitment to our students
- Thornridge High School:
  - Held its National Honor Society Induction Ceremony
  - Choir students presented their Spring concern
  - Held its AVID awards banquet
- Thornton Township High School
  - School districts across Southwestern Illinois gathered to celebrate IPA student recognition breakfast on May 6<sup>th</sup>.
  - Counseling Dept held their Annual Decision Day May 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - Congratulations Senior Navistar graduates on May 5<sup>th</sup>
  - Congratulations to Mr. Brad Ablin who was recently approved to serve as a Programme Leader for the International Baccalaureate IB Organization (IBO)
  - Law Day was held on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, Judge Allen Walker and several other judges visited TTHS and spoke with student about the judicial system.
- Thornwood High School
  - Thirteen state scholars were recognized and celebrated during a luncheon in their honor.
  - Scholarships awards – 361 applications, \$11,932,811.00 in scholarships, 87% FAFSA completion rate
  - Business classes compete in Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) Semi-Finals
  - April 30, 2022, Administration, Athletic Dept. & Coaches hosted a Signing day for Winter Sports Season Senior TW Scholar-Athletes
  - Students Accept the ARMY fitness challenge

- At 6:52 pm Mrs. Whittington joined the meeting

MRS. WHITTINGTON  
JOINED THE MEETING

- Student Board of Education Presented the End of the Year Report – Dr. Doss
- Mental Health First Aid - Mr. Fickes
- Freshmen Fieldtrip to Camp Manitoqua – Mr. Fickes

PRESENTATIONS

Ms. Moody moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded the **Approval of District Office Landscaping** as presented by Mr. Horton. On roll call, Members Moody, Lawrence and Graham voted aye; Banks, Brown, and Whittington voted nay, none; motion failed.

APPROVE THE DISTRICT  
OFFICE LANDSCAPING

Mr. Brown moved, Ms. Moody seconded the **Approval of Thornridge Pneumatic Air Compressor Replacement** as presented by Mr. Horton. On roll call, Members Brown, Moody, Banks, Graham, Lawrence, and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVE THE  
THORNRIDGE  
PNEUMATIC AIR  
COMPRESSOR  
REPLACEMENT

Good evening,

I want to thank the Board of Education, staff, and community for their support during my loss. I know that I am not the only one going through these times. Students, staff, and the community have struggled through the pandemic, the issues with the supply chain, and now inflation. I want to thank the staff for their hard work through these difficult times. Our students and adults are struggling, and the board, the administration, and the community appreciate your hard work in these difficult times.

There continue to be challenges at our schools, but we work together to educate our students. The district has a Gates scholarship winner, and last night I found out that the seniors of the student board have over \$3.72 million in scholarships. As you know, the student board includes students from all schools. I know some of you think these are all the top kids – they are not necessarily that – they are the elected representatives. They represent some of the hardest workers in our schools, but they are the average students doing a great job as servant leaders and students.

Good things are going on around us – we have beefed up our security around our buildings with Cease Fire. We continue to work with our municipalities and the Cook County Sheriff's office to provide safety for our students and staff members. We have plans for additional staffing and programs for the next two years with the additional funding that our government has provided. The district can continuously improve communication with our parents, employees, and community. Our executive retreat will be focusing on communication for our summer. I have been in District 205 for more than four years, and in education for twenty-seven years, and have never seen a district work harder on professional development. The district takes input from the staff and ensures that they get CPDU credit from the state.

As professionals, we all need to know what collaboration means. It means the action of working with someone to produce or create something. It is to co-labor or works with – collaboration is not to tell someone what to do or how to do it. I hope, as a district, we can collaborate on our issues – so far, our recommendations have not been collaborative; they have been directive.

On April 28, 2022, ProPublica and Chicago Tribune reported “The Price They Pay”. A report on how schools were skirting Illinois Law. Our district has done all that is legal to hold our students accountable and to keep safety paramount. The Illinois State Superintendent sent a letter out a day after the report asking all school districts to follow the law and a list of districts who was not following Public Law 99-0456, formerly known as Senate Bill 100. It has changed the landscape of what schools can do for student discipline. It asks us as schools to work with students as individuals. We are working to ensure that we follow all laws. We understand that not everyone agrees with how things are being done, but we follow the law.

Faculty Association presented recommendations as follows:

- Security
- Communication
- Professionalism
- Safety
- Staffing
- Professional Development
- Collaboration

At 7:51 p.m., Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Whittington 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.

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

At 8:22p.m., Mr. Brown moved, Ms. Moody seconded to **Reconvene Regular Session**. On roll call, Members Brown, Moody, Banks, Graham, Lawrence, and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION

At 8:23.m., Mr. Brown moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded to **Adjourn the Meeting**. On roll call, Members Brown, Lawrence, Banks, Graham, Moody, and Whittington voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

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President

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Secretary