



Wednesday, September 14, 2022  
REGULAR MEETING

**MINUTES FOR A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205 HELD AT THORNRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL 15000 COTTAGE GROVE AVENUE, DOLTON, ILLINOIS, AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS CONFERENCING AT 6:30 PM**

The meeting was called to order at 6:39p.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 entire Board of Education and community 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, Assistant Superintendent 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 held 09/07/22 at 4:30pm. Discussions were Thornridge High School AVID and Horticulture fieldtrip. A report from the Student Board of Education Curriculum Committee was presented, reviewed the PSAT scores and the partnership with CEDA Harvey.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**Report from Finance Committee:** Mr. Horton reported that the last meeting was held on 09/07/22 at 4:00pm. Each action item approved will be presented at tonight's meeting for board approval. The next meeting will be held on 10/04/22 at 4:00pm via WebEx.

**Report from Policy Committee:** None.

**Report from Discipline Committee:** None.

**Report from Facilities Committee:** Mr. Garrett reported that the last meeting was held on 08/25/22 at 4:00pm. The next meeting will be held on 09/29/22 at 4:00pm via WebEx.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes dated August 10, 2022
- The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated August 11, 2022 through September 14, 2022
- Personnel dated September 14, 2022 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations)

MINUTES

BILLS

PERSONNEL

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

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Ms. Felita Crayton, Dolton, IL spoke on concerns of the community regarding sporting events at Thornridge High School
- Ms. L. Harris spoke on concerns with the bus transportation. Mr. Garrett will follow-up with a response to the parent.

- None

FOIA

Mr. Fickes presented the following information:

COMMUNICATIONS

- District:
  - The 2022-2023 school year district calendar will be distributed next week.
- Thornridge High School:
  - Back to School Night was held with Dr. Moore welcoming students and parents; the choir entertained our returning students.
- Thornton Township High School
  - Spirit Week with a Mardi Gras theme

- International Baccalaureate Coordinators - Mr. Fickes  
Thornridge High School had 67 IB students
  - Juniors: 35 (14 Full Diploma)
  - Seniors: 31 (12 Full Diploma)Thornton Township High School had 190 students
  - 37 IB diplomas in first 6 years – more than any school in our areaThornwood High School had highest pass percentage of diplomas for the District
- Park Programs Work - Harvey Park District a free program for youth - Mr. Fickes

PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Brown moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded the **Approval of Thornridge High School AVID Eight (8) College Visits** as presented by Mr. Horton. On roll call, Members Brown, Lawrence, Banks, Graham, and Moody voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVE THE THORNIDGE HIGH SCHOOL AVID COLLEGE VISITS

Mr. Brown moved, Ms. Moody seconded the **Approval of Out-of-State Thornridge High School Horticulture Field Trip, County Line Orchard, Hobart, IN, October 4, 2022** presented by Mr. Fickes. On roll call, Members Brown, Moody, Banks, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVE THE OUT-OF-STATE THORNIDGE HIGH SCHOOL HORTICULTURE FIELD TRIP

Ms. Moody moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded the **Approval of Thornwood High School Dishwasher Replacement** presented by Mr. Horton. On roll call, Members Moody, Lawrence, Banks, Brown, and Graham voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVE THE THORNWOOD HIGH SCHOOL DISHWASHER REPLACEMENT

Ms. Moody moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded the **Approval of Districtwide Grounds Equipment** presented by Mr. Horton. On roll call, Members Moody, Lawrence, Banks, Brown, and Graham voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVE THE DISTRICTWIDE GROUNDS EQUIPMENT

Ms. Moody moved, Lawrence seconded the **Approval of Final Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2022** presented by Mr. Horton. On roll call, Members Moody, Lawrence, Banks, Brown, and Graham voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVE THE FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

Mr. Brown moved, Ms. Moody seconded the **Approval of Procurement Resolution** presented by Mr. Horton. On roll call, Members Brown, Moody, Banks, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVE THE  
PROCUREMENT  
RESOLUTION

Dr. Nathaniel Cunningham Jr. stated the following:

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Our district's mission is to create productive citizens enrolled, enlisted, or employed at high school completion. That means you are ready to attend the community college, private college, or university of your choice. Or ready to enlist or be commissioned by the service of your choice or ready to be employed at a living wage job of your choice. I always say enrolled, enlisted, or employed because it is in order of difficulty. It is easier to get into school than the military, and it is easier to get into the military than start a living wage job. The number of people employed directly into a living wage job is much smaller than those who enlist in the military. The number of people who enlist in the military is much smaller than those who enroll in school. That is because it is more challenging to get a job right out of high school than it is to go to school. It is more challenging to get a job than it is to enlist in the military. I do not know what your choice will be after you walk across the graduation stage, but it is our mission to have our students prepared for the life they want to live.

During the first fall of the Pandemic, our board decided to work on challenges in the district. The first challenge we worked on was the mission of the district. We wanted it to be simple, clear, and compelling. I believe the work we did fit the guidelines. It is a simple statement that we can all get behind and work to do for every student.

For the longest time, people pushed all students to go to college even if the students were not interested in college. The lion's share of our employees went to a post-secondary school, but not all of them went to college. Some went to trade school, junior college, and training. Our other group, which I fell into, went straight into the military. The final group went directly to work. The group that went directly into work had to have skills, education, and discipline. Not every person has that as a teenager. That is why employed comes as the final of the three E's. It takes an extraordinary person to be ready to enter the workforce, but there are many rewards. Starting with no college debt – and in our district with the options we offer – it goes a lot higher than just a living wage job.

The challenge is that we must prepare our students. Prepare our students to be enrolled, prepare our students to be enlisted, or prepare students to be employed. Each of these is a challenge – I know we are up to it because we all pursued an educational career to make a difference in our communities. I thank you all for making a difference and working to help our students get the lives of their dreams. Our work makes it happen – let us ensure they are enrolled, enlisted, or employed

At 7:38p.m., Mr. Brown moved, Mrs. Lawrence 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, Brown, Lawrence, Banks, Graham, and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

At 11:05p.m., Ms. Moody moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded to **Reconvene Regular Session**. On roll call, Members Moody, Lawrence, Banks, Brown, and Graham voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RECONVENE REGULAR  
SESSION

Ms. Moody moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded the **Approval of and/or Ratify Franczek P.C./Adam Dauksas and James Petrunaro as Board of Education’s attorneys**. On roll call, Members Moody, Lawrence, Banks, Brown, and Graham voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVE AND/OR RATIFY  
FRANCZEK P.C./ADAM  
DAUKSAS AND JAMES  
PETRUNARO AS BOARD OF  
EDUCATION’S ATTORNEYS

Ms. Moody moved, Mr. Brown seconded the **Approval of Tenured Teacher Notice to Remedy for Nicholas Stoming**. On roll call, Members Moody, Brown, Banks, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVE THE TENURED  
TEACHER NOTICE TO  
REMEDY

Mr. Brown moved, Ms. Moody seconded the **Approval of Unpaid Suspension Charges of Misconduct and Bill of Particulars Against Tenured Teacher, and Termination of Employment for Liessa Pierson**. On roll call, Members Brown, Moody, Banks, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVE THE UNPAID  
SUSPENSION CHARGES OF  
MISCONDUCT AND BILL OF  
PARTICULARS AGAINST  
TENURED TEACHER, AND  
TERMINATION OF  
EMPLOYMENT

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Brown seconded the **Approval of Resolution Authorizing Intervention in Processing before the State of Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board**. On roll call, Members Lawrence, Brown, Banks, Graham, and Moody voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVE THE RESOLUTION  
AUTHORIZING  
INTERVENTION IN  
PROCESSING BEFORE THE  
STATE OF ILLINOIS  
PROPERTY TAX APPEAL  
BOARD

At 11:12 p.m., Mrs. Lawrence moved, Ms. Moody seconded to **Adjourn the Meeting**. On roll call, Members Lawrence, Moody, Banks, Brown, and Graham voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

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President

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Secretary