



Wednesday, January 11, 2023
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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 6:40 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 entire Board of Education and community is not feasible due to the disaster.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY
BOARD PRESIDENT

On roll call, Members Banks, Brown, Graham, and Lawrence answered. Members Butler, Moody, 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 the next meeting will be held on 02/03/23 at 4:00pm via WebEx. Discussions will be Semester 1 grade distribution, Division Leader meeting to discuss the number of programs, status of cosmetology and barber program.

COMMITTEE OF THE
WHOLE

Report from Finance Committee: Mr. Horton reported that the last meeting was held on 01/03/23. Each action item approved will be presented at tonight's meeting for board approval. The next meeting will be held on 02/01/23 via WebEx.

Report from Policy Committee: None.

Report from Discipline Committee: None.

Report from Facilities Committee: None.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Regular Meeting and Executive Session Minutes dated December 14, 2022
- B. The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated December 15, 2022 through January 11, 2023
- C. Personnel dated January 11, 2023 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations)

MINUTES

BILLS

PERSONNEL

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

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Mrs. Crayton, Dolton resident, recited and New Year’s positivity resolution
- Mr. David Ethridge, South Holland resident, Thornwood High School alumni and current Thornton Township High School math teacher provided positive feedback on this school year, teach institution. He was curious about the next steps from the October 22nd board meeting pertaining to the safety plan. Dr. Cunningham stated he will be back to Mr. Ethridge and the public with an update.
- One completed since last board meeting and has been responded to; none pending

FOIA

Mr. Fickes presented the following information:

COMMUNICATIONS

- Thornridge High School:
 - Holiday Activities
 - Holiday catered breakfast and lunch for all staff
 - Christmas ornament station for students and staff.
- Thornwood High School
 - 762 Thunderbird students were recognized on Wednesday, December 7th, 2022, during lunch periods for earning honor roll status during Quarter 1.
 - Freshmen Clinic: Planning and Thinking High School Success (PaTHSS)
 - Recognizes 2023-24 Illinois State Scholars, Illinois Student Assistance Commission congratulates 10 seniors for their academic excellence
 - HBCU Tougaloo College Visits Thornwood High School

- Manufacturing Program – Mr. Fickes
 - There are three courses that align with courses in the Illinois State Board of Education’s Machinist Career Indicator Program Pathway. Our students earn certifications in Precision Measuring Instruments and the OSHA10 General Industry Certification. This includes the following state courses:
 - Beginning Machining
 - Machine Shop Technology I
 - Machine Shop Technology II

PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Brown moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded the **Approval of Thornton Township High School Varsity ICCA Cheerleading Championship Overnight Fieldtrip, Bank of Springfield Center, Springfield, IL, January 20-21, 2023**, presented by Mr. Whitaker. On roll call, Members Brown, Lawrence, Banks, and Graham voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVE THE THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY ICCA CHEERLEADING CHAMPIONSHIP OVERNIGHT FIELDTRIP, SPRINGFIELD, IL

Mr. Brown moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded the **Approval of Thornton Township High School Varsity ICCA Cheerleading Championship Overnight Fieldtrip, Bank of Springfield Center, Springfield, IL, January 20-21, 2023** presented by Mr. Whitaker. On roll call, Members Brown, Lawrence, Banks, and Graham voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVE THE THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY ICCA CHEERLEADING CHAMPIONSHIP OVERNIGHT FIELDTRIP, SPRINGFIELD, IL

Mr. Brown moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded the **Approval of Thornton Township High School Varsity ICCA Cheerleading Championship Overnight Fieldtrip, Bank of Springfield Center, Springfield, IL, January 20-21, 2023** presented by Mr. Whitaker. On

APPROVE THE THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY

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

ICCA CHEERLEADING
CHAMPIONSHIP
OVERNIGHT FIELDTRIP,
SPRINGFIELD, IL

Mr. Brown moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded the **Approval of Cosmetology and Barber School Name** presented by Mr. Fickes. On roll call, Members Brown, Lawrence, Banks, and Graham voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVE THE
COSMETOLOGY AND
BARBER SCHOOL NAME

Ms. Graham asked how students will be selected; Ms. Pietrazewski replied that applications were due 12/22/22 and an interview will take place of all 10th year students. There are 105 student applicants, which far exceeds capacity of 24 students. The school will open August 2023. Student will be selected on end of day 01/20/23. Hiring of staff will take place with one instructor for each class; there are a total of eight staff applicants. Ms. Lawrence asked which school will house the school, the response was Thornridge High School. Mrs. Crayton, Dolton resident, asked who is on the selection committee, the response was the division leaders. The criteria will be grades, attendance, discipline and credits cannot be deficient.

Mr. Brown moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded the **Property Tax Relief Grant** presented by Mr. Horton. On roll call, Members Brown, Lawrence, Banks, and Graham voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVE THE
PROPERTY TAX RELIEF
GRANT

Mr. Horton stated that three million dollars will be paid by the state to cover the grant.

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Brown seconded the motion to **Adjourn the Public Hearing concerning the intent of the Board to issue not to exceed \$2,800,000 of working cash fund bonds** presented by Mr. Horton. On roll call, Members Brown, Lawrence, Banks, and Graham voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARING
CONCERNING THE
INTENT OF THE BOARD
TO ISSUE NOT TO
EXCEED \$2,800,000 OF
WORKING CASH FUND
BONDS

Mr. Brown asked how will be funds be used? Mr. Horton stated for roofing repairs and the construction for the cosmetology program.

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Brown seconded the **Approval of Construction Manager Services** presented by Mr. Horton. On roll call, Members Lawrence, Brown, Banks, and Graham voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVE THE
CONSTRUCTION
MANAGER SERVICES

Mrs. Crayton asked to repeat what was approved at the December 2022 meeting. Mr. Horton replied that it was the “Intent to Issue” approved last month.

Faculty Association Matters for Board of Education’s Consideration – Dr. Cunningham

FACULTY ASSOCIATION
MATTER FOR BOARD
CONSIDERATION AND
SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT

- i. State of the District
- ii. Our District Attendance Policy
- iii. Our Disciplinary Procedures for Students

Dr. Cunningham stated the following:
State of the District Report

The high school experience is an American rite of passage. Us older Americans often reminisce on the experiences that we had, but is that all the high school experience is all about? It is not! It is about preparing for the future – Here at District 205 – we continue to build futures for our students. Here is some data:

- In 2001- 2002, congress authorized NCLB – Before 2018, the district had never met the state requirements, but for the last four years, our three high schools have been rated Commendable.
- Our district has struggled financially at times, but the work the district has done has landed us the state’s top rating financially – there are none higher!!!
- Many schools work every year to get students into highly selective schools – I am happy to say, we have students from Harvard to Stanford and all points in between.
- The district has opened our Civil Air Patrol Program to all three schools to prepare those interested in serving our nation and opportunity to get ready.
- District 205 is kicking off our Cosmetology/Barbering program. The program will have students in 11th and 12th grade working on their state licenses for Cosmetology and Barbering.

As you can tell, we are operating on our mission to ensure our students are enrolled, enlisted, or employed. Improving schools, taking care of our finances, getting students into college, getting students prepared for the military, and prepared for work – the programs for employment preparation – Navistar, Precision Manufacturing (our machine shop) International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County (CEDA) and Green Generation are all programs that offer an opportunity to enter careers that pay more than \$100,000 a year without the burden of college debt. Please know the State of the District is good.

District Attendance Policy

Let me define vocabulary so we can all be on the same page. Defining Regular Attendance as one absence or less a month. This defines regular attendance as less than a five percent absence rate, we define **At-Risk Attendance** as 5.1% - 9.9% absent rate, We define **Chronic Absence** as 10% – 19.9%, and We define **Severe Chronic Absence** 20% or More absence rate. We must understand the challenges and focus on creating solutions.

Our goals district goals are based on a publication called, "What Matters for Staying on-track and Graduating in Chicago Public High Schools: A Close Look at Course Grades, Failures, and Attendance in the Freshman Year" by University of Chicago, Consortium on Chicago School Research, Chicago, IL, 2007. In this study of the freshman year of high school, researchers found that graduation was significantly impacted by students being on track (having the prerequisite number of credits by semester). **The researchers also found that attendance in this pivotal transition year was a key indicator of whether students would finish high school.** It also stated that attendance and studying are more predictive of a dropout than test scores or other student characteristics. In fact, 9th-grade attendance was a better predictor for dropouts than 8th-grade test scores. Our goal for our schools is that 95% of our freshmen are on track for graduation. A prerequisite is that our students be in school to learn and perform academically. Each school has an attendance team working to assist our students in attending school. It is more than just coming to school – it is attending class and being successful.

Our District Discipline Policy

Each of our buildings has deans working under an Assistant Principal for Discipline. The Assistant Principal ensures that our deans are working with our families to assist students in meeting school behavior expectations. Since the pandemic, the district has had many challenges in this realm but is working hard to meet the needs of all students. We have opportunities for students to get assistance in the school, our therapeutic program, and if necessary, programs outside the district. Our district has used these programs to work with students with challenges. I know that there are some that believe that exclusionary discipline is the answer to the challenges, but we

must remember – we have to follow the law and the new law does allow us to use exclusionary discipline in the same way it was used previously. I began the state of the district portion of this report with the high school experience being an American rite of passage. In our rites of passage – our decisions in our youth were not the best. I know that our teams are working, like those who took care of us, to ensure success for all students, even when those students make bad decisions.

At 7:47p.m., Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Brown 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, Lawrence, Brown, Banks, and Graham voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

At 8:06p.m., Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Brown seconded to **Reconvene Regular Session**. On roll call, Members Lawrence, Brown, Banks, and Graham voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION.

At 8:07p.m., Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Brown seconded to **Adjourn the Meeting**. On roll call, Members Lawrence, Brown, Banks, and Graham voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

President

Secretary