



Wednesday, March 13, 2024  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**BOARD OF EDUCATION, THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 205  
HELD AT THORNTON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL 15001 SOUTH BROADWAY, HARVEY,  
ILLINOIS, AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS CONFERENCING AT 6:30 PM**

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. President Graham made the following announcement: Any person may record or broadcast an open Board meeting. Special requests to facilitate recordings or broadcast an open Board meeting should be directed to the Superintendent at least 24 hours before the meeting. Recording meetings shall not distract or disturb Board Members or participants. Please know if you participate in public participation, you are part of the Board meeting and may be taped.

ANNOUNCEMENT  
BY BOARD  
PRESIDENT

On roll call, Members Banks, Brown, Davis, Graham, Lawrence, and Moody answered. Member Owens joined virtually at 6:50 p.m. Dr. Nathaniel Cunningham, Superintendent, Dr. Jerry B. Doss, Associate Superintendent of Human Resources; Mr. Brett Fickes, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction; Mr. Toriano Horton, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations; Mr. Thomas Porter, Executive Director of Special Services; Mrs. Rosaura Duran, Director of Human Resources; and Mr. Adam Dauksas, legal counsel, were also present.

ROLL CALL

**Report from Curriculum Committee:** The last meeting was held on March 7, 2024. Mr. Fickes discussed the Cosmetology and Barber School's state approval. He also provided updates on the Student Board of Education, Stitch Lab with Mike Holder, Annual Reports from Divisional Leaders, Ghana trip next summer, and the D205 trip to Washington, D.C. Summer programming was tabled.

COMMITTEE OF THE  
WHOLE

**Report from Finance Committee:** Last meeting was held on March 5, 2024. All items presented were approved and are on this agenda to be voted on. Next meeting will be held April 2, 2024.

**Report from Policy Committee:** None.

**Report from Discipline Committee:** None.

**Report from Facilities Committee:** The last meeting was held on February 29, 2024. All items presented were approved and are on this agenda to be voted on. Next meeting will be held March 29, 2024.

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 February 14, 2024

MINUTES

- B. The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated February 14 through March 12, 2024 BILLS
- C. Personnel dated March 12, 2024 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations) PERSONNEL
- D. Ratification(s)
  - i) Approval of the Thornton Girls Wrestling IHSA State Finals Overnight, Bloomington, IL, February 22-24, 2024
  - ii) Approval of the Thornton Boys Varsity Basketball IHSA Sectionals Overnight, Ottawa, IL, March 3-4, 2024
  - iii) Approval of the Thornridge Special Olympics Girls State Finals Basketball Contest Overnight, Normal, IL, March 7-8, 2024
  - iv) Approval of the Thornridge Special Olympics Boys State Finals Basketball Contest Overnight, Normal, IL, March 8-9, 2024
  - v) Approval of the Thornridge Varsity Volleyball Shootout in the Dells Overnight, Wisconsin Dells, WI, July 24-26, 2024

On roll call, Mrs. Lawrence, Mr. Banks, Mr. Brown, Dr. Davis, Ms. Graham, and Mrs. Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Ms. F. Crayton of Dolton requested a follow-up regarding the track at Thornridge. She commented about Special Olympics and wished everyone a happy Resurrection Sunday.
- Ms. T. Downs of Dolton stated concerns regarding her daughter at Thornridge
- Ms. T. Bennett of Harvey provided a detailed report of her background and education

Dr. Doss stated there have been 4 FOIA requests since last board meeting and they have all been answered and replied to.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA)

Mr. Fickes presented the following information:

COMMUNICATIONS

- Thornridge High School:
  - Special Olympics Champions
    - Gold Medals and Trophy earned
- Thornton High School
  - Fashion Scholarships
    - Two students will receive \$1,500.00 scholarships from Illinois State University
  - Varsity Boys' Basketball Team
    - They won against Brother Rice 61-54 last Friday evening and moved onto the Sectional Championship
    - Advanced to the Super Sectionals to play Richwood. They finished the season with a record of 29-5
- Thornwood High School
  - Mathletes

- Two students qualified for the ICTM State Mathletes Competition in Geometry. These students along with another will attend the State Competition Held at Illinois State University in April
- IHSA Solo and Ensemble Contest at Bloom Trail HS, Chicago Heights
  - Three students earned 1<sup>st</sup> place, five students earned second place, and one student earned 3<sup>rd</sup> place
- Illinois State Scholars
  - Thornwood has 17 Illinois State Scholars
- Baseball Team
  - Won their first game of the season against Eisenhower
  - Shout out to Amira Hondras for making IHSA history by being the first girl to pitch an opening day complete game on the varsity level
- Thornwood Alumni
  - Three Thornwood Alumni made the Dean's List at Bradley University
- Peace Center
  - Celebrating Social Work Month
    - March is Social Work Month
    - Honoring Ms. Miller, Peach Center Social Worker for her dedication
  - Mentoring & Etiquette Club
    - Field trip to downtown Chicago
    - Focus on cultural fluency and adaptability
    - This journey beyond boundaries has not only enriched their lives but has also equipped them with the tools to thrive in an increasingly interconnected and diverse world
- Special Olympics
  - Snowshoe Winter Games
    - Athletes attended the 2024 Snowshoe Winter Games in Galena, IL
    - Two students earned gold medals and one student placed 5<sup>th</sup>

District 205 Girls Bowling Team- Mr. Fickes

- Head Coach Britney Tolbert introduced the team and presented on the team's excellent season
- 5 students (Nichau Townsend, Nevaeh Washington, Rhyana Holliday, Dymond Jackson, and Rachel Fizer) provided insight into their positive experience on the team

Thornwood Drone Competition- Mr. Fickes

- Two teams competed against 48 teams and won 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the Midwest Regional Aerial Drone Competition: Mission 2024 Eclipse
- The team will be going to Nationals in May
- 4 students (Lindsay Langley, Antwon Barfield, Jalen Bean, and Elijah Harris) spoke of their positive experience and demonstrated the drones in the auditorium

Students were given medals for their exemplary participation (for all presentations)

Mrs. Moody moved, Dr. Davis seconded the **Approval of the District Senior AP African American Studies Overnight, Washington D.C., April 9-12, 2024** as presented by Mr. Fickes. This was thoroughly discussed at the last Curriculum Committee Meeting. 58 students and 7 chaperones will attend this trip, which is

PRESENTATIONS

APPROVAL OF  
DISTRICT SENIOR  
AP AFRICAN  
AMERICAN STUDIES

being federally funded. On roll call, Members Moody, Davis, Banks, Brown, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

OVERNIGHT,  
WASHINGTON,  
D.C., APRIL 9-12,  
2024

Mr. Banks moved, Mrs. Moody seconded the **Approval of the District-Wide Stadium Turf and Tracks** presented by Mr. Horton. This project will require bids for design and engineering. Member Mr. Banks had some questions regarding the tentative schedule. On roll call, Members Banks, Moody, Brown, Davis, Graham, Lawrence, and Owens voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
DISTRICT-WIDE  
STADIUM TURF AND  
TRACKS

Mr. Moody moved, Mr. Banks seconded the **Approval of Thornton Room 283 Construction** presented by Mr. Horton. This will allow for better office space and address safety violations. On roll call, Members Moody, Banks, Brown, Davis, Graham, Lawrence, and Owens voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
THORNTON ROOM  
283 CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Brown moved, Mr. Banks seconded the **Approval of Thornwood and Thornridge High School Chiller Commissioning** presented by Mr. Horton. This will include installation, conditioning, and optimum performance. On roll call, Members Brown, Banks, Davis, Graham, Lawrence, Moody, and Owens voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
THORNWOOD AND  
THORN RIDGE HIGH  
SCHOOL CHILLER  
COMMISSIONING

Mrs. Moody moved, Mr. Banks seconded the **Approval of District-Wide Electrical Surveys** presented by Mr. Horton. These surveys will allow for a more proactive approach to power outages and such. On roll call, Members Moody, Banks, Brown, Davis, Graham, Lawrence, and Owens voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
DISTRICT-WIDE  
ELECTRICAL  
SURVEYS  
RECOMMENDATION

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Brown seconded the **Approval of the Resolution to Abate Property Taxes Pursuant to Receiving the 2024 Property Tax Relief Grant** presented by Mr. Horton. Since 2018, this program has saved taxpayers over \$24 million. On roll call, Members Lawrence, Brown, Banks, Davis, Graham, and Owens voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF THE  
RESOLUTION TO  
ABATE PROPERTY  
TAXES PURSUANT  
TO RECEIVING THE  
2024 PROPERTY  
TAX RELIEF GRANT

Dr. Cunningham stated the following:

The Mission of Thornton Township High School District 205 is to develop productive citizens who are enrolled, enlisted, or employed at the completion of High School. The district has students awarded thousands of dollars each year to attend school for academics, sports, and art. We have students who choose to serve our nation in the Air Force, Army, or Navy every year. Many receive a step up through our Civil Air Patrol Program. We have students working to become Journeymen Electricians in the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Program, Mechanics, and Diesel Engineers in our Navistar Program, machinists in our Machine Shop, and weatherization experts in our Green Generation Program. No doubt there are great opportunities here at Thornton Township High School District 205, but we want more.

SUPERINTENDENT  
REPORT

On Monday, March 11, 2024, Dr. Doss, Dr. Ratliff, Mr. Fickes, and I met with Mr. Mike Antoniadis, the president of UChicago Medicine Ingalls Memorial, as an introduction and opportunity to discuss partnering. Mr. Antoniadis and his team are looking to work with District 205 to develop opportunities for our students to become employed in the health field here in Harvey. The first opportunity will be a summer internship with students from Thornton. They will be attending an eight-week internship with UChicago Medicine paying for transportation and assisting them on sitting for the certification at the end of the summer.

Dr. Ratliff and his team will work with Mr. Antoniadis's team to develop more programs. They are going to start with the CNA and phlebotomist programs. These are outstanding opportunities for our students to become employed directly out of high school with living wage jobs and no college debt. For UChicago Medicine Ingalls Memorial, they get an opportunity to employ talented students from Thornton Township High School District 205. For District 205, we have an opportunity to connect our students with medical careers that move the students toward the lives they want to live. I want to thank the board for their support and UChicago Medicine Ingalls Memorial for the opportunity to work together to benefit our community.

At 7:36p.m., Mrs. Moody moved, Dr. Davis 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, Moody, Davis, Banks, Brown, Graham, Lawrence, and Owens voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

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

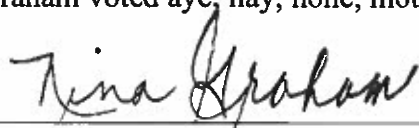
RECONVENE  
REGULAR SESSION

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Moody seconded the **Approval of Action Regarding Faculty Association's Discipline Due Process Grievance** of Thornwood Art Teacher, Brian Evans. On roll call, Members Lawrence, Moody, Banks, Brown, Davis, Graham, and Owens voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVE ACTION  
REGARDING  
FACULTY  
ASSOCIATION'S  
DISCIPLINE DUE  
PROCESS GRIEVANCE

At 8:25p.m., Mrs. Moody moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded to **Adjourn the Meeting**. On roll call, Members Moody, Lawrence, Banks, Brown, Davis, and Graham voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT



President



Secretary