



**Wednesday, September 11, 2024
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:35p.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 was absent. Dr. Nathaniel Cunningham, Superintendent; Mr. Toriano Horton, Assistant Superintendent of Business Operations; Mr. Brett Fickes, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction; Mr. Thomas Porter, Executive Director of Special Services; Mrs. Rosaura Duran, Director of Human Resources; Mr. Adam Dauksas, Legal Counsel were also present.

ROLL CALL

Report from Curriculum Committee: The last meeting discussed Back to School Night, PLCs, etc. were presented. The next meeting will be held early October.

COMMITTEE OF THE
WHOLE

Report from Facilities & Finance Committee: The last meeting was held August 29. The Facilities & Finance Committees recently combined to streamline discussions. All agenda items presented are on the agenda for approval. The next meeting will be held on September 26

Report from Policy Committee: None.

Report from Discipline Committee: None.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Regular Meeting and Executive Session Minutes dated August 14, 2024
- B. The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated August 14, 2024 through September 10, 2024
 - Personnel dated September 10, 2024 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations)

MINUTES

BILLS

PERSONNEL

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

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

- Mr. D. Bearden of the Faculty Association spoke of his resignation for employment at Uniserv. He spoke positively regarding his tenure as Union President. Everyone wished him well in his future endeavors.
- Ms. F. Crayton of Dolton spoke about looking forward to hearing more about the Paris and Italy student trips.

PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION

Dr. Doss stated there have been four FOIA requests since last board meeting. All have been responded to.

FREEDOM OF
INFORMATION ACT
(FOIA)

Mr. Fickes presented the following information:

COMMUNICATIONS

Thornridge High School:

- STEMM Camp
 - Students participated in various activities with a STEMM focus
- College Day
 - The first Friday of every month, students and staff are encouraged to wear their favorite college shirt
- Back to School Night
 - Many families attended and engaged in conversations with our teachers and administration

Thornton High School:

- Late Start- Discipline Administrators
 - Discipline Administrators focused on social emotional and student engagement. The event kicked off with guest speaker, DJ, prizes, and more
- Back to School Night
 - 162 families attended and engaged in conversations with our teachers and administration

Thornwood High School:

- PLC
 - Students and staff enjoyed the assembly, along with guest speaker, Zion Ali, young artists in the music industry
- IB Diploma Programme
 - Congratulations to the 34 students of the Class of 2024 who completed the programme
- Back to School Night
 - Highest attendance in recent history for parental attendance. Students chalked up the sidewalks to welcome them

Coverage of the Democratic National Convention by Thornwood Teacher Mr. Rice & Thornwood Students- Mr. Fickes

PRESENTATIONS

- A short video recap was presented. Mr. Rice and his students spoke of the inspiring experience this provided.

Peace Center Trip to Ghana- Mr. Cox-Bey & Mr. Fickes

- A short video recap was presented. Mr. Cox-Bey conveyed what a powerful experience this trip was and how thankful he is for what we have here. A few students also spoke about how meaningful this trip was to them. Mrs. Lawrence conveyed how emotional and inspiring this trip was for her. Bishop Lance

Davis, Mr. Cox-Bey, and Mr. Fickes were all thanked for their work to ensure this trip happened by Board Members and Dr. Cunningham.

Mr. Brown moved, Mrs. Moody seconded the **Approval of La Rabida Children's Hospital Agreement** as presented by Mr. Fickes. This is a program to educate students on sexual abuse, prevention, and health programming. This was previously approved, however, there were some minor changes made to the agreement that required this to be approved again. On roll call, Members Brown, Moody, Banks, Davis, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF LA
RABIDA
CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL
AGREEMENT

Mrs. Moody moved, Mr. Banks seconded the **Approval of the resolution for the issue of not to exceed \$35,000,000 General Obligation Limited Tax School Bonds of the District for the purpose of increasing the Working Cash Fund of the District** as presented by Mr. Horton. This resolution sets forth the parameters for the issuance of said bonds and sale thereof by designated officials of the District and summarized the pertinent terms of said parameters, including the specific parameters governing the manner of sale, length of maturity, rates of interest, purchase price and tax levy for said bonds. On roll call, Members Moody, Banks, Brown, Davis, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF THE
RESOLUTION OF
WORKING CASH
FUND BONDS

Mrs. Moody moved, Dr. Davis seconded the **Approval of the Resolution authorizing the appointment of Township Trustee of Schools** as presented by Mr. Horton. This is to approve an appointment of Dr. Nathaniel Cunningham, Jr. to serve a two-year term, which may be renewed, as the District's trustee of schools for Thornton Township. On roll call, Members Moody, Davis, Banks, Brown, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF THE
RESOLUTION
AUTHORIZING
APPOINTMENT OF
TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE
OF SCHOOLS

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mr. Banks seconded the **Approval of the Press Plus Policy Update for Issues 114 & 115** as presented by Dr. Doss. The Policy Committee reviewed the draft updates and review and monitoring policies. They were available for review at our district office. On roll call, Members Lawrence, Banks, Brown, Davis, Graham, and Moody voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
PRESS PLUS POLICY
UPDATE FOR ISSUES
114 & 115

Dr. Cunningham stated the following:
Good evening:

SUPERINTENDENT
REPORT

Today, we commemorate Patriot Day, a solemn day of remembrance for the lives lost during the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. On that fateful day, our nation witnessed unimaginable tragedy at the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon in Virginia, and on United Airlines Flight 93 in Pennsylvania. We honor the 343 New York firefighters, 55 military personnel, and 23 New York City police officers who made the ultimate sacrifice while trying to save others at the Twin Towers and the pentagon. Their bravery and selflessness are etched into our collective memory, much like the days our parents remember losing JFK, Dr. King, or RFK. Just as they recall where they were during those moments, we too remember where we were on 9/11.

I vividly recall being in the high school library when someone turned on the television. Together, we watched in horror as the second plane hit the tower. We witnessed firefighters and police officers desperately working to save as many lives as possible. We saw the choking smoke and dust envelop the city as the towers fell. Amidst the chaos, we also saw lives being saved because of the courageous service of others.

While we may not be military personnel, police officers, or firefighters who face danger daily, we too serve our community in meaningful ways. I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to every educator who comes to school daily to serve our children and communities. Service takes many forms—teachers, CEOs of nonprofits, DCFS workers, mail carriers, doctors, and here at District 205, our dedicated Board of Education members – who served or are serving in the previously mentioned roles.

On this Patriot Day, we honor those who serve in all capacities, especially those who serve our community. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to our students and our community.

At 7:27p.m., Mrs. Moody 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, Moody, Brown, Banks, Davis, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

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

RECONVENE
REGULAR SESSION

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Dr. Davis seconded the **Approval of Sirena Donaldson's Resignation Agreement and Release**. The board accepts this resignation as presented. On roll call, Members Lawrence, Davis, Banks, Brown, Graham, and Moody voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed

APPROVE S.
DONALDSON
RESIGNATION
AGREEMENT AND
RELEASE

Dr. Davis moved, Mrs. Moody seconded the **Approval of Carolyn Strong's Resignation Agreement and Release**. The board accepts this resignation as presented. On roll call, Members Davis, Moody, Banks, Brown, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed

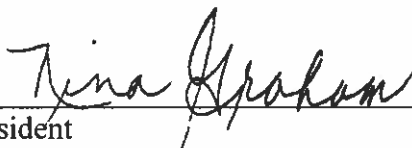
APPROVE C.
STRONG
RESIGNATION
AGREEMENT AND
RELEASE

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Moody seconded the **Approval of Edward McCracken's Resignation Agreement and Release**. The board accepts this resignation as presented. On roll call, Members Lawrence, Moody, Banks, Brown, Davis, and Graham voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed

APPROVE E.
MCCRACKEN
RESIGNATION
AGREEMENT AND
RELEASE

At 8:29p.m., Mrs. Moody moved, Mrs. Lawrence seconded to **Adjourn the Meeting**. On roll call, Moody, Lawrence, Banks, Brown, Davis, and Graham voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT



President



Secretary