



**Wednesday, October 9, 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, AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS CONFERENCING AT 6:30 PM**

- The meeting was called to order at 6:31p.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 arrived at 6:38p.m. 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 were also present.
- ROLL CALL
- Report from Curriculum Committee:** The last meeting discussed the upcoming Regional Institute Day hosted by our district on October 11. The next meeting will be held in November. A short video for Studio 205 was presented, featuring students giving haircuts, etc.
- COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
- Report from Finance & Facilities Committee:** None
- 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 September 11, 2024
  - B. Approval of Special Meeting and Executive Session Minutes dated September 30, 2024
  - C. The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated September 11, 2024 through October 8, 2024
  - D. Personnel dated October 8, 2024 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations)
  - E. Ratification(s)
    - i) Approval of the Thornton Cross Country Meet, Overnight Trip, Peoria,
- MINUTES  
BILLS  
PERSONNEL  
RATIFICATION

IL, October 4-5, 2024

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

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION

- Ms. F. Crayton wanted to recognize Breast Cancer Awareness Month. She also inquired about track and field and football games. Dr. Cunningham responded with answers to her inquiries and to contact him anytime.

Dr. Doss stated there have been four FOIA requests since last board meeting. Three have been responded to and one is pending.

FREEDOM OF  
INFORMATION ACT

Mr. Fickes presented the following information:

COMMUNICATIONS

- Thornridge High School:
  - Homecoming Week
    - Lots of celebrations throughout the week to bring students together
  - Parent-Teacher Conferences
    - Many families attended this year and were given tours of Studio 205
- Thornton High School:
  - Senior Sunrise
    - Student Council's first year event to celebrate Seniors, reflecting on the past three years of school for bonding, comradery
  - Homecoming Spirit Week
    - Several photos shared for the week with students and staff
- Thornwood High School
  - National Honor Society Ceremony
    - Induction Ceremony to celebrate students' hard work and membership
  - Voter Registration Drive with Dorothy Bryant
    - Students registered to vote for this upcoming election
  - Parent Volunteer Trip to the Apple Orchard
    - Fun time had by all
  - Driver's Ed Night for TW Parents
    - Students received their permits, followed by a ceremony

**First Black Female Smokejumper Thornton Alumni, Paris Harris-** Mr. Fickes

PRESENTATIONS

- Parents of Paris Harris spoke on her resiliency and determination throughout all her strenuous training. The presentation was very moving and inspiring.
- President Graham gave positive remarks

**Thornwood Competitive Dance Team-** Mr. Fickes & Ms. Boyter

- Short video presented showing the team at competitions and outings
- Coach Boyter spoke about the hard work and effort her entire team exudes each and every day. The Assistant Coach and dance team were also present.

Students, parents, and coaches were given medals for their exemplary participation (for all presentations)

Mrs. Moody moved, Mr. Brown seconded the **Approval of Thornwood Performing Arts Center Group Field Trip to Illinois HS Theatre Festival, Overnight Trip, Champaign, IL, January 9-11, 2025** as presented by Mr. Holmes. This is a fantastic opportunity for our students to engage in workshops and

APPROVAL OF  
OVERNIGHT TRIP

networking connections throughout the state. On roll call, Members Moody, Brown, Banks, Davis, Graham, Lawrence, and Owens voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

Mr. Owens moved, Mr. Banks seconded the **Approval of the Thornwood Competitive Dance Team, National Competition Overnight Trip, Orlando, FL, February 27- March 2, 2025** as presented by Mr. Holmes. The dance team qualified for the National Competition and will compete in Florida. On roll call, Members Owens, Banks, Brown, Davis, Graham, Lawrence, and Moody voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
OVERNIGHT TRIP

Mrs. Moody moved, Mr. Banks seconded the **Approval of the ECHO Classroom Agreement** presented by Mr. Horton. This is a lease agreement for 3.5 classrooms for EASE, DHH, therapy, and nurses' room at Thornwood High School. On roll call, Members Moody, Banks, Brown, Davis, Graham, Lawrence, and Owens voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF  
ECHO CLASSROOM  
LEASE AGREEMENT

Mrs. Lawrence moved, Dr. Davis seconded the **Approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village of Phoenix for Assignment of a Police Officer** as presented by Dr. Cunningham. This agreement allows a School Resource Officer from the Village of Phoenix to work within our school district to assist with safety and truancy concerns. On roll call, Members Lawrence, Davis, Banks, Brown, Graham, Moody, and Owens voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF IGA  
WITH VILLAGE OF  
PHOENIX FOR  
POLICE OFFICER

Dr. Cunningham stated the following:

SUPERINTENDENT  
REPORT

Good evening, members of the board, faculty, staff, and community members, As we gather here today, I want to take a moment to recognize that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. This is a time dedicated to raising awareness about breast cancer, supporting those affected by it, celebrating our survivors, and promoting the importance of early detection and research.

Breast cancer is a disease that does not discriminate; it affects people of all races, genders, and backgrounds. However, it is essential to acknowledge our communities; we face unique challenges when it comes to breast cancer. We often experience disparities in access to healthcare, early detection, and treatment options, which can lead to higher mortality rates.

As a school district, we are responsible for educating and supporting our students, staff, and families about the importance of breast cancer awareness. Here are a few ways we make a difference:

1. **Education and Awareness:** We can organize informational sessions and distribute educational materials to ensure everyone in our community understands the importance of regular screenings and early detection. Knowledge is power, and by spreading awareness, we can save lives.
2. **Support Systems:** Let's create a supportive environment for those who are battling breast cancer and their families. This can include support groups, counseling services, and connecting them with local resources and organizations specializing in breast cancer support.
3. **Community Involvement:** We encourage our students and staff to participate in local breast cancer awareness events, such as walks,

fundraisers, and volunteer opportunities. These activities raise awareness and foster a sense of community and solidarity.

4. **Advocacy:** Advocate for policies that address healthcare disparities and ensure that all community members have access to the necessary early detection and treatment resources. Working together can help bridge the gap and provide equitable healthcare for all.

In closing, let us remember that breast cancer awareness is not just about wearing pink ribbons; it is about acting, supporting one another, and striving for a future where no one must face this disease alone. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of those affected by breast cancer and build a stronger, healthier community. Thank you.

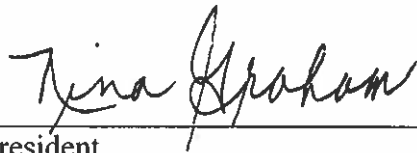
There was no executive session this meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Graham spoke about the volunteer role of the Board of Education and how proud she is of our schools and students for all their successes. Sonya Bradley, Thornridge Alumni now attending University of Illinois

At 7:22p.m., Mrs. Lawrence moved, Mrs. Moody seconded to **Adjourn the Meeting**. On roll call, Lawrence, Moody, Banks, Brown, Davis, Graham, and Owens voted aye; nay, none; motion passed and meeting adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT



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President



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Secretary