



**Wednesday, December 18, 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, AT 6:30 PM**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30p.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, and Moody answered. Member Lawrence and Member Owens were 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 were also present.

ROLL CALL

Report from Curriculum Committee: The last meeting was held on November 21, 2024 and discussed Science/CTE Reports, first quarter grades, new diesel engine, Pre-ACT structure, and possible Financial Literacy Course, etc. The next meeting will be held at the end of January.

COMMITTEE OF THE
WHOLE

Report from Finance & Facilities Committee: The next meeting will be held in January 2025.

Report from Policy Committee: None.

Report from Discipline Committee: None.

Mrs. Moody moved, Dr. Davis seconded, to **Approve the Consent Agenda**, which includes the following:

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes dated October 9, 2024
- B. The District 205 bills as presented for payment dated October 9, 2024 through November 12, 2024
- C. Personnel dated November 12, 2024 (Resignations, Leave of Absence, New Hires and Terminations)
- D. Ratification(s)
 - i) Approval of the Boys Cross Country Sectionals, Overnight Trip, Normal, IL, November 1-2, 2024
 - ii) Approval of the Special Olympics State Finals, Overnight Trip,

MINUTES

BILLS

PERSONNEL

RATIFICATION

Schaumburg, IL, November 1-2, 2024

iii) Approval of the Mu Alpha Thera Mathlete Fieldtrip, Lafayette, IN, November 11, 2024

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

The following individuals spoke during Public Participation:

- Ms. F. Crayton of Dolton- wished everyone happy holidays and praying for Wisconsin

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Dr. Doss stated there have been no FOIA requests since last board meeting.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

Mr. Fickes presented the following information:

COMMUNICATIONS

- Thornridge High School:
 - Spirit Week
 - Student Council and NHS sponsored a holiday spirit week
 - Scholars
 - 15 of the 16 students that attended a D205 Jackson State University in-person visit were accepted “on the spot”
 - QuestBridge Scholarship Recipient
 - Abdulbasit Lawal has been admitted to the University of Notre Dame with a QuestBridge National College Match Scholarship valued at over \$350,000. Congratulations!
 - Winter Concert
 - Choir and Concert Band performed holiday music for all
 - Hip Hop Nutcracker
 - Scholars attended the contemporary dance show, reimagining the classic
- Thornton High School:
 - Economic Students Visit Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago
 - Economics students visited the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago Money Museum and even engaged in the Federal Open Market Committee
 - Blood Drive
 - Senior Class hosted the first blood drive with over 30 donations
 - Dunkin Donuts Gift Cards
 - High School Nation teamed up with DD across the country to distribute \$5 gift cards across the country. Our students and entire staff each received one
- Thornwood High School
 - Illinois State Scholars
 - Congratulations to the 17 Illinois State Scholars
 - Aircraft Mechanics Certifications
 - Two students completed their certificates and received on the spot job offers
 - Trade School Thursdays
 - Held each month to introduce students to various trade school opportunities and career paths
- Special Education
 - Special Olympics Floor Hockey

- Bronze medals received
- Special Olympics Snowshoe Team
 - Gold medals earned in the 50M and 100M races

CEDA Presentation – Mr. Fickes

- Dr. Wiley presented CEDA’s special projects that included advancing economic development, fostering mental wellness and youth expression, and connecting communities. In partnership with D205, CEDA is helping the community of Harvey through many of their projects.

Diesel Program- Mr. Fickes

- Ms. Rouse presented the D205 Diesel Engine Technology and spoke about the new partnerships and the generous donations of two A-26 engines for student learning experiences. Students taking Truck and Diesel Technology with Mr. Earl Powell have an incredible workplace opportunity within the classroom.

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

Dr. Davis moved, Mr. Brown seconded the **Approval of District 205 French Class European Trip, June 15- 24, 2026** as presented by Mr. Fickes & Mr. Craigmile. This was presented at the last Curriculum Committee Meeting. Students will travel to Belgium, France, and Switzerland. There is no funding needed, as the funds will be raised. On roll call, Members Davis, Brown, Banks, Graham, and Moody voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

PRESENTATIONS

D205 FRENCH CLASS EUROPEAN TRIP JUNE 15- 24, 2026

Mrs. Moody moved, Mr. Banks seconded the **Approval of Financial Literacy** as presented by Mr. Ficke, Ms. Liaskos, and Mr. Yiakos. This was presented at the Curriculum Committee meeting. This is a test program that will pilot during the 2025-2026 school year at Thornwood. This will be a monthly program for English and Math classes. On roll call, Members Moody, Banks, Brown, Davis, and Graham voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

FINANCIAL LITERACY APPROVAL

Dr. Davis moved, Mr. Brown seconded the **Approval of 2024 Tax Levy Resolution** as presented by Mr. Horton. The estimated aggregate tax levy was presented. On roll call, Members Davis, Brown, Banks, Graham, and Moody voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

2024 TAX LEVY RESOLUTION

Dr. Cunningham stated the following:

Good evening everyone,

I would like to start by wishing you all a very Happy Holidays! With only three days left until our much-anticipated vacation, I thought we could kick off tonight's meeting with something fun: Dual Credit Trivia!

Before we dive into the game, let me explain what dual credit is. Dual credit is an instructional arrangement where an academically qualified high school student enrolls in a college-level course and, upon successful completion, earns both college credit and high school credit. Now, let's get started with the trivia!

****Question 1:**** True or False? Dual credit is generally taken by high schoolers in-person at a community college.

- ***Answer:*** False. According to Mr. Porter, he is correct. 72% of dual credit course-takers take it at their high school. Only about 17% take it at a college campus or facility, and 5% take it online.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

****Question 2:**** True or False? Dual credit is accessed evenly through 4-year and 2-year institutions.

- ***Answer:*** False. As Mr. Fickes correctly noted, 97% of dual credit course-takers participate in community college courses, with only 3% participating in 4-year institutions.

****Question 3:**** Which dual credit course is most popular?

- ***Options:***

1. Spanish
2. General Writing
3. Welding Technology
4. Psychology

- ***Answer:*** General Writing, as correctly answered by Dr. Doss.

****Question 4:**** True or False? Dual credit is offered by most high schools in Illinois.

- ***Answer:*** True. Only 24 districts in the state had no dual credit participation, and thank you to Mr. Horton for getting it right.

****Question 5:**** What proportion of dual credit courses count for Career and Technical Education credit?

- ***Options:***

- 12%
- 23%
- 37%
- 52%

- ***Answer:*** 37%, correctly answered by Mr. Fickes.

****Question 6:**** True or False? Research has found that dual credit participation improves college enrollment, achievement, and completion.

- ***Answer:*** True. As Mr. Fickes correctly mentioned, this is why understanding and improving dual credit access and equity is so important.

Dual credit has significant benefits:

- ****High school outcomes:**** Higher academic performance, increased attendance, and enhanced college readiness.

- ****College outcomes:**** Higher enrollment rates, more credit accumulation, and reduced time to degree completion.

Despite these benefits, there are still dual credit inequities, particularly in urban schools, those with high percentages of students eligible for Free/Reduced-Price Lunch, and schools with higher proportions of Black and Latino students. We must continue to work towards improving access and equity in dual credit programs.

In our district, the Dual Credit program is expanding. Currently, District 205 offers 16 articulated Dual Credit courses with South Suburban College, Moraine Valley Community College, and Joliet Junior College. We are planning to further expand our offerings in Vocational Education, English, Social Sciences, and Fine Arts.

Our work in dual credit has not gone unnoticed. At the recent Triple I conference, I was honored to speak alongside two other superintendents about our district's success in increasing student participation in Dual Credit. Congratulations to our

curriculum department for their excellent work and thank you for your continued efforts to expand these opportunities for our students.

Thank you all, and once again, Happy Holidays! That concludes my report.

At 7:19p.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, and Graham voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

At 8:31p.m., Mrs. Moody moved, Mr. Brown seconded to **Reconvene Regular Session**. On roll call, Members Moody, Brown, Davis, Graham, and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

RECONVENE
REGULAR SESSION

Mrs. Moody moved, Dr. Davis seconded the **Approval of the Board of Education Decision Regarding Faculty Association Grievance #092124- Removal of Thornton Assistant Girls Basketball Coach**. The board denies this grievance and agrees with the Superintendent's decision. On roll call, Members Moody, Davis, Banks, Brown, and Graham voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
BOARD DECISION
REGARDING FA
GRIEVANCE
#092124

Mrs. Moody moved, Dr. Davis seconded the **Approval of the Board of Education Decision Regarding Faculty Association Grievance #092224- Consecutive Year Evaluation at Thornton**. The board denies this grievance and agrees with the Superintendent's decision. On roll call, Members Moody, Davis, Banks, Brown, and Graham voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
BOARD DECISION
REGARDING FA
GRIEVANCE
#092224

Dr. Davis moved, Mr. Brown seconded the **Approval of the Board of Education Decision Regarding Faculty Association Grievance #092324- Consecutive Year Evaluation at Thornton**. The board denies this grievance and agrees with the Superintendent's decision. On roll call, Members Moody, Davis, Banks, Brown, and Graham voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
BOARD DECISION
REGARDING FA
GRIEVANCE
#092324

Mrs. Moody moved, Dr. Davis seconded the **Approval of the Resolution Authorizing a Notice of Remediation for Tenured Teacher, Leissa Pierson**. The board accepts this resolution as presented. On roll call, Members Moody, Davis, Banks, Brown, and Graham voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed.

APPROVAL OF
NOTICE TO REMEDY
FOR L. PIERSON

Dr. Davis moved, Mrs. Moody seconded the **Approval of Tenured Teacher Matthew Carlson's Dismissal**. The board accepts this dismissal as presented. On roll call, Members Davis, Moody, Banks, Brown, Graham, and Lawrence voted aye; voted nay, none; motion passed

APPROVAL OF T.
RANDLOPH
DISMISSAL

Mrs. Moody moved, Dr. Davis seconded the **Approval of Assistant Superintendent/CSBO Contract Approval 2024-2027**. The board accepts this contract for Assistant Superintendent/CSBO Toriano Horton as presented. On roll

APPROVAL OF ASST.
SUPT./CSBO
CONTRACT

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

At 8:37p.m., Mr. Brown moved, Dr. Davis seconded to **Adjourn the Meeting**. On roll call, Brown, Davis, Banks, Graham, and Moody voted aye; nay, none; motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT



President



Secretary