

**Committee of the Whole**  
**November 12, 2025**  
**Thornton Fractional Center for Academics & Technology**  
**1605 Wentworth Ave.**  
**Calumet City, IL 60409**  
**MINUTES**



**1. Call to Order/Roll call**

President Terrazas called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following roll call:

**Present:** Calderon-Miranda, Guyton, Myers, Newman, Perkins, Terrazas, Williams (arrived 6:06 p.m.)

**Absent:**

**2. Communication/Public Comment**

A. TFS Dreamers Club Chipotle fundraiser—Hannah Berridge for annual scholarship,

B. Ray Williams—thanked board in recognition of School Board Members Day

C. 2025 Joint Conference--

<https://www.iasb.com/conference/speakers/>

<https://www.iasb.com/conference/planner/>

[https://whova.com/portal/5k3qxga9alvhwoifopyrroj24i8ulhrtfgusivgs=/?source=download\\_page](https://whova.com/portal/5k3qxga9alvhwoifopyrroj24i8ulhrtfgusivgs=/?source=download_page)

**3. Buildings Grounds/Safety Committee--Member Williams**

A. Construction Project Update—Mr. Stephan shared that the TFN field was completed although there is work to be done, especially the track surface which will likely have to wait until spring. He gave updates on the Lavish classroom and the roof at TFN. The architect is working on bids for next summer's work.

B. Building Usage Report—There were a couple of cancellations and a couple of organizations still owe.

**4. Finance Committee--Member Perkins**

A. 2025 Tax Levy—Ms. McMillian reviewed what a tax levy is, CPI, and the timeline. The district doesn't get the actual levy information until June 2026 so the focus is to make sure the district receives all the funding it is entitled to. She presented a new required report that identifies the district's fund balance noting the figures are from the audit. She reviewed the levy noting we could ask for 5% but are only asking 3.5% given that CPI was 2.9%. If the levy doesn't capture new property/businesses, we can't go back and get it. Discussion included sending the board the anticipated increase on area homes.

B. Interfund Transfer—Ms. McMillian shared the clerk's office has not released any funds and the district needs \$1.1 million for bond payment which will be transferred back when we get the tax revenue.

**5. Curriculum Committee--Member Calderon-Miranda**

A. Curriculum Guide—Ms. Martin-Dean explained this is the document students will use to make decisions about courses (will be available in Spanish). She reviewed the changes for 2026-27 including an added math course more designed for seniors focusing on everyday applications and the removal of a couple of courses that didn't provide rigorous instruction. Discussion included strategies to get students in classes that are rigorous. Supports will be in place for all students and broadening context of EL learners. Administration has to be cautious about adding courses as it impacts staffing, buildings, etc. Teachers are encouraged to make recommendations for students, and the conversations should be happening with counselors/students. An idea is to have an open house for AP classes.

B. School Report Card—Ms. Szuba reviewed the data highlighting the district/campuses maintained commendable designation based on the eight indicators. Student growth is now based on ACT scores. Proficiency benchmarks have been adjusted, "right-sized" by the state. North and South raised their overall index score. Ninth grade on track continues to make steady progress; schools have implemented interventions which are showing some improvement. She noted the schools have moved beyond pandemic levels and that chronic absenteeism is down. There are very specific interventions being implemented at each campus to address various data points including students who have IEPs, the graduation rate, and getting everyone to complete the climate survey. Discussion included current

class sizes (vary greatly across courses), have teacher voice in what is being done well and how to learn from each other, and closing the gap between campuses.

**6. IT Committee--Member Guyton**

- A. Technology 5-Year Capital Plan & Data Center Project—Mr. Wakefield stated technology has worked hard the last five years to put systems in robust status adding covid funds helped with that. He presented a five-year plan to keep up with trends and structures to support staff and students. This is part of the operational budget and embedded in the annual operating budget. A data center has a life of about five years and is the basis for backups of all systems. The next step is to issue rfp.

**7. Behavior Intervention/Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee--Member Newman**

- A. Suspension Reports—The principals reviewed the monthly reports with discussion on various interventions at each campus. Administration is researching programs specifically to curb vaping. Discussion focused on how interventions are issued and reviewing current practices for effectiveness.
- B. Tardy Guidelines—Dr. O'Rourke share he has developed a tardy advisory panel which includes 16 members. The panel has reviewed other districts' tardy policies and have started to formulate a guideline. The focus is creating a partnership of expectations and define tardies that is consistent for every staff person. He provided a summary and stated administration is looking at implementing second semester. He discussed next steps. Including sending letters to parents, continuing to meet as a panel, and adding the tardy policy to the handbook.
- C. Student Handbook Update—Dr. O'Rourke stated he is meeting with various groups, but will bring the committee together Monday, December 9 at 9:30 a.m. The formatting will be more easily accessible and inviting. Members Williams and Newman volunteered to be on the committee as board representatives.

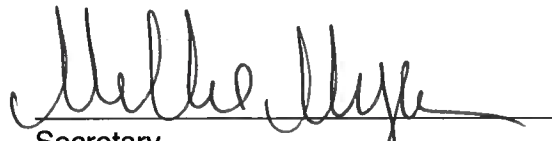
**8. Policy Committee--Member Guyton**

- A. PRESS 120 Update—Ms. Howard reviewed the current PRESS update noting a couple of policy changes require full administrative team input, and that there are multiple curriculum policy changes.

**9. Adjourn**

*I move to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m. This motion, made by Member Newman and seconded by Member Williams, passed on voice vote.*

  
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President

  
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Secretary

  
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Recording Secretary