

MINUTES
Meeting of the Board of Education
District 201, Cook County
Wednesday, September 9, 2026

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Board of Education of J. Sterling Morton High School, District 201 was called to order at 5:07 p.m. on Wednesday, September 9, 2026, in the Garden Terrace Room at Morton District Office by Member Pesek.

2. ROLL CALL

Board Clerk Chapman called the roll and the following were present:

Members Fernando Godinez, Dr. Margaret Kelly, Jeffry Pesek and Sandra Tomschin

Absent: Members Maria A. Gallegos, Jessica Jaramillo-Flores and Mark Kraft

Also, present Superintendent Dr. Michael Kuzniewski, Assistant Superintendent Mayra Arroyo, Director of Human Resources Randall Borgardt, Chief Financial Officer Nick Valderas, Attorney Kurt Vogel, Board Clerk Connie Chapman and Assistant Board Clerk Sally Walsh.

Member Pesek motioned to appoint Member Tomschin as Secretary Pro Tem. Member Godinez seconded the motion.

Ayes: Members Godinez, Kelly, Pesek and Tomschin

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Members Gallegos, Jaramillo-Flores and Kraft

Motion carried.

3. MOTION TO ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

Member Godinez moved to adjourn to Closed Session at 5:08 p.m. in the Board Room at the Morton District Office. Member Tomschin seconded.

Ayes: Members Godinez, Kelly, Pesek and Tomschin

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Members Gallegos, Jaramillo-Flores and Kraft

Motion carried.

4. CLOSED SESSION AGENDA

4.1. Student disciplinary cases. 5ILCS 120/2(c)(9).

4.2. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with this Act. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).

- 4.3. Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting. 5ILCS 120/2(c)(11).
- 4.4. Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2).
- 4.5. The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired. 5ILCS 120/2(c)(5)
- 4.6. The setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6)

5. MOTION TO ADJOURN FROM CLOSED SESSION AND CONVENE TO PUBLIC HEARING

Member Godinez motioned to adjourn from Closed Session and Convene to Public Hearing at 5:59 p.m. in the Garden Terrace room at the Morton District Office. Member Tomschin seconded.

Ayes: Members Davila-Blanco, Godinez, Kelly, Linton, Pesek and Tomschin
Nays: none
Abstain: none
Absent: Members Gallegos, Jaramillo-Flores and Kraft
Motion carried.

6. ROLL CALL

Board Clerk Chapman called the roll and the following were present:

Members Sofia Davila-Blanco, Fernando Godinez, Dr. Margaret Kelly, Annabelle Linton, Jeffry Pesek, Sandra Tomschin

Absent: Members Maria A. Gallegos, Jessica Jaramillo-Flores and Mark Kraft

Also, present Superintendent Dr. Kuzniewski, Attorney Karl Vogel, Board Clerk Connie Chapman and Assistant Board Clerk Sally Walsh

7. PUBLIC HEARING ON 26-27 SCHOOL BUDGET

- 7.1. Presentation by Administration: Mr. Valderas presented the 26-27 School Budget.
- 7.2. Discussion by Board of Education: No discussion.
- 7.3. Audience Comments: No audience comments.

8. MOTION TO ADJOURN FROM PUBLIC HEARING AND RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

Member Godinez motioned to adjourn from Public Hearing and Reconvene to Open Session at 6:02 p.m. in the Garden Terrace room at the Morton District Office. Member Tomschin seconded.

Ayes: Members Godinez, Jaramillo-Flores, Kelly, Kraft, Pesek and Tomschin
Nays: none
Abstain: none
Absent: Member Gallegos
Motion carried.

9. ROLL CALL

Board Clerk Chapman called the roll and the following were present:
Members Sofia Davila-Blanco, Fernando Godinez, Dr. Margaret Kelly, Annabelle Linton,
Jeffrey Pesek, Sandra Tomschin

Absent: Members Maria A. Gallegos, Jessica Jaramillo-Flores and Mark Kraft

Also, present Superintendent Dr. Kuzniewski, Attorney Karl Vogel, Board Clerk Connie Chapman and Assistant Board Clerk Sally Walsh

10. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: President Pesek led the pledge.

11. RECOGNITIONS None

12. REPORTS

12.1. **Superintendent's Committee Reports:** None

12.2. **Student Board Member's Reports:**

12.2.1. Sofia Davila-Blanco – Morton West

12.2.2. Annabelle Linton – Morton East

12.3. **Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Kuzniewski reported.

12.4. **Assistant Superintendent for Compliance:** Mayra Arroyo reported.

12.5. **Business Manager Report:** Nick Valderas reported.

12.6. **Executive Director of Human Resources' Report:** Randy Borgardt reported

12.7. **Principal's Reports:**

12.7.1. James Connelly – CTE School

12.7.2. Jose Gamboa – East Campus

12.7.3. Dr. Erin Kelly – Alternative School

12.7.4. Eric Ramirez – Freshman Center

12.7.5. Kristy Cavanaugh – West Campus

13. AUDIENCE COMMENTS ON ACTION ITEMS ONLY: None

14. ACTION ITEMS - CONSENT AGENDA

Member Godinez motioned to approve the Consent Agenda. Member Tomschin seconded the motion.

Ayes: Members Davila-Blanco, Godinez, Kelly, Linton, Pesek and Tomschin
 Nays: none
 Abstain: none
 Absent: Members Gallegos, Jaramillo-Flores and Kraft
 Motion carried.

14.1. Approval of Minutes:

- 14.1.1. Closed Session
 - 14.1.1.1. Regular Board Meeting: August 12, 2026
- 14.1.2. Open Session
 - 14.1.2.1. Regular Board Meeting: August 12, 2026

14.2. Approval of Payroll:

- 14.2.1. Education: \$3,434,845.21
- 14.2.2. Building: \$687,189.05
- 14.2.3. Transportation: \$0.00

14.3. Approval of Bills for Payment:

- 14.3.1. September 10, 2026a: \$312,433.48
- 14.3.2. September 10, 2026b: \$3,423,485.50

14.4. Approval of Personnel

- 14.4.1. Personnel Report

CERTIFIED STAFF
Night School Session 1

Janet Montalvo	Night School Teacher	East
Iomil Villanueva	Night School Teacher	East
Megan Kehoe	Night School Teacher	East
Angelica Valdez	Night School Teacher	East
Kathy Lonergan	Night School Teacher	East
Maricela Venegas Prado	Night School Teacher	East
Ruben Reyes	Night School Teacher	East
Erika Zacarias Govea	Night School Teacher	East
Jessica Gonzalez	Lead Night School Teacher	East
Kelsey Taylor	Night School Teacher	West
Yolanda James	Night School Teacher	West
Melissa Ferreira	Night School Teacher	West
Mohammed Ramadan	Night School Teacher	West
Joe Gianneschi	Night School Teacher	West
Michaelina Considine	Night School Teacher	West
Denise Reiter	Night School Teacher	West
Maria Chemello	Night School Teacher	West
Valerie Hinton	Night School Teacher	West
Wendy Baxter	Night School Teacher	West
Adrian Tovar	Lead Night School Teacher	West

Beth Hettinger	Lead Night School Teacher	West
David Waldron	Night School Teacher	FC
Gordon Dezotell	Night School Teacher	FC
Erin Fagan	Night School Teacher	FC
Carmen Salgado	Night School Teacher	FC
Kayla Harnish	Night School Teacher	FC

Coaching/Clubs/Activities for the 2026-2027 School Year

Kyle Deger	Assistant Boys Soccer Coach	
Gerardo Acevedo	Head Boys Soccer Coach	
Jared Shadle	Assistant Boys Football Coach	
Roman Emano	Adventure Club	FC
Justin Headly	Class Cabinet 2030	FC
Gordon Dezotell	Class Cabinet 2030	FC
Leticia Corral	Culinary	FC
Leticia Ruiz	Culinary	FC
Karl Bendford	Cultural Diversity Club	FC
Jason Hlavacs	Digital Media	FC
Shin – Shin Lin	Ecology Club	FC
Elizabeth Brunet	Fine Arts Club	FC
Randal Ames	Intramural	FC
Michael Allen	Intramural	FC
Rachel Kiaser	Mathletes	FC
Maggie Morales	SAALT/Leadership	FC
Kayla Harnish	SAALT/Leadership	FC
Vanessa Montalvo	Snowball	FC
Marissa DeLaurentis	Snowball	FC
Erin Laxamana	Student Council/MSGA	FC
Carmen Salgado	Student Council/MSGA	FC
Erin Laxamana	TAG	FC
Erin Fagan	TAG	FC
Carole Mestousis	Best Buddies	FC
Ruben Reyes	Best Buddies	FC
Stefanie Ammerman	Adventure Club	East
Paul Martinez	Auto Club	East
Donald Lloyd	Auto Club	East
Elizabeth Casillas	Auto Club	East
Christian Lopez	Auto Club	East
Leonardo Leoni	Aviation Club	East
Brian Toms	Band Club	East
Sheila Salgado	Best Buddies	East
Stacy Weinert	Best Buddies	East
Carolyn Cutean	Best Buddies	East
Nha Troung	Best Buddies	East
Mara De Leon	Bilingual Club	East
Jovanny Torres	Bilingual Club	East

Elizabeth Casillas	Black Student Union (BSU)	East
Lorenzo Hinojosa	Black Student Union (BSU)	East
Victoria Therriault	Chess Club	East
Alyssa Anselmini	Civics Leaders of America (CLA)	East
Kathy Lonergan	Civics Leaders of America (CLA)	East
Nathalie Guerrero-Ramirez	Class of 2027	East
Yareli Alvarez Torres	Class of 2027	East
Doris Tobin	Class of 2028	East
Angelica Chavez	Class of 2028	East
Ashley Engebretsen	Class of 2029	East
Kristen Cramer	Class of 2029	East
Yvez Chambaz	Culinary Club	East
Jessica Herrera	Culinary Club	East
Rebecca Wilsn	Dreamers and Allies Club	East
Juan Gonzalez	Ecology Club	East
Blake Lindholm	Esports	East
Megan Welch	Esports	East
Angel Samata	Events Coordinator	East
Kristen Cramer	FCCLA & Childcare Club	East
Jake Brown	Film Appreciation	East
Paul Martinez	Fire Club	East
Alleana Austin	Folkloric Dance Group	East
Janet Montalvo	Folkloric Dance Group	East
Milena Durek	Foreign Language Club	East
Alexandra Platek	Glam Club	East
Angel Samata	Homecoming Coordinator	East
Olga Alcantar	Horticulture Club	East
Eric Rauch	Jazz Band	East
Nereida Rodriguez Pereda	K Star Dance Club	East
Sheila Salgado	K Star Dance Club	East
Andres Cervantes	Mariachi	East
Kevin Volk	Mathletes	East
Matt Horvath	Mathletes	East
Barbara Kane	Mathletes	East
Jake Brown	MEGASA	East
Malika Manouzi	Morton Sports Club	East
James Tsenes	Morton Sports Club	East
Ashley Engebretsen	Morton Teaches Club	East
Michael Perryman	National Honor Society (NHS)	East
Alyssa Loizon	National Honor Society (NHS)	East
Nathaniel Moore	Otaku Club	East
Victoria Therriault	Otaku Club	East
Jane Smith	PBIS/CARE	East
Ian Armstrong	Robotics Club	East
Angel Samata	SAALT	East
Jake Brown	SAALT	East

Angel Samata	Senior Awards Coordinator	East
Maria Berezniak	SHARK Club	East
Brenda Lopez	Snowball	East
Dalton Elkins	Snowball	East
Vanessa Montalvo	Sociedad Honoraria Hispana (SHH)	East
Esmeralda Ortiz	Sociedad Honoraria Hispana (SHH)	East
Jenell Radojevich	Student Council	East
Doris Tobin	TAG/Service Club	East
Angelica Chavez	TAG/Service Club	East
Theatre Club	Tyler Lubinus	East
Theatre Club	Kenna Farrell	East
Video Club	James Wlski	East
Weightlifting Club	Brian Blankenship	East
Weightlifting Club	Maritza Huerta	East
Youth Technology Corps	Stefanie Ammerman	East
Youth Technology Corps	Hans Cruz	East

Substitute Teachers

Viridiana Velazquez	Permanent Substitute Teacher Effective: <i>Pending Background Check</i>	FC
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NON-CERTIFIED

Clerical

Sonia Rada	Night School Secretary	East
Diana Palomino	Assistant Principal's Secretary Replacement for: Claudia Gonzalez (transfer) Effective: 08/31/2026	West
Patricia Ayala	Assistant Principal's Secretary Replacement for: Maria Zarate (transfer) Effective: 08/31/2026	FC

Teaching Assistants

Britney Alafaghani	Culinary Teaching assistant New Position Effective: <i>pending background check</i>	West
Carla Trombetta	Culinary Teaching assistant New Position Effective: 09/14/2026	East
William Gmitro	Special Education Teaching Assistant Replacement for: Agency T.A Effective: <i>pending background check</i>	West

Security

Arturo Estrada	10 Month FT Security	East
Replacement for: Gino Martinez (Transfer)		
Effective: <i>pending background check</i>		

Interns

Mayte Gongora	Finance Intern	District
New Position		
Effective: <i>pending background check</i>		

JOB ABANDONMENT

Javier Rodriguez	Teaching Assistant	West
Effective: <i>08/10/2026</i>		

RESIGNATIONS

Ashley Bucio	Custodian	East
Effective: <i>09/04/2026</i>		

Michael Citron	Volleyball Coach	
Effective: <i>09/03/2026</i>		

Nadia Flores	Assistant Girls Wrestling Coach	
Effective: <i>08/12/2026</i>		

Madeline Geyer	EL Teacher	West
Effective: <i>07/14/2026</i>		

Jennifer Marin	Teaching Assistant	West
Effective: <i>08/07/2026</i>		

Claudia Pulido	10 Month Full-Time Security	East
Effective: <i>08/13/2026</i>		

Alexandra Sandoval	10 Month Full-Time Security	East
Effective: <i>08/12/2026</i>		

Naven Valdez	Computer Technician	West
Effective: <i>08/28/2026</i>		

Artur Wilczynski	Director of Technology	District
Effective: <i>09/04/2026</i>		

14.5. Approval of Staff Travel and/or Expense Reimbursement in Accordance with Board Policy 5:60:

- 14.5.1. Mark Stoch
Illinois Technology Education Conference 2026
STEM For the Future
October 23-24, 2026
Funding Source: CTE Department Funded

14.6. Approval of Student Travel:

- 14.6.1. Roman Emano, Stefanie Ammerman, Amalia Herrera, Hector Hernandez and 26 Students
FC Adventure Club Trip
Delton, Michigan
October 16-18, 2026
Funding Source: Student Funded

- 14.6.2. Dalton Elkins, Brenda Lopez and 12 Students
East Snowball Retreat
East Troy, Wisconsin
November 21-22, 2026
Funding Source: Student Funded

14.7. Approval of Facility Requests:

- 14.7.1. Cicero District 99
- 14.7.2. Berwyn Rec Center
- 14.7.3. Berwyn South District 100

14.8. Approval of Contracts (Pending Final Legal Review and Negotiation [if necessary]):

- 14.8.1. MPS/BFW Publishers – Purchase of “Achieve for Business with Personal Finance for AP” Textbooks
- 14.8.2. Blue Cross Blue Shield Medical Insurance Renewal
- 14.8.3. Aetna Dental Insurance Renewal
- 14.8.4. CLIK Entertainment – East Homecoming D.J.

14.9. Approval to Bid or Quote:

- 14.9.1. Transportation
- 14.9.2. SPED Van
- 14.9.3. Garbage Services

15. ACTIONS ITEM(S):

15.1. Approval to Adopt the 26-27 School Budget

Member Godinez motioned the Approval to Adopt the 2026-2027 School Budget.
Member Tomschin seconded the motion.

Ayes: Members Davila-Blanco, Godinez, Kelly, Linton, Pesek and Tomschin
Nays: none
Abstain: none
Absent: Members Gallegos, Jaramillo-Flores and Kraft
Motion carried.

15.2. Second and Final Reading of the PressPlus 122 Board Policy Updates:

Draft Updates:

2:230, 5:70, 5:240, 6:70, 6:80, 6:190, 7:130 and 8:70

Draft Update – New

2:120-E3

Draft Update – Rewritten

7:330

Review and Monitoring:

2:30, 3:40, 3:50, 3:60, 3:70, 4:120, 4:175, 5:40, 5:110, 5:140, 5:185, 7:30, 7:80, 7:345 and 8:100

Member Godinez motioned to approve the Second and Final Reading of PressPlus 122 Board Policy Updates. Member Tomschin seconded the motion.

Ayes: Members Davila-Blanco, Godinez, Kelly, Linton, Pesek and Tomschin
Nays: none
Abstain: none
Absent: Members Gallegos, Jaramillo-Flores and Kraft
Motion carried.

15.3. First and Final Reading of Board Policy 5:180

Member Godinez motioned to approve the First and Final Reading of Board Policy 5:180. Member Tomschin seconded the motion.

Ayes: Members Davila-Blanco, Godinez, Kelly, Linton, Pesek and Tomschin
Nays: none
Abstain: none
Absent: Members Gallegos, Jaramillo-Flores and Kraft
Motion carried.

15.4. First and Final Reading of Board Policy 7:340

Member Godinez motioned to approve the First and Final Reading of Board Policy 7:340. Member Tomschin seconded the motion.

Ayes: Members Davila-Blanco, Godinez, Kelly, Linton, Pesek and Tomschin
Nays: none
Abstain: none
Absent: Members Gallegos, Jaramillo-Flores and Kraft
Motion carried.

15.5. Approval of Construction Manager for Technology and Trade Center Pending Final Negotiations with the Superintendent

Member Godinez motioned to approve the Construction Manager for Technology and Trade Center Pending Final Negotiations with the Superintendent. Member Tomschin seconded the motion.

Ayes: Members Davila-Blanco, Godinez, Kelly, Linton, Pesek and Tomschin
Nays: none
Abstain: none
Absent: Members Gallegos, Jaramillo-Flores and Kraft
Motion carried.

16. OLD BUSINESS: None

17. AUDIENCE COMMENTS: None

18. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: None

19. DISCUSSION: None

20. CORRESPONDENCE:

21. INFORMATIONAL ITEM:

21.1. The next regular Board of Education Meeting will take place at the Morton Freshman Center on Wednesday, October 14, 2026, starting at 5:00 p.m. and going directly into Closed Session.

22. ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:15 p.m., Member Godinez moved to adjourn. Member Tomschin seconded.

Ayes: Members Davila-Blanco, Godinez, Kelly, Linton, Pesek and Tomschin
Nays: none
Abstain: none
Absent: Members Gallegos, Jaramillo-Flores and Kraft
Motion carried.

Jeffry Pesek, President

Date

Jessica Jaramillo-Flores, Secretary

Date