MINUTES
Meeting of the Board of Education
District 201, Cook County
Wednesday, October 14, 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 5:17 p.m. on Wednesday, October 14, 2026, in the Great Room at the Morton Freshman Center by Member Pesek.

2. ROLL CALL

Member Jaramillo-Flores called the roll and the following were present:
Members Fernando Godinez, Jessica Jaramillo-Flores Dr. Margaret Kelly, Mark Kraft, Jeffry Pesek and Sandra Tomschin

Absent: Member Maria A. Gallegos

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.

3. MOTION TO ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

Member Kraft moved to adjourn to Closed Session at 5:17 p.m. in the Great Room at the Morton Freshman Center. Member Tomschin seconded.

Ayes: Members Godinez, Jaramillo-Flores, Kelly, Kraft, Pesek and Tomschin
Nays: none
Abstain: none
Absent: Member Gallegos
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 RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

Member Kraft motioned to adjourn from Closed Session and reconvene to Open Session at 5:45 p.m. in the Great Room at the Morton Freshman Center. Member Godinez seconded.

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

6. ROLL CALL

Member Jaramillo-Flores called the roll and the following were present:
Members Sofia Davila-Blanco, Fernando Godinez, Jessica Jaramillo-Flores, Dr. Margaret Kelly, Mark Kraft Annabelle Linton, Jeffry Pesek, Sandra Tomschin

Absent: Member Maria A. Gallegos

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

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

8. RECOGNITIONS

8.1. Morton East AP Scholars

AP Scholars

Aaron R.	Aceves		Anthony J.	Jimenez
Luis F.	Aceves		Angie Y.	Lopez
Yaritza	Aguilar		Jannice	Lopez
Jimena	Alfaro		Perfecto	Lopez
Isabel	Alvarez		Samantha	Lubianos
Samuel	Amado		Leonardo	Lucena
Gabriel	Andablo		Emily S.	Macias-Perea
Rhysel K.	Anum		Jimena Y.	Martinez
Felix A.	Arellano		Melanie	Martinez
Reyna E.	Arreguin		Thamara	Maya
Isabel	Avila Solis		Zoe	Mclaughlin

Uriel A.	Avila
Marely	Avitia
Alexander A.	Ballesteros
Samantha	Barajas
Patrick A.	Barrera
Juan D.	Bravo
Cristel	Cabral
Valeria	Cabral
Kianabeth	Camacho-Cruz
Edwin	Camacho
Aurelio	Campos
Angel G.	Carrazco
Jerry	Cebrero
Joselyne	Celis
Monserrat	Chavez
Nayelli	Chavez
Angel G.	Contreras
Cesar	Cortez
Gabriel	Cuadro
Aiden	Duran
Nathan A.	Duran
Fabian J.	Enriquez
Antonio E.	Escareno
Jocelyn	Esparza
Isaiah	Espinal
Alexa M.	Estrada
Melissa J.	Farias
Michelle A.	Garcia Herrera
Nashley	Garcia
Alex	Gomez
Angel	Gonzalez
Citlalli E.	Gonzalez
Dulce M.	Gonzalez
Isaac D.	Gonzalez
Alexander	Govea
Nayeli	Gutierrez
Valeria	Haro
Marco S.	Hernandez
Diego	Herrera
Joceline	Medrano
Samantha	Mendoza
Allen G.	Mondragon
Isabella	Moratilla
Victoria	Morocho
Liliana G.	Navarrete
Raul	Nunez
Ethan G.	Ocampo
Ariana	Ochoa
Daniela	Orozco
Kaeden O.	Ortega
Anakaren	Ortiz
Nicolas D.	Ortiz
Xavier J.	Ovalle
Itzel Y.	Pena
Samuel	Pena
Evelyn	Pesantez
Guadalupe	Ponce Paredes
Victor A.	Ramirez
Annie	Rendon
Jessica H.	Reyes
Mareli M.	Reyes
Shaila E.	Richardson
Alicia	Rodriguez
David I.	Rodriguez
Dayana A.	Romero
Kevin	Romero
Saul E.	Rosas
Fernando A.	Salazar
Marisol	Salgado-Botello
Miguel	Sandoval
Aden	Santoyo
Isabel S.	Silva
Marlen G.	Solis
Camilla	Sotelo
Vanessa	Tellez
Yazlyne E.	Thimot
Mayeli	Torres
Mariangeli	Vazquez Dominguez

Emma M.	Herrera		Melinda	Vazquez
Danna P.	Huerta		Dorian	Vega
Emely	Hurtado		Jennifer	Vilches
Maria R.	Jesus		Valentin	Villanueva

AP Scholar with Honor

Emely	Aguilar		Joshua A.	Meza
Najaila	Alejandre		Alberto	Mondragon
Arianna	Alvarado		Gabriella	Munoz
Selena I.	Arellano		Luis	Munoz
Emily	Batrez		Megan	Murga
Jessica	Carreno		Maria L.	Rodriguez
Janet	Franco		Valery	Sandoval
Jaiden A.	Fuller		Crystal	Santos
Martin	Hernandez		Maggie	Soto Braulio
Eli	Lagunas		Brandon	Torres
Diego J.	Locia		Sebastian	Vega
Brandon J.	Macias		Angie	Velasquez
Antonio	Marquez		Antonio	Vicencio-Nava
Isis S.	Mendoza		Ariadna Y.	Villegas
Ignacio	Meraz			

AP Scholar with Distinction

Alvarez	Pedro A.		Gonzalez	Karla I.
Arteaga	Addy		Guzman	Diego
Cabrera	Victoria G.		Gaborit-Moran	Bryan
Castillo Perez	Juan		Munoz	Karla
Contreras Garcia	Nataly		Palma Alvarez	Montserrat
Diaz	Kevin A.		Pina	Rosi
Enriquez Torres	Aaron A.		Ramirez	Rosa M.
Flores Sanchez	Yuliana		SIerra	Ulises Y.
Galindo	Angel S.		Urgiles	Juan P.
Gallegos	Kendra Y.		Vallejo	Emily
Garcia	Yaretzi		Vallejo	Santiago
Gonzales Salas	Alexandro			

8.2. Morton East and FC AP Teachers
Morton East AP Teachers
Jordan Smith for AP Physics 1
Christine Tabares for AP Computer Science Principles
Maria Berezniak for AP Environmental Science

Freshman Center AP Teachers
Steve Rauch
Eileen McCormack

8.3. Principals
Jim Connelly – Morton Career and Technical Education
Jose Gamboa - Morton East Campus
Erin Kelly – Morton Alternative School
Eric Ramirez – Freshman Center
Dr. Jorge Sanchez – Morton West Campus

9. REPORTS

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

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

9.2.1. Annabelle Linton – Morton East

9.2.2. Sofia Davila-Blanco – Morton West

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

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

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

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

9.7. **Principal's Reports:**

9.7.1. James Connelly – CTE School

9.7.2. Jose Gamboa – East Campus

9.7.3. Dr. Erin Kelly – Alternative School

9.7.4. Eric Ramirez – Freshman Center

9.7.5. Dr. Jorge Sanchez – West Campus

10. AUDIENCE COMMENTS ON ACTION ITEMS ONLY: None

11. ACTION ITEMS - CONSENT AGENDA

Member Jaramillo-Flores motioned to approve the Consent Agenda. Member Godinez seconded the motion.

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

11.1. **Approval of Minutes:**

11.1.1. Closed Session
11.1.1.1. Regular Board Meeting: September 9, 2026

11.1.2. Open Session
11.1.2.1. Regular Board Meeting: September 9, 2026

11.2. **Approval of Payroll:**

11.2.1.	Education:	$6,210,048.89
11.2.2.	Building:	$817,540.93
11.2.3.	Transportation:	$824.08

11.3. **Approval of Bills for Payment:**

11.3.1.	September 14, 2026:	$23,737.98
11.3.2.	September 25, 2026:	$223,914.35
11.3.3.	October 15, 2026a:	$148,131.80
11.3.4.	October 15, 2026b:	$6,897,586.60

11.4. **Approval of Student Discipline**

11.4.1. 481159
After 10-days OOS, return to home campus.

11.4.2. 481913
After 10 days OOS, return to home campus. Pay $100 restitution.

11.4.3. 500891
Expelled with services, held in abeyance pending the enrollment and participation at the Morton Alternative School for the remainder of the 26-27 school year and the entire 27-28 school year.

11.4.4. 500464
After 10 days OOS, return to home campus.

11.4.5. 481894
Change of placement to an alternate educational setting for the remainder of the 26-27 school year.

11.4.6. 470793
Expelled without services for the remainder of the 26-27 school year and the entire 2027-28 school year.

11.4.7. 481911
Change of placement to an alternate educational setting for the remainder of the 26-27 school year.

11.5. **Approval of Personnel**

11.5.1. Personnel Report

CERTIFIED STAFF

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

Janine Yepez	Assistant Girls Volleyball Coach	

NON-CERTIFIED

Maintenance

Deiby Burgos Moreno	Custodian **Replacement for:** Francisco Cervantes **Effective:** 09/21/2026	West

Teaching Assistants

Rocio Velazquez Padilla	SPED Teaching Assistant **Replacement for:** Juanita Renteria (transfer) **Effective:** *pending background check*	West

Security

Jose Vasquez	12 Month Full Time Security (shift transfer) **Replacement for:** Mayra Estrada **Effective:** *09/04/2026*	East
Jessica Celis	10 Month Full Time Security **Replacement for:** Claudia Pulido **Effective:** *pending background check*	East
Jesus Garcia	10 Month Part Time Security **Replacement for:** Ashley Waitekus **Effective:** *pending background check*	West
Kristian Gallegos	10 Month Full Time Security **Replacement for:** Horacio Villegas **Effective:** *pending background check*	East
Miguel Martinez	10 Month Full Time Security **Replacement for:** Omar Serna **Effective:** *pending background check*	East

Food Service

Paola Leandro	Food Service Sub **Effective:** *pending background check*	District

Substitute Teachers

Olena Haidiuk	Daily Substitute Teacher **Effective:** 09/21/2026	District
Melissa Rosas	Daily Substitute Teacher **Effective:** *pending background check*	District

Non-Bargaining

Anthony Gaitan	Computer Technician **Replacement for:** Naven Valdez **Effective:** *09/21/2026*	West
Luisa Ramirez	School Nurse **Replacement for:** Juanita Renteria **Effective:** *10/13/2026*	FC
Elizbette Sanchez	School Nurse **Replacement for:** Bernadette Doherty **Effective:** *pending background check*	West
Samuel Pena	Finance Intern **Effective:** *10/16/2026*	District
Ivan Natale	Junior System Administrator **Replacement for:** Anthony Figueroa **Effective:** *pending background check*	District

SUSPENSIONS

Employee #8657	**Effective:** 10/21/2026,10/28/2026, 11/04/2026
Employee #8713	**Effective:** Retroactive to 9/10/2026
Employee #9915	**Effective:** 10/21/2026

RESIGNATIONS

Anthony Figueroa	Junior System Administrator Effective: 10/07/2026	District
Araceli Rodrigeuz Eufracio	Full Time Food Service **Effective:** 09/30/2026	East
Charles Verdico	Social Science Teacher **Effective:***10/09/2026*	West
Cole Guerrero	Wrestling Coach **Effective:***10/06/2026*	District
David Ramos	10 Month PT Security **Effective:***10/12/2026*	East
Dejalee Ortiz	10 Month PT Security **Effective:***10/08/2026*	FC

Javaire Brooks	10 Month FT Security **Effective:***10/08/2026*		FC

11.6. **Approval of Board Travel and/or Expense Reimbursement in Accordance with Board Policy 2:125**

11.6.1. Board Members
National School Safety and Security Summit
December 3-5, 2026
Funding Source: Title 1

11.6.2. Board Members
Skyward iCon Conference
February 24-26, 2027
Funding Source: Title 1

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

11.7.1. Colleen Del Monaco
Illinois EFE System Directors Leadership Council Meeting
November 3-4, 2026
Funding Source: CTE Department

11.7.2. Barb Meeters, Dan Loftus, Christina Cartwright, Jennifer Pufpaf and Sarah Fromius Hough
2026 CASE Conference
November 11-13, 2026
Funding Source: SPED - IDEA Part B Grant

11.7.3. Nydia Valle-Cabrera
La Cosecha National Dual Language Conference
November 12-13, 2026
Funding Source: Improve Instructional Services Account

11.7.4. Eight Staff Members
National School Safety and Security Summit
December 3-5, 2026
Funding Source: Title 1

11.7.5. Eight Staff Members
Skyward iCon Conference
February 24-26, 2027
Funding Source: Title 1

11.8. **Approval of Student Travel:**

14.6.1. Dalton Elkins, Brenda Lopez, 14 Chaperones and 84 Students
East Snowball Retreat
April 9-11, 2027
East Troy, Wisconsin
Funding Source: Snowball Account

11.9. **Approval of Facility Requests:**

11.9.1. Lincoln Middle School

11.9.2. Clyde Park District

11.9.3. City of Berwyn

12. ACTIONS ITEM(S):

12.1. **Approval of Separation Agreement for Employee #9573**

Member Kraft motioned the Approval the Separation Agreement for Employee #9573. Member Tomschin seconded the motion.

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

12.2. **Approval of English 4 Course Proposal**

Member Kraft motioned the Approval of English 4 Course Proposal. Member Tomschin seconded the motion.

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

12.3. **Approval of 2026 Tentative Levy**

Member Jaramillo Flores motioned the Approval of 2026 Tentative Levy. Member Godinez seconded the motion.

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

12.4. **Approval of First and Final Reading of Board of Education Policy #7:190 Student Behavior**

Member Jaramillo-Flores motioned the Approval of First and Final Reading of Board of Education Policy #7:190. Member Godinez seconded the motion.

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

13. OLD BUSINESS: None

14. AUDIENCE COMMENTS: None

15. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: None

16. DISCUSSION:

16.1. Annual Review of E-Learning Plan
Superintendent Kuzniewski brought to the attention of the Board: The District's E-Learning Plan was approved by the Board last year and remains in effect through its three-year approval period. Should the Board wish to discuss or revisit the plan, administration would be pleased to facilitate that review. If the Board is satisfied with the current model, the District will continue implementation, as approved.

16.2. Joint Annual Conference Delegate and Voting Instructions
Superintendent Kuzniewski recommends having the J. Sterling Morton High School District 201 delegate to vote on behalf of the Board of Education at the IASB Joint Annual Conference in support of the recommended resolutions as presented by the IASB Resolutions Committee, as they are deemed to be in the best interests of the District.

17. CORRESPONDENCE: None

18. INFORMATIONAL ITEM:

18.1. The next regular Board of Education Meeting will take place at the Morton West High School on Wednesday, November 11, 2026, starting at 5:00 p.m. and going directly into Closed Session.

19. ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:23 p.m., Member Kraft moved to adjourn. Member Godinez seconded.

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

_____ _____
Jeffry Pesek, President Date

Jessica Jaramillo-Flores, Secretary Date