

MINUTES
Meeting of the Board of Education
District 201, Cook County
Wednesday, February 12, 2025

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Board of Education of J. Sterling Morton High School, District 201 was called to order at 5:12 p.m. on Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at the Morton District Office Garden Terrace by Member Pesek.

2. ROLL CALL

Member Jaramillo-Flores called the roll and the following were present:

Members Maria A. Gallegos, Fernando Godinez, Jessica Jaramillo-Flores, Mark Kraft, Jeffry Pesek and Sandra Tomschin

Absent: Member Dr. Margaret Kelly

Also present: Superintendent Dr. Tim Truesdale; Executive Director of Human Resources, Randy Borgardt; Assistant Superintendent of Educational Programs, Dr. Josh McMahon; Chief Financial Officer, Christopher Blomquist; Attorney, Claudia Castro and Board Clerk, Connie Chapman

3. MOTION TO ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

Member Kraft moved to adjourn to Closed Session at 5:12 p.m. Member Godinez seconded.

Ayes: Members Gallegos, Godinez, Jaramillo-Flores, Kraft, Pesek and Tomschin

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Member Kelly

4. CLOSED SESSION AGENDA

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

4.2. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer 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. 5ILCS 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. 5 ILCS 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. 5 ILCS 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)

4.7. Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21)

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 6:00 p.m. in the Garden Terrace room at the Morton District Office. Member Godinez seconded.

Ayes: Members Bustamante, Gallegos, Godinez, Jaramillo-Flores, Kraft, Pesek, Tomschin and Valladares-Stevenson

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Member Kelly

6. ROLL CALL

Member Jaramillo-Flores led the roll and the following were present:

Members Zoe Bustamante, Maria A. Gallegos, Fernando Godinez, Jessica Jaramillo-Flores, Mark Kraft, Jeffry Pesek, Sandra Tomschin and Abbie Valladares-Stevenson

Absent: Member Dr. Margaret Kelly

Also present: Superintendent Dr. Tim Truesdale; Executive Director of Human Resources, Randy Borgardt; Assistant Superintendent of Educational Programs, Dr. Josh McMahon; Chief Financial Officer, Christopher Blomquist; Attorney, Claudia Castro and Board Clerk, Connie Chapman

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

8. RECOGNITIONS

8.1. Boys' Bowling – moved to March

9. REPORTS

9.1. Superintendent's Committee Reports: no reports

9.2. Student Board Member's Reports:

9.2.1. Zoe Bustamante - Morton East

9.2.2. Abbie Valladares-Stevenson - Morton West

9.3. Superintendent's Report: Dr. Timothy Truesdale

9.4. Associate Superintendent of Educational Program's Report: Dr. Joshua McMahon

9.5. Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer's Report: Christopher Blomquist

9.6. Executive Director of Human Resources Report: Randy Borgardt

10. AUDIENCE COMMENTS ON ACTION ITEMS ONLY – No Comments

11. ACTION ITEMS - CONSENT AGENDA

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

Ayes: Members Bustamante, Gallegos, Godinez, Jaramillo-Flores, Kraft, Pesek and Valladares-Stevenson and Tomschin

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Member Kelly

11.1. Approval of Minutes

11.1.1. Closed Session

11.1.1.1. Regular Meeting: January 8, 2025

11.1.2. Open Session

11.1.2.1. Regular Meeting: January 8, 2025

11.2. Approval of Payroll

11.2.1. Education: \$7,319,674.40

11.2.2. Building: \$837,231.66

11.2.3. Transportation: \$400.50

11.3. Approval of Bills for Payment

11.3.1. February 13, 2025a: \$158,168.48

11.3.2. February 13, 2025b: \$5,814,781.16

11.4. Approval of Student Discipline

11.4.1. Expulsion(s)

11.4.1.1. 470130

Expulsion held in abeyance pending the successful enrollment and participation at the Morton Alternative School for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year, the entire 2025-2026 school year and the 1st semester of the 2026-2027 school year.

11.4.1.2. 470982

Expulsion held in abeyance pending the successful enrollment and participation at the Morton Alternative School for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year and the entire 2025-2026 school year.

11.4.1.3. 462266

Expulsion held in abeyance pending the successful enrollment and participation at the Morton Alternative School for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year and the entire 2025-2026 school year.

11.4.1.4. 473155

Expulsion held in abeyance pending the successful enrollment and participation at the Morton Alternative School for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year and the first semester of the 2025-2026 school year.

11.4.1.5. 470359

Expulsion held in abeyance pending the successful enrollment and participation at the Morton Alternative School for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year, the entire 2025-2026 school year and the 1st semester of the 2026-2027 school year.

11.4.1.6. 463221

Expulsion held in abeyance pending the successful enrollment and participation at the Morton Alternative School for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year and the entire 2025-2026 school year.

11.4.1.7. 470961

Expulsion held in abeyance pending the successful enrollment and participation at the Morton Alternative School for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year and the first semester of the 2025-2026 school year.

11.4.1.8. 470843

Expulsion held in abeyance pending the successful enrollment and participation at the Morton Alternative School for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year and the first semester of the 2025-2026 school year.

11.4.1.9. 480173

Expulsion held in abeyance pending the successful enrollment and participation at the Morton Alternative School for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year.

11.4.1.10. 480263

Expulsion held in abeyance pending the successful enrollment and participation at the Morton Alternative School for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year and the entire 2025-2026 school year.

11.4.1.11. 453058

Expulsion held in abeyance pending the successful enrollment and participation at the Morton Alternative School for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year.

11.4.1.12. 481213

Expulsion held in abeyance pending the successful enrollment and participation at the Morton Alternative School for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year and the first semester of the 2025-2026 school year.

11.5. Personnel Report

CERTIFIED STAFF

Phillip Chiappetta	Fire Science Teacher (0.8 FTE) New Position Approved January 2025 Effective: 01/22/2025	West
Christina Kale	Special Education Teacher Replacement for: William Delmonico Effective: Start of the 2025-2026 School Year	West
Liam McCool	Special Education Teacher Replacement for: Ryan DePaola (transfer) Effective: Start of the 2025-2026 School Year	East
Stephany Padilla	Special Education Teacher Replacement for: Margaret Marti Effective: Start of the 2025-2026 School Year	West

Coaching/Clubs/Activities for 2024-2025 School Year

Andres Cervantes	Musical Vocal Director	East
William Delmonico	Play Production Assistant	West
Rachel Disco	Musical Costume Designer	East
Kenna Farrell	Musical Production Assistant	East
Zuzel Garcia	Musical Lighting Designer	East
Liza Garrido Schwartz	Assistant Boys Volleyball Coach	
Tyler Lubinus	Musical Director	East
Tyler Lubinus	Musical Technical Director	East
Michael Mayer	Musical Piano Accompanist	East
Jennifer McWhinnie	Play Costume Designer	West
Tom Miller	Musical Sound Designer	East
Tom Miller	Paly Sound Designer	West
Antonella Palazzolo	Mentoring Coordinator	West
Abby Steinhaus	Play Director	West
Abby Steinhaus	Play Technical Director	West
Brian Toms	Musical Conductor	East
Cassandra Voorhees	Musical Choreographer	East

Substitute Teachers

Angelise Loreda	Substitute Teacher	
Jovanny Torres	Permanent Substitute Teacher	East

NON-CERTIFIED

Non-Bargaining

Evangelos Bisbikis	TSI Technician Replacement for: Carlos Navarro Jr. Effective: 02/13/2025	FC
Isaiah Carrera	TSI Technician Replacement for: Bryan Lopez Effective: 02/13/2025	East
Laurie Gragnani	Security Supervisor (transfer from Assistant Security Supervisor at East) Replacement for: Steven Edwards Effective: 02/18/2025	FC
Herbert Reyes	Senior Network Analyst Replacement for: Gabriel Acosta Effective: 02/24/2025	District
Teacher Aides Evonne Carter	Teacher Aide Replacement for: Agency TA Effective: 02/06/2025	West
Food Service Saul Portillo	Full Time Food Service – Dishwasher (transfer from Part Time Food Service at FC) Replacement for: Ronald Averyhart Effective: 02/03/2025	West
Security Demetrius Hill	10 Month Part Time Security Replacement for: Harry Picl Effective: <i>pending background check</i>	West
Kiara Olivares	10 Month Full Time Security Replacement for: Crystal Ortiz Effective: <i>pending background check</i>	West
Nancy Pinedo	10 Month Full Time Security Replacement for: Yanheli Patino Effective: <i>pending background check</i>	East
Anthony Ricedorf	10 Month Full Time Security Replacement for: Theodore Meza (transfer) Effective: <i>pending background check</i>	West

Armando Rivera	10 Month Full Time Security Replacement for: Alexis Becerra Effective: <i>pending background check</i>	West
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Joseph Robinson	10 Month Full Time Security Replacement for: Andrea Juarez Effective: <i>pending background check and references</i>	West
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Carlos Talamantes	10 Month Full Time Security Replacement for: Luis Rodriguez (transfer) Effective: <i>03/04/2025</i>	West
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Ricardo Torres	10 Month Full Time Security Replacement for: Joel Gallardo Effective: <i>02/04/2025</i>	East
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SUMMER EMPLOYMENT

Summer School

Sandra Crockett	Summer School Dean	East
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Summer Bridge

Sean Arana	Summer Bridge Dean	West
Benjamin Dobes	Summer Bridge Dean	FC
Nereida Rodriguez	Summer Bridge Counselor	FC
Miranda Salinas	Summer Bridge Clerical	FC
Lissette Torres	Summer Bridge Clerical	FC
Gabriel Villanueva	Summer Bridge Counselor	FC

LEAVES

Elizabeth Mendoza	Maternity Leave Effective: <i>05/19/2025 – 12/19/2025</i>	East
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Sylvia O'Malley	Leave of Absence Effective: <i>2025-2026 School Year</i>	East
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RETIREMENTS

Eliada Dermos	Food Service – Head Cook Effective: <i>End of the 2024-2025 School Year</i>	East
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RELEASES

Employee #9836	Probationary Release Effective: <i>01/23/2025</i>
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Employee #9880 Probationary Release
Effective: 01/28/2025

RESIGNATIONS

Lilia Fletcher Records Clerk West
Effective: 02/10/2025

William Hice Special Education Coordinator FC
Effective: *End of the 2024-2025 School Year*

Sixto Fernandez 10 Month Full Time Security FC
Effective: 02/05/2025

Bryan Lopez TSI Technician East
Effective: 02/07/2025

Loukia Mastrodimos Career and Work Based Learning Coordinator East
Effective: *End of the 2024-2025 School Year*

James Monaco Assistant Principal FC
Effective: 06/30/2025

Stephanie Perez Medical Secretary FC
Effective: 01/31/2025

Harry Picl 10 Month Part Time Security West
Effective: 12/20/2024

Kayla Schultheis Special Olympics Track Coach (Only)
Effective: 02/04/2025

REQUESTS FOR POSITIONS

IT – System Administrator 12 Month Non-Bargaining District
New Position
Effective: 3/1/2025

11.6. Approval of Board Travel and/or Expense Reimbursement in Accordance with Board Policy 2:125 - none

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

11.7.1. Colleen Del Monaco

Illinois Education and Career Success Network Annual Conference: Building the Future We Want
February 24-25, 2025

Funding Source: CTE Department Funded

- 11.7.2. Elizabeth Comeau, Sophia Smith, Megan Delaney and Carol Medrano
IRC Conference
March 12-14, 2025
Funding Source: Title I Funded
- 11.7.3. Andrew Boland
SMTD Wind Conducting Workshop
June 16-20, 2025
Funding Source: Title Funded
- 11.8. Approval of Student Travel
 - 11.8.1. Caroline Toledo, Ella Reckamp and 21 Students
Illinois Drill Team Association State Competition
February 14-15, 2025
Springfield, Illinois
Funding Source: Morton Athletics
 - 11.8.2. Julie Calcagno, Nick Nelli, Danita Guerrero, Bob Organ and 9 Students
Special Olympics State Basketball Tournament
March 6-8, 2025
Bloomington/Normal, Illinois
Funding Source: Morton Athletics
 - 11.8.3. Alyssa Anselmini, Moises Bernal and 13 Students
Civic Leaders of America Field Trip
Springfield, Illinois
March 8-9, 2025
Funding Source: Student Funded
 - 11.8.4. Dalton Elkins, Brenda Lopez, 10 Chaperones and 84 Students
Snowball Weekend Retreat
March 14-16, 2025
East Troy, Wisconsin
Funding Source: Student Funded
- 11.9. Approval of Facility Requests
 - 11.9.1. Lifeline Church
- 11.10. Approval of Contracts (Pending Final Legal Review and Negotiation [if necessary])
 - 11.10.1. Morton East Snowball Club Blood Drive Fundraiser
 - 11.10.2. Morton West Bundt Cake Fund the Future Fundraiser
 - 11.10.3. Morton West Junior Class Do-Rite Donut Fundraiser
 - 11.10.4. Morton West Aviation Club Finest Chocolates Fundraiser
 - 11.10.5. Approval for Superintendent to Enter into a Performance Agreement or Cooperative Purchasing Contract for HVAC Repair/Replacement at Morton West School Pending Final Pricing

- 11.11. Approval to Bid or Quote
11.11.1. Storm Water Detention – Morton East

11.12. Approval of Bid Results - None

11.13. Approval to Accept Donations/Grants – None

11.14. Approval to Dispose of District Property – None

12. ACTION ITEM(S)

12.1. Approval of 2025-2026 School Calendar

Member Krafty motioned to approve the 2025-2026 School Calendar. Member Godinez seconded the motion.

Ayes: Members Bustamante, Gallegos, Godinez, Jaramillo-Flores, Kraft, Pesek and Valladares-Stevenson and Tomschin

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Member Kelly

12.2. First and Final Reading of PRESSPlus #116 Board of Education Policy Updates: 2:260, 5:100, 7:20, 7:185 and 2:265 - TABLED

Member Krafty motioned to Table First and Final Reading of PRESSPlus #116 Board of Education Policy Updates: 2:260, 5:100, 7:20, 7:185 and 2:265. Member Godinez seconded the motion.

Ayes: Members Bustamante, Gallegos, Godinez, Jaramillo-Flores, Kraft, Pesek and Valladares-Stevenson and Tomschin

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Member Kelly

12.3. First and Final Reading of PRESSPlus #117 Board of Education Policy Updates: 2:105, 2:110, 2:120, 2:140, 4:10, 4:30, 4:40, 4:60, 4:150, 4:160, 4:170, 4:190, 5:10, 5:20, 5:30, 5:35, 5:90, 5:120, 5:125, 5:150, 5:230, 6:20, 6:60, 6:65, 6:135, 6:270, 6:340, 7:10, 7:100, 7:160, 7:165, 7:180, 7:200, and 8:10 - TABLED

Member Kraft motioned to Table First and Final Reading of PRESSPlus #117 Board of Education Policy Updates: 2:105, 2:110, 2:120, 2:140, 4:10, 4:30, 4:40, 4:60, 4:150, 4:160, 4:170, 4:190, 5:10, 5:20, 5:30, 5:35, 5:90, 5:120, 5:125, 5:150, 5:230, 6:20, 6:60, 6:65, 6:135, 6:270, 6:340, 7:10, 7:100, 7:160, 7:165, 7:180, 7:200, and 8:10. Member Godinez seconded the motion.

Ayes: Members Bustamante, Gallegos, Godinez, Jaramillo-Flores, Kraft, Pesek, Valladares-Stevenson and Tomschin

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Member Kelly

12.4. Approval to Initiate Legal Action Regarding the Purchase and Sale Agreement and Related Matters for 5817 West Cermak Road, Cicero, IL

Member Jaramillo-Flores motioned to Initiate Legal Action Regarding the Purchase and Sale Agreement and Related Matters for 5817 West Cermak Road, Cicero, IL. Member Kraft seconded the motion.

Ayes: Members Bustamante, Gallegos, Godinez, Jaramillo-Flores, Kraft, Pesek, Valladares-Stevenson and Tomschin
Nays: none
Abstain: none
Absent: Member Kelly

13. OLD BUSINESS - None

14. AUDIENCE COMMENTS - None

15. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS - None

16. DISCUSSION - None

17. CORRESPONDENCE - None

18. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

18.1. The next regular Board of Education Meeting will take place at Morton District Office on Wednesday, March 12, 2025, starting at 5:00 p.m. and going directly into Closed Session.

19. ADJOURNMENT

At 6:15 p.m. Member Jaramillo-Flores moved to adjourn. Member Kraft seconded the motion.

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

Jeffry Pesek, President

Date

Jessica Jaramillo-Flores, Secretary

Date