

MINUTES
Meeting of the Board of Education
District 201, Cook County
Wednesday, August 13, 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 5:13 p.m. on Wednesday, August 13, 2025, in the Garden Terrace Room at the Morton District Office 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, Board Clerk Connie Chapman and Assistant Board Clerk Sally Walsh.

3. MOTION TO ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

Member Jaramillo-Flores moved to adjourn to Closed Session at 5:13 p.m. in the Board Room at the Morton District Office. Member Godinez seconded.

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Members 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 6:02 p.m. in the Garden Terrace room at the Morton District Office. Member Godinez seconded.

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Members Gallegos

Motion carried.

6. ROLL CALL

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

Members Fernando Godinez, Jessica Jaramillo-Flores, Dr. Margaret Kelly, Mark Kraft, Megan Murga, Jeffry Pesek, Sandra Tomschin and Adrian Villarreal

Absent: Member Maria A. Gallegos

Also, present Superintendent Dr. Michael Kuzniewski, Attorney Claudia Castro, Board Clerk Connie Chapman and Assistant Board Clerk Sally Walsh

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

8. RECOGNITIONS:

8.1. Nadia Perez – National FCCLA Culinary Arts Finalist

Congratulations to Nadia for placing 2nd at the National FCCLA Culinary Arts competition.

9. REPORTS

9.1. Superintendent's Committee Reports: No report.

9.2. Student Board Member's Reports:

9.2.1. Megan Murga – Morton East

9.2.2. Adrian Villarreal – Morton West

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

9.4. Assistant Superintendent for Compliance: Mayra Arroyo reported

9.5. Assistant Superintendent of Educational Program's Report: No report.

9.6. Business Manager: Nick Valderas reported.

9.7. Executive Director of Human Resources Report: Randy Borgardt reported

9.8. Principals' Reports

9.8.1. Dr. Erin Kelly – Alternative School

9.8.2. Jose Gamboa – East Campus

9.8.3. Eric Ramirez – Freshman Center

9.8.4. Kristy Cavanaugh – 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 Kraft seconded the motion.

Ayes: Members Godinez, Jaramillo-Flores, Kelly, Kraft, Murga, Pesek, Tomschin and Villarreal

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Member Gallegos

Motion carried.

11.1. Approval of Minutes:

11.1.1. Closed Session

11.1.1.1. Regular Board Meeting: July 9, 2025

11.1.2. Open Session

11.1.2.1. Regular Board Meeting: July 9, 2025

11.1.2.2. Special Board Meeting: August 6, 2025

11.2. Approval of Payroll:

11.2.1. Education: \$1,375,739.62

11.2.2. Building: \$763,024.41

11.2.3. Transportation: \$0.00

11.3. Approval of Bills for Payment:

11.3.1. August 14, 2025a: \$4,586,875.96

11.3.2. August 14, 2025b: \$290,658.61

11.4. Approval of Student Discipline:

11.4.1. **Expulsion(s):**

11.4.1.1. 470573

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

- 11.5. **Approval of Board of Education Travel and/or Expense Reimbursement in Accordance with Board Policy 2:125:** None
- 11.6. **Approval of Staff Travel and/or Expense Reimbursement in Accordance with Board Policy 5:60:**
 - 11.6.1. Nick Valderas and Sally Walsh
Joint Annual Conference
November 20-23, 2025
Funding Source: Superintendent and Business Office Funded
- 11.7. **Approval of Student Travel:**
 - 11.7.1. Brenda Lopez, Dalton Elkins and 14 Student Leaders
Snowball Retreat - Morton East
East Troy, Wisconsin
November 22-23, 2025
Funding Source: Snowball Club Account
- 11.8. **Approval of Facility Requests:**
 - 11.8.1. Morton West Alumni Class of 1975
 - 11.8.2. Berwyn Fire Department
 - 11.8.3. Mustangs Youth Football – Pee Wee Football Games
 - 11.8.4. Clyde Park District
- 11.9. **Approval of Contracts (Pending Final Legal Review and Negotiation [if necessary]):**
 - 11.9.1. Morton West Band Fundraiser
 - 11.9.2. Morton West D.J. for Homecoming Dance
 - 11.9.3. ChalkTalk
- 11.10. **Approval to Bid or Quote:** None
- 11.11. **Approval of Bid Results:** None
- 11.12. **Approval to Accept Donations/Grants:** None
- 11.13. **Approval to Dispose of District Property:** None
- 11.14. **Approval of District Treasurer**
- 11.15. **Approval of Treasurer’s Bond Renewal**
- 11.16. **Approval of Resolution Appointing an IMRF Authorized Agent**
- 12. **ACTIONS ITEM(S):**
 - 12.1. **Approval of Personnel**
 - 12.1.1. Personnel Report

Member Pesek motioned to approve the Personnel Report. Member Jaramillo-Flores seconded the motion.

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

ADMINISTRATION

Megan Delaney	Director of English Language Arts & Media Services (transfer from Career and Work Based Learning Coordinator at East) Replacement for: Mark Sujak (transfer) Effective: 07/17/2025	District
Nicholas Valderas	Business Manager (transfer from Strategic Projects Specialist) Replacement for: Christopher Blomquist Effective: 07/01/2025	District

CERTIFIED STAFF

Edan Armas	English Teacher Replacement for: Lindsay Blackburn (transfer) Effective: <i>Start of the 2025-2026 School Year</i>	West
Hans Cruz	TSI Teacher (transfer from FC) Replacement for: Keith Beisman (transfer) Effective: <i>Start of the 2025-2026 School Year</i>	East
Lamar Linnear	TSI Teacher Replacement for: Hans Cruz (transfer) Effective: <i>Start of the 2025-2026 School Year</i>	FC
Christian Lopez	Automotive Teacher Replacement for: Mark Yunker (transfer) Effective: <i>pending background check</i>	East

Lead Teachers for the 2025-2026 School Year

Brett Rush	Lead English Teacher	West
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Coaching/Clubs/Activities for the 2025-2026 School Year

Olga Alcantar	Horticulture Club	East
Stefanie Ammerman	Adventure Club	East
Alyssa Anselmini	Civic Leaders of America (CLA)	East
Ian Armstrong	Robotics Club	East
Alleana Austin	Folkloric Dance Group	East
Edwin Bagley	Weightlifting Club	East

Maria Berezniak	Shark Club	East
Moises Bernal	Civic Leaders of America (CLA)	East
Brian Blankenship	Weightlifting Club	East
Jake Brown	Film Appreciation	East
Jake Brown	MEGASA	East
Anthony Camacho	Improv Society for Geniuses	East
Elizabeth Casillas	Black Student Union (BSU)	East
Yves Chambaz	Culinary Club	East
Angelica Chavez	Class of 2028	East
Milena Durek	Foreign Language Club	East
Dalton Elkins	E-Sports	East
Dalton Elkins	Snowball	East
Giselle Espinosa Carrera	JV Dance Coach	
Hannah Flores Rivera	Class of 2026	East
Matthew Horvath	Mathletes	East
Christina Kale	Assistant Flag Football Coach	
Barbara Kane	Mathletes	East
John Lindenberg	Chess Club	East
Blake Lindholm	Esports	East
Alyssa Loizon	National Honor Society (NHS)	East
Brenda Lopez	Snowball	East
Paul Martinez	Auto Club	East
Paul Martinez	Fire Club	East
Alana Mitrovich	FCCLA	East
Alana Mitrovich	Morton Child Care Club	East
Janet Montalvo	Folkloric Dance Group	East
Vanessa Montalvo	Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica (Shh)	East
Nathaniel Moore	Otaku Club	East
Esmeralda Ortiz	Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica (Shh)	East
Jacob Paterkiewicz	Chess Club	East
Michelle Perryman	National Honor Society (NHS)	East
Jenell Radojevich	Student Council	East
Eric Rauch	Jazz Band	East
Nereida Rodriguez	K Star Dance Club	East
Luis Romo	Assistant Boys Soccer Coach	
Veronica Rundell	Morton Teaches Club	East
Matthew Russo	Bible Club	East
Sheila Salgado	Class of 2026	East
Maria Salgado	Cultural Diversity Club	East
Sheila Salgado	Senior Awards Coordinator	East
Angelica Samata	Events Coordinator	East
Angelica Samata	Homecoming Coordinator	East
Angelica Samata	SAALT	East
Dayanna Sanchez	Assistant Girls Cross Country Coach	
Jared Shadle	Assistant Freshman Football Coach	
Jane Smith	Art Club	East

Jane Smith	PBIS/Care	East
Victoria Therriault	Book Club	East
Doris Tobin	Class of 2028	East
Doris Tobin	TAG/Service Club	East
Iomil Villanueva	Bilingual Club	East
Gabriel Villanueva	K Star Dance Club	East
Kevin Volk	Mathletes	East
James Walski	Video Club	East

Substitute Teachers

Jessica Kirshenbuam	Permanent Substitute Teacher (transfer from 10 Month Full Time Security at East)	West
Leonardo Leoni	Permanent Substitute Teacher (transfer from Teaching Assistant at East)	East
Daniel Sawyer	Permanent Substitute Teacher	West

NON-CERTIFIED Interns

Jasmine Gonzalez Sandoval	School Psychologist Intern	East
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Replacement for: Lizeth Torres Lima
Effective: *Start of the 2025-2026 School Year*

Non-Bargaining

Rubeena Rasheed	Student Information System & Educational Software Administrator Replacement for: Kevin Burke Effective: 08/18/2025	District
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Claire Thiese	College & Career Center Liaison Replacement for: Giovannie Ortiz Effective: <i>pending background check</i>	West
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Nurses

Julianne Kostolansky	School Nurse Replacement for: Dana Kraft Lopez (transfer) Effective: <i>Start of the 2025-2026 School Year</i>	MTC
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Dana Kraft Lopez	School Nurse (transfer from MTC) Replacement for: Yesenia Earp Effective: <i>Start of the 2025-2026 School Year</i>	FC
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Clerical

Erendy Neito	Clerical Substitute	
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Food Service

Anarceli Carbajal	Part Time Server	West
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	Replacement for: Angelica Meza Gonzalez (transfer) Effective: <i>pending background check</i>	
Zheida Castillo	Food Service Substitute Effective: <i>pending background check</i>	West
Ma. Graciela Gonzalez Lara	Part Time Server Replacement for: Ana Cervantes Effective: 08/11/2025	West
Kasey Jimenez	Full Time Cashier (transfer from Part Time) Replacement for: Sandra Estrada (transfer) Effective: 08/11/2025	West
Paola Leandro	Part Time Server Replacement for: Silvia Velasquez (transfer) Effective: 08/11/2025	West
Angelica Meza Gonzalez	Part Time Dishwasher (transfer from Part Time) Replacement for: Laura Contreras (transfer) Effective: 08/11/2025	West
Abigail Montero	Part Time Server Replacement for: Rosa Pina (transfer) Effective: 08/11/2025	East
Juana Montero	Freshman Academy Cook (transfer from Second Cook at West) Replacement for: Yolanda Ramirez (transfer) Effective: 08/11/2025	West
Kevin Quintana	Second Cook Replacement for: Juana Montero (transfer) Effective: 08/11/2025	West
Julio Villasenor	Part Time Server (transfer from Food Service Substitute) Replacement for: Maria Ramirez Zarate Effective: 08/11/2025	East
Security		
Arturo Estrada	10 Month Full Time Security Replacement for: Dominique Ferguson Effective: <i>pending background check</i>	FC

Melanie Solis	10 Month Full Time Security Replacement for: Ariana Villasenor Guzman (transfer) Effective: <i>pending background check</i>	East
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Martin Suarez	10 Month Full Time Security Replacement for: Ricardo Torres Effective: <i>08/08/2025</i>	East
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Samuel Trabanino	12 Month Full Time Security (transfer from 10 Month Full Time Security) Replacement for: Danny Sandoval Effective: <i>08/14/2025</i>	East
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Jewel Turner	10 Month Full Time Security Replacement for: Alexa Vazquez Effective: <i>pending background check</i>	East
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Maintenance

Nello Pacilio	Substitute Custodian	
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Teaching Assistants

George Bobis	Teaching Assistant Replacement for: Agency TA Effective: <i>Start of the 2025-2026 School Year</i>	West
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Giselle Castaneda	Teaching Assistant Replacement for: Agency TA Effective: <i>pending background check</i>	West
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Dustin Davis San Juan	Teaching Assistant Replacement for: Agency TA Effective: <i>pending background check</i>	FC
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Denise Hernandez	Teaching Assistant Replacement for: Khalil Basso Effective: <i>pending background check</i>	FC
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Hector Hernandez Aguilar	Teaching Assistant Replacement for: Katherine Dattner Effective: <i>Start of the 2025-2026 School Year</i>	FC
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Liliana Magana	Teaching Assistant Replacement for: Agency TA Effective: <i>pending background check</i>	West
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Jaqueline Martinez	Teaching Assistant Replacement for: Agency TA	West
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Effective: *Start of the 2025-2026 School Year*

Augustine Melecio	Teaching Assistant Replacement for: Elena Rivera Effective: <i>pending background check</i>	FC
Svetlana Tolento	Science Lab Teaching Assistant Replacement for: Haley Reid (transfer) Effective: <i>Start of the 2025-2026 School Year</i>	East
Haley Reid	Part Time Science Lab Teaching Assistant Transfer to 0.6 Part Time Effective: <i>Start of the 2025-2026 School Year</i>	FC
Aracely Saldivar	Teaching Assistant (transfer from Food Service) Replacement for: Agency TA Effective: <i>Start of the 2025-2026 School Year</i>	West
Silvia Velasquez	Teaching Assistant (transfer from Food Service) Replacement for: Marjorie Hyland Effective: <i>Start of the 2025-2026 School Year</i>	West

Police Officers

Gerardo Lara	Police Officer	FC
Hopeton Rowe	Police Officer	Alt

LEAVES

Debra Sova	Leave of Absence Effective: <i>09/29/2025 – 10/10/2025</i>	East
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RESIGNATIONS

Khalil Basso	Teaching Assistant Effective: <i>05/23/2025</i>	FC
Dominique Ferguson	10 Month Full Time Security Effective: <i>05/28/2025</i>	FC
Anais Gomez	Teaching Assistant Effective: <i>05/22/2025</i>	West
Patrick Morris	Special Education Teacher Effective: <i>07/23/2025</i>	FC
Armando Rivera	10 Month Full Time Security Effective: <i>05/23/2025</i>	West

Danny Sandoval	12 Month Full Time Security Effective: 08/03/2025	East
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**INFORMATIONAL
ONLY**

Maria Acosta	Full Time Food Service Offer Declined	East
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Othella Davis	10 Month Full Time Security Offer Declined	West
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Eliseo Gonzalez	10 Month Full Time Security Offer Declined	East
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**REQUESTS FOR
NEW POSITIONS**

12 Month Non-Bargaining	Truancy Officer New Position Effective: 09/15/2025	District
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**12.2. First and Final Approval of PRESSPlus Issue #118 Policy Updates:
Updates: 4:15, 4:80, 5:10, 5:20, 5:60, 5:100, 6:150, 6:235, 7:10, 7:20, 7:50,
7:60, 7:70, 7:180, 7:185, 7:190, 7:200, 7:210, 7:250, 7:270, 7:315 & 7:340
New: 7:255
Rewritten: 2:265**

Member Kraft motioned to Approve First and Final Approval of PRESSPlus Issue #118 Policy Updates:

Updates: 4:15, 4:80, 5:10, 5:20, 5:60, 5:100, 6:150, 6:235, 7:10, 7:20, 7:50, 7:60, 7:70, 7:180, 7:185, 7:190, 7:200, 7:210, 7:250, 7:270, 7:315 & 7:340

New: 7:255

Rewritten: 2:265. Member Tomschin seconded the motion.

Ayes: Members Godinez, Jaramillo-Flores, Kelly, Kraft, Murga, Pesek, Tomschin and Villarreal

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Member Gallegos

Motion carried.

12.3. Approval of Non-Bargaining Salaries for 2025-2026 School Year

Member Kraft motioned to Approve Non-Bargaining Salaries for the 2025-2026 School Year. Member Jaramillo-Flores seconded the motion.

Ayes: Members Jaramillo-Flores, Kelly, Kraft, Murga, Pesek and Villarreal

Nays: none

Abstain: Members Godinez and Tomschin

Absent: Member Gallegos

Motion carried.

12.4. Approval of 2025-2030 Teacher Aides Union Bargaining Agreement

Member Jaramillo-Flores motioned to Approve the 2025-2030 Teacher Aides Union Bargaining Agreement. Member Godinez seconded the motion.

Ayes: Members Godinez, Jaramillo-Flores, Kelly, Kraft, Murga, Pesek, Tomschin and Villarreal

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Member Gallegos

Motion carried.

13. OLD BUSINESS: None

14. AUDIENCE COMMENTS: None

15. BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS: None

16. DISCUSSION:

16.1. Facility Usage Request Clarification

Superintendent Kuzniewski clarified that District 201, at this time, is not accepting Facility Usage Requests.

17. CORRESPONDENCE:

17.1. New IASB Director of Outreach & Training – Justin Caldwell

17.2. West Cook Division Meeting – September 30, 2025

18. INFORMATIONAL ITEM:

18.1. The next regular Board of Education Meeting will take place at the Morto District Office on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, starting at 5:00 p.m. and going directly into Closed Session.

19. ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:36 p.m., Member Kraft moved to adjourn. Member Godinez seconded.

Ayes: Members Godinez, Jaramillo-Flores, Kelly, Kraft, Murga, Pesek, Tomschin and Villarreal

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Member Gallegos

Motion carried.

Jeffry Pesek, President

Date

Jessica Jaramillo-Flores, Secretary

Date