

**MINUTES**  
**Meeting of the Board of Education**  
**District 201, Cook County**  
**Wednesday, July 8, 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 4:57 p.m. on Wednesday, July 8, 2026, at in the Superintendents Conference Room at Morton District Office by Member Pesek.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Member Mark Kraft called the roll and the following were present:

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

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

Also, present Superintendent Dr. Michael Kuzniewski, Assistant Superintendent Mayra Arroyo, Director of Human Resources Randall Borgardt, CFO Nick Valderas, Attorney Ed Wong, Board Clerk Connie Chapman and Assistant Board Clerk Sally Walsh.

Member Kraft motioned to appoint Sandra Tomschin as Secretary Pro-Tem. Member Godinez seconded the motion.

Ayes: Members Godinez, Kelly, Kraft, Pesek and Tomschin

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Members Gallegos and Jaramillo-Flores

Motion carried.

**3. MOTION TO ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION**

Member Godinez moved to adjourn to Closed Session at 4:58 p.m. in the Superintendents Conference room at the Morton District Office. Member Kraft seconded.

Ayes: Members Godinez, Kelly, Kraft, Pesek and Tomschin

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Members Gallegos and Jaramillo-Flores

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 RECONVENED TO OPEN SESSION**

Member Kraft motioned to adjourn from Closed Session and Reconvene to Open Session at 5:09 p.m. in the Superintendents Conference room at the Morton District Office. Member Godinez seconded.

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

**6. ROLL CALL**

Member Kraft called the roll and the following were present:

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

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

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

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

**8. RECOGNITIONS:** None

**9. REPORTS**

9.1. **Superintendent's Committee Reports:** No Reports

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

9.3. **Assistant Superintendent's Report:** Mayra Arroyo reported.

9.4. **Chief Financial Officer's Report:** Nick Valderas reported.

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

9.6. **Principal's Reports:**

9.6.1. James Connelly – CTE School

9.6.2. Dr. Erin Kelly – Alternative School

9.6.3. Jose Gamboa – East Campus

9.6.4. Eric Ramirez – Freshman Center

9.6.5. Kristy Cavanaugh – West Campus

10. **AUDIENCE COMMENTS ON ACTION ITEMS ONLY:** None

11. **ACTION ITEMS - CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Ayes: Members Godinez, Kelly, Kraft, Pesek and Tomschin

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Members Gallegos and Jaramillo-Flores

Motion carried.

11.1. **Approval of Minutes:**

11.1.1. Closed Session

11.1.1.1. Regular Board Meeting: June 10, 2026

11.1.2. Open Session

11.1.2.1. Regular Board Meeting: June 10, 2026

11.2. **Approval of Payroll:**

11.2.1. Education: \$14,326,931.82

11.2.2. Building: \$739,588.50

11.2.3. Transportation: \$28.25

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

11.3.1. July 9, 2026a: \$ 169,779.07

11.3.2. July 9, 2026b: \$ 3,567,651.64

11.4. **Approval of Personnel**

11.4.1. Personnel Report

**ADMINISTRATION**

John Gallione

Dean of Students

West

**Replacement for:** Madeline

Geyer (transfer)

**Effective:** 07/28/2026

## **CERTIFIED STAFF**

|                   |                                                                                                                                                                         |      |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| Coleman Brice     | Business Education Teacher<br><b>Replacement for:</b> Sebastian Mora<br><b>Effective:</b> <i>Start of the 2026-2027 School Year</i>                                     | East |
| Gabriel Contreras | Special Education Teacher (transfer from Teaching Assistant)<br><b>Replacement for:</b> Stephany Padilla<br><b>Effective:</b> <i>Start of the 2026-2027 School Year</i> | West |
| Justin Headley    | Math Teacher (Rehire)<br><b>Replacement for:</b> Denisse Henriquez<br><b>Effective:</b> <i>Start of the 2026-2027 School Year</i>                                       | FC   |
| Erin Knott        | Edge Teacher (transfer from Freshman Edge Teacher at FC)<br><b>Transfer of FTE</b><br><b>Effective:</b> <i>Start of the 2026-2027 School Year</i>                       | East |
| Erin Laxamana     | MTSS Coordinator (transfer from Special Education Teacher)<br><b>Replacement for:</b> Elizabeth DeGraff<br><b>Effective:</b> <i>Start of the 2026-2027 School Year</i>  | FC   |
| Sylvia O'Malley   | EL Teacher (transfer from English Teacher at East)<br><b>Replacement for:</b> Miguel Gutierrez<br><b>Effective:</b> <i>Start of the 2026-2027 School Year</i>           | West |
| Brad Reid         | English Teacher (transfer from EL Teacher)<br><b>Transfer of FTE</b><br><b>Effective:</b> <i>Start of the 2026-2027 School Year</i>                                     | West |
| Megan Welch       | Special Education Teacher<br><b>Replacement for:</b> Christina Cartwright (transfer)<br><b>Effective:</b> <i>Start of the 2026-2027 School Year</i>                     | East |

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

## Substitute Teachers

|                   |                                                                                                                                                 |      |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| Sebastian Mora    | Substitute Teacher                                                                                                                              |      |
| Christopher Wolff | Long Term Substitute Mandarin Chinese Teacher<br><b>Coverage for:</b> Shiyun Pan<br><b>Effective:</b> <i>Start of the 2026-2027 School Year</i> | West |

## NON-CERTIFIED

### Nurse Employment Contracts Signed

|                      |              |      |
|----------------------|--------------|------|
| Anne Biagi           | School Nurse | West |
| Nicole Gapen         | School Nurse | East |
| Julianne Kostolansky | School Nurse | West |
| Christy Sullivan     | School Nurse | West |

## Non-Bargaining

|                |                                                                                                                                                                                  |      |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| Raquel Fregoso | Freshman Academy Food Service Manager (transfer from Full-Time Food Service at East)<br><b>Replacement for:</b> Rudy Hernandez (transfer)<br><b>Effective:</b> <i>08/05/2026</i> | West |
| Rudy Hernandez | Food Service Manager (transfer from West Freshman Academy Food Service Manager)<br><b>Replacement for:</b> Sandra Estrada<br><b>Effective:</b> <i>07/01/2026</i>                 | West |

## Clerical

|                      |                                                                                                                                                         |          |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Jacqueline Castaneda | Payroll Clerk<br><b>Replacement for:</b> Denise Schultz<br><b>Effective:</b> <i>pending background check</i>                                            | District |
| Lucy Galvez          | Athletic Secretary (transfer from Guidance Secretary at FC)<br><b>Replacement for:</b> Yolanda Pineda (transfer)<br><b>Effective:</b> <i>07/13/2026</i> | East     |
| Yolanda Pineda       | Receptionist (transfer from Athletic Secretary)<br><b>New Position</b><br><b>Effective:</b> <i>07/01/2026</i>                                           | East     |

## Food Service

|             |                                                                   |      |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| Maria Lopez | Full-Time Food Service<br><b>Replacement for:</b> Lilia Gutierrez | East |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------|

**Effective:** *pending background check*

### **Security**

|                |                                                  |      |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------|------|
| Robert Hillyer | 10 Month Full-Time Security                      | West |
|                | <b>Replacement for:</b> DeAndre Evans (transfer) |      |
|                | <b>Effective:</b> 08/07/2026                     |      |

|                |                                        |      |
|----------------|----------------------------------------|------|
| Claudia Pulido | 10 Month Full-Time Security            | East |
|                | <b>Replacement for:</b> Aaliyah Harper |      |
|                | <b>Effective:</b> 08/07/2026           |      |

|             |                              |      |
|-------------|------------------------------|------|
| David Ramos | 10 Month Part Time Security  | East |
|             | <b>New Position</b>          |      |
|             | <b>Effective:</b> 08/07/2026 |      |

|                    |                                      |      |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|------|
| Alexandra Sandoval | 10 Month Full-Time Security          | East |
|                    | <b>Replacement for:</b> Aja Lewellen |      |
|                    | <b>Effective:</b> 08/07/2026         |      |

### **Teaching Assistants**

|             |                                      |      |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|------|
| Flor Avitia | Special Education Teaching Assistant | West |
|             | <b>Replacement for:</b> Agency TA    |      |
|             | <b>Effective:</b> 08/10/2026         |      |

|                   |                                      |      |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|------|
| Araceli Gutierrez | Special Education Teaching Assistant | West |
|                   | <b>Replacement for:</b> Agency TA    |      |
|                   | <b>Effective:</b> 08/10/2026         |      |

|                  |                                      |      |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|------|
| Javier Rodriguez | Special Education Teaching Assistant | West |
|                  | <b>Replacement for:</b> Agency TA    |      |
|                  | <b>Effective:</b> 08/10/2026         |      |

|                       |                                      |      |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|------|
| Alejandra Villafuerte | Special Education Teaching Assistant | West |
|                       | <b>Replacement for:</b> Olena Haiduk |      |
|                       | <b>Effective:</b> 08/10/2026         |      |

### **SUMMER EMPLOYMENT**

#### **Summer Maintenance Helpers**

|              |                         |      |
|--------------|-------------------------|------|
| Del Guerrero | Summer Maintenance Help | West |
|--------------|-------------------------|------|

### **SUSPENSIONS**

|                 |                              |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Employee #10055 | <b>Effective:</b> 08/19/2026 |
|-----------------|------------------------------|

## TERMINATIONS

Employee #9195

**Effective:** 06/30/2026

## RESIGNATIONS

Elizabeth DeGraff

MTSS Coordinator

FC

**Effective:** 07/24/2026

Shari Hayden

Physical Education Teacher

FC

**Effective:** End of the 2025-2026  
School Year

Denisse Henriquez

Math Teacher

FC

**Effective:** End of the 2025-2026  
School Year

Stephany Padilla

Special Education Teacher

West

**Effective:** End of the 2025-2026  
School Year

Jose Pureco

Summer School Security (only)

West

**Effective:** 06/09/2026

Margarita Ramirez

Biliteracy Coordinator

West

**Effective:** 06/29/2026

Rosa Reimer

Science Teacher

West

**Effective:** End of the 2025-2026  
School Year

Laura Winkelmann

Special Education Teacher

West

**Effective:** End of the 2025-2026  
School Year

Denise Yunker

Partnerships and Research  
Specialist Intern

District

**Effective:** 07/02/2026

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

11.5.1. Jeanette Hammond

PREPaRE Workshop 2 Training of Trainers

August 3-4, 2026

Funding Source: SPED FUNDED

### 11.6. Approval of Facility Requests:

11.6.1. Alumni Morton West Class of 1976

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

11.7.1. Sand Dollar Leadership

11.7.2. Student Centered Services

11.7.3. Newsela

**12. ACTIONS ITEM(S):**

12.1 Approval of Resolution Calling for Public Hearing on FY27 Budget

Member Godinez motioned to approve the Resolution Calling for Public Hearing on FY27 Budget. Member Tomschin seconded the motion.

Ayes: Members Godinez, Kelly, Kraft, Pesek and Tomschin

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Members Gallegos and Jaramillo-Flores

Motion carried.

**13. OLD BUSINESS:** None

**14. AUDIENCE COMMENTS:** None

**15. BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS:** None

**16. DISCUSSION:** None

**17. CORRESPONDENCE:**

**18. INFORMATIONAL ITEM:**

18.1. The next regular Board of Education Meeting will take place at Morton District Office on Wednesday, August 12, 2026, starting at 5:00 p.m. and going directly into Closed Session.

**19. ADJOURNMENT:**

At 5:15 p.m., Member Kraft moved to adjourn. Member Godinez seconded.

Ayes: Members Godinez, Kelly, Kraft, Pesek and Tomschin

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Members Gallegos and Jaramillo-Flores

Motion carried.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeffrey Pesek, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jessica Jaramillo-Flores, Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date