

MINUTES
Meeting of the Board of Education
District 201, Cook County
Wednesday, January 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 4:58 p.m. on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 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, Mark Kraft, Jeffry Pesek and Sandra Tomschin

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

Also, present Superintendent Dr. Michael Kuzniewski, Attorney Claudia Castro, 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 4:58 p.m. in the Board Room at the Morton District Office. Member Tomschin seconded.

Ayes: Members Godinez, Kraft, Pesek and Tomschin

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Members Gallegos, Jaramillo-Flores, and Kelly

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, 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. 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 5:53 p.m. in the Garden Terrace room at the Morton District Office. Member Tomschin seconded.

Ayes: Members Godinez, Kraft, Pesek, and Tomschin

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Members Gallegos, Jaramillo-Flores, Kelly, Murga and Villarreal
Motion carried.

6. ROLL CALL

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

Members Fernando Godinez, Mark Kraft, Jeffry Pesek and Sandra Tomschin

Absent: Members Maria A. Gallegos, Jessica Jaramillo-Flores, Dr. Margaret Kelly, Megan Murga and Adrian Villarreal

Also, present Superintendent Dr. 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: None

9. REPORTS

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

9.2. **Student Board Member's Reports:** No reports.

9.2.1. Megan Murga – Morton East

9.2.2. Adrian Villarreal – Morton West

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

9.4. **Assistant Superintendent for Compliance:** No report.

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

9.6. **Business Manager Report:** No report.

9.7. **Executive Director of Human Resources' Report:** No report.

9.8. **Chief Technology Officer Report:** No report.

9.9. **Principal's Reports:** No reports.

9.9.1. James Connelly – CTE School

9.9.2. Dr. Erin Kelly – Alternative School

9.9.3. Jose Gamboa – East Campus

9.9.4. Eric Ramirez – Freshman Center

9.9.5. Kristy Cavanaugh – West Campus

10. AUDIENCE COMMENTS ON ACTION ITEMS ONLY: None

11. ACTION ITEMS - CONSENT AGENDA

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

Ayes: Members Godinez, Kraft, Pesek and Tomschin

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Members Gallegos, Jaramillo-Flores, Kelly, Murga and Villarreal

Motion carried.

11.1. Approval of Minutes:

11.1.1. Closed Session

11.1.1.1. Regular Board Meeting: December 10, 2025

11.1.2. Open Session

11.1.2.1. Regular Board Meeting: December 10, 2025

11.1.2.2. Special Meeting: January 5, 2026

11.2. Approval of Payroll:

11.2.1. Education: \$7,972,331.94

11.2.2. Building: \$1,011,974.25

11.2.3. Transportation: \$1,445.20

11.3. Approval of Bills for Payment:

11.3.1. January 15, 2026a: \$43,887.22

11.3.2. January 15, 2026b: \$3,838,588.66

11.4. Approval of Student Discipline:

Expulsion(s):

11.4.1.1. 460259

Change of placement to On-Line Morton 201 Platform.

11.5. Approval of Personnel

11.5.1. Personnel Report

CERTIFIED

Coaching/Clubs/Activities for the 2025-2026 School Year

Stefano Crancich

Head Boys Soccer Coach

NON-CERTIFIED

Nurses

Juanita Renteria

School Nurse

FC

Replacement for: Linda Crossman

Effective: *pending background check*

Maintenance

Jessie Olsen

Substitute Custodian

Emil Schullo

Substitute Custodian

Clerical

Kiara Olivares

AP Secretary (transfer from FT Security at West)

West

Replacement for: Valerie Palomares

Effective: 01/05/2026

Teaching Assistants

Kenya Cano

Special Education Teaching Assistant

FC

Replacement for: Agency TA

Effective: *pending background check*

Non-Bargaining

Steve Dominguez

Computer Service Technician

FC

Replacement for: Anthony Figueroa (transfer)

Effective: 12/26/25

Anthony Figueroa

Junior Systems Administrator (transfer from Computer Services Technician at FC)

District

New Position

Effective: 01/01/2026

Security

Karissia Cardenas

10 Month Full Time Security (shift transfer)

FC

Replacement for: Kimberly Stuart

Effective: 01/05/2026

Maria Galvez

10 Month Full Time Security (transfer from Temporary Security to Full Time)

West

Replacement for: Kiara Olivares (transfer)

Effective: 01/05/2026

Theodore Meza	10 Month Part Time Security (transfer from Full Time Security to Part Time) Replacement for: Demetrius Hill (transfer) Effective: 01/09/2026	West
Dejalee Ortiz	10 Month Part Time Security Replacement for: Karissa Cardenas (shift transfer) Effective: pending background check	FC
Richard Pelletiere	10 Month Part Time Security Replacement for: Karissa Cardenas (shift transfer) Effective: pending background check	FC
Jocelyn Rivera	10 Month Full Time Security Replacement for: Jessica Kirshenbaum (transfer) Effective: pending background check	East
Police Officers Alyxandra Martinez William Ramos	Police Officer Police Officer	East FC
SUSPENSIONS Employee #9907	Effective: 01/21/2026	
RELEASES Employee #10068	Probationary Release Effective: 01/09/2026	
RETIREMENTS Salandra Crockett	Dean of Students Effective: 07/29/29	East
Michael Doherty	English Teacher Effective: End of the 2026-2027 School Year	West
Amanda Genge	BARR Coordinator Effective: End of the 2029-2030 School Year	East
TERMINATIONS Vanessa Camacho	Parent Liaison Effective: 01/05/2026	FC
RESIGNATIONS Katelyn Joyce-Bugajski	Special Education Teacher	FC

Valerie Palomares	Assistant Principal's Secretary	West
	Effective: 12/23/2025	

**INFORMATIONAL
ONLY**

Isabel De La Vega	10 Month Full Time Security	West
	Offer Declined	

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

11.6.1. Board of Education
COSSBA 2026 National Conference
March 12-16, 2026
Funding Source: BoE Dept Funded

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

11.7.1. Gloria Ramirez-Solis, Dr. Erin Kelly, Jackie Braniff, Beth Degriff and Amanda Genge
The Summit on RTI at Work
February 16-18, 2026
Funding Source: Title 2 Funded

11.8. Approval of Student Travel:

11.8.1. Bianca Frutos, Jimena Jimenez, Maria Vitalo and 20 Students
ICCA State Meet
January 10-11, 2026
Springfield, Illinois
Funding Source: Morton Athletics

11.9. Approval of Facility Requests: None

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

11.10.1. Soundwave INC.

11.10.2. Maggiano's – Morton East Summa Cum Laude Dinner

11.10.3. Regal Coach Lines – Morton East

11.11. Approval to Bid or Quote: None

11.12. Approval of Bid Results: None

11.13. Approval to Accept Donations/Grants: None

11.14. Approval to Dispose of District Property: None

11.15. Approval of 2026-2027 School Calendar

12. ACTIONS ITEM(S):

12.1 FY26 School Maintenance Project Grant

13. OLD BUSINESS: None

14. AUDIENCE COMMENTS: None

15. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: None

16. DISCUSSION: None

17. CORRESPONDENCE: None

18. INFORMATIONAL ITEM:

18.1. The next regular Board of Education Meeting will take place at Morton District Office on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, starting at 5:00 p.m. and going directly into Closed Session.

19. ADJOURNMENT:

At 5:56 p.m., Member Kraft moved to adjourn. Member Godinez seconded.

Ayes: Members Godinez, Kraft, Pesek, and Tomschin

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Members Gallegos, Jaramillo-Flores, Kelly, Murga and Villarreal

Motion carried.

Jeffry Pesek, President

Date

Jessica Jaramillo-Flores, Secretary

Date