

**MINUTES**  
**Meeting of the Board of Education**  
**District 201, Cook County**  
**Wednesday, December 10, 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 5:16 p.m. on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, in the Garden Terrace Room at Morton District Office by Member Pesek.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Member Pesek 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, 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 5:16 p.m. in the Garden Terrace 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.

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

**6. ROLL CALL**

Member Pesek called the roll and the following were present:

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

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

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:**

8.1. Athletes Selected as Members of West Suburban Conference

**Soccer**

Nicolas Zaragoza	Alfredo Campos	Alejandro Gonzalez
Dario Cisneros	Diego Aceves	Giovanni Roman

**Volleyball**

Valeria Garcia

**Football**

Jaleel Windfield	Danny Gonzalez	Lennox Tolentino
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**Swimming**

Emily Zarate

**Flag Football**

Saniya Knazze	Adamary Huitron	Nevaeh Hearvey
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**Tennis**

Mila Santana

## **Girls' Cross Country**

Maribel Contreras

Gabriela Gonzalez

Jessica Jaramillo-Flores arrived at 6:05 p.m.

### **8.2. Boys' Cross Country**

Coaches: Bill Bloom, Eric Kraft and Rob Anderson

Athletes:

Orlando Sandoval – All Conference, All State, Record Holder

Miguel Flores – All Conference (individually)

Alex Rodriguez – All Conference (individually)

Perfecto Lopez - All Conference (individually)

Gavin Quinn – Team All Conference

David Hernandez ran at State, JV all conference

Nathan Punti ran at State. Top 7 all year

Carlos Aviles ran at NXN Midwest. JV all conference

Gianni Calderon ran at NXN Midwest

Vladimar Diaz ran at NXN Midwest. Sophomore all conference

Joaquin Godinez ran at NXN Midwest. Freshman All conference

Carlos Aviles- JV All Conference

Frank Escobedo-JV All Conference

Diego Alvarez-JV All Conference

Mateo Volbre-Sophomore All Conference

## **9. REPORTS**

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

### **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. Kuzniewski reported.

### **9.4. Assistant Superintendent of Compliance Report:** Ms. Arroyo reported.

### **9.5. Assistant Superintendent of Educational Program's Report:** Dr. McMahon reported.

### **9.6. Business Manager Report:** Nick Valderas reported.

### **9.7. Executive Director of Human Resources' Report:** Mr. Borgardt reported

### **9.8. Principal's Reports:**

9.8.1. James Connelly – CTE

9.8.2. Dr. Erin Kelly – Alternative School

9.8.3. Jose Gamboa – East Campus

9.8.4. Eric Ramirez – Freshman Center

9.8.5. Kristy Cavanaugh – West Campus

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

**11. ACTION ITEMS - CONSENT AGENDA**

Member Godinez motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as amended, pulling 11.10.2. Construction Manager for CTE Center. 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.

Member Jaramillo-Flores motioned to table 11.10.2. Construction Manager for CTE Center. 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.

**11.1. Approval of Minutes:**

11.1.1. Closed Session

11.1.1.1. Regular Board Meeting: November 12, 2025

11.1.2. Open Session

11.1.2.1. Regular Board Meeting: November 12, 2025

**11.2. Approval of Payroll:**

11.2.1. Education: \$7,649,504.58

11.2.2. Building: \$1,000,757.35

11.2.3. Transportation: \$1,897.11

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

11.3.1. December 2, 2025: \$223,255.20

11.3.2. December 11, 2025a: \$121,642.94

11.3.3. December 11, 2025b: \$3,138,369.40

**11.4. Approval of Student Discipline:**

**Expulsion(s):**

11.4.1.1. 463487

Expulsion held in abeyance for the 25-26 school year, pending the successful participation at the Morton Alternative School. Pay Restitution \$250.00.

11.4.1.2. 490536

Expulsion held in abeyance for the 25-26 school year, pending the successful participation at the Morton Alternative School.

11.4.1.3. 480852

Expulsion held in abeyance for the 25-26 school year, pending the successful participation at the Morton Alternative School.

11.4.1.4. 481137

Expulsion held in abeyance for the second semester of the 25-26 school year, the entire 26-27 school year and the first semester of the 27-28 school year, pending the successful participation at the Morton Alternative School.

## **11.5. Approval of Personnel**

11.5.1. Personnel Report

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

Omar Fernandez	Spring Musical Choreographer	East
Nadia Flores	Assistant Girls Wrestling Coach	

### **Night School Session 2**

Maria Chemello	Night School Teacher	West
Elizabeth DeGraff	Night School Teacher	FC
Gordon Dezotell	Night School Teacher	FC
Kent Frankfother	Night School Teacher	East
Kayla Harnish	Night School Teacher	FC
Megan Kehoe	Night School Teacher	East
Sarah Llort	Night School Teacher	East
Janet Montalvo	Night School Teacher	East
Cara Noonan	Night School Teacher	East
Jeremy Robinson	Night School Lead Teacher	East
Jane Smith	Night School Lead Teacher	East
Doris Tobin	Night School Teacher	East
Angelica Valdez	Night School Teacher	East
Iomil Villanueva Gonzalez	Night School Teacher	East
David Waldron	Night School Teacher	FC
Alexandria Ziebell	Night School Teacher	East

### **Substitute Teachers**

Yasmine Brown	Permanent Substitute Teacher	FC
Julian Hernandez	Substitute Teacher	
Steven Morales	Permanent Substitute Teacher	FC

### **NON-CERTIFIED**

## Food Service

Zheida Castillo

Full Time Food Service Utility (transfer from Food Service Substitute)

West

**Replacement for:** Miguel Payan (transfer)

**Effective:** 12/10/2025

## Maintenance

Baltazar Zaldivar

Substitute Custodian

## Teaching Assistants

Andrea Gonzalez

Teaching Assistant

West

**Replacement for:** Contracted TA

**Effective:** pending background check

## LEAVES

Manjula Singh

EL Teacher

West

Temporary Transfer to Special Assignment –  
Dean of Students at East

**Temporary Replacement for:** Zachary  
Snyder (transfer)

**Effective:** 12/04/2025 – 05/22/2026

## RELEASES

Employee #10117

Probationary Release

**Effective:** 12/02/2025

## RETIREMENTS

David Bermejo

Teaching Assistant

East

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

Teresa Cantero

Art Teacher

East

**Effective:** End of the 2029-2030 School Year

Michael Caruso

Physical Education Teacher

East

**Effective:** End of the 2029-2030 School Year

Yvette Kirby

Physical Education Teacher

West

**Effective:** End of the 2029-2030 School Year

Denise Reiter

Special Education Teacher

West

**Effective:** End of the 2029-2030 School Year

Doris Tobin

Special Education Teacher

East

**Effective:** End of the 2029-2030 School Year

Shirley Trimborn

Special Education Teacher

East

**Effective:** End of the 2029-2030 School Year

## **TERMINATIONS**

Employee #9432

**Effective: 12/11/2025**

## **RESIGNATIONS**

Gabriel Contreras

Teaching Assistant

West

**Effective: 12/19/2025**

Jennifer Chavez

10 Month Full Time Security

East

**Effective: 12/19/2025**

Christina Kale

Assistant Girls Flag Football Coach (only)

**Effective: 11/17/2025**

Joseph Robertson

10 Month Full Time Security

East

**Effective: 12/08/2025**

11.5.2.

Approval of Food Service Salaries

Wage increase of 5% for Food Service employees effective January 1, 2026.

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

11.6.1. Expense Reimbursement for Joint Annual Conference

11.6.1.1. Fernando Godinez

11.6.1.2. Sandra Tomschin

11.6.2.

Board of Education

2026 Future of Education and Technology Conference

January 11-14, 2026

Orlando, Florida

Funding Source: Title II Grant Funds

11.6.3.

Board of Education

Skyward ICon Conference

February 24-28, 2026

St. Pete, Florida

Funding Source: Title 1

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

11.7.1. Expense Reimbursement for Joint Annual Conference

11.7.1.1. Dr. Michael Kuzniewski

11.7.2.

6 District Staff

2026 Future of Education and Technology Conference

January 11-14, 2026

Funding Source: Title II Grant Funds

11.7.3. 10 Staff Members  
Skyward Icon Conference  
February 24-28, 2026  
St. Pete, Florida  
Funding Source: Title 1

11.7.4. Dina Loumakis, Samantha Letkiewicz, Jonathan Depke, Kyle Boyd, Kevin O'Toole and Eric Bjornstad  
NSTA Conference  
April 14-18, 2026  
Anaheim, California  
Funding Source: Local Funding

**11.8. Approval of Student Travel:** None

**11.9. Approval of Facility Requests:**

11.9.1. Morton East Class of 1976

11.9.2. Baila Connigo/Dance with Me

11.9.3. Berwyn South School District 100

11.9.4. Pink Diva & Gents

11.9.5. Illinois State Police

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

11.10.1. IPRF Worker's Compensation Renewal for 26-27

11.10.2. Construction Manager for CTE Center - TABLED

**11.11. Approval to Bid or Quote:**

11.11.1. Ford 150, 250, Broncos and Explorers for Maintenance

**11.12. Approval of Bid Results:** None

**11.13. Approval to Accept Donations/Grants:**

11.13.1. 12 Rolls of Welding Wire – Donated from ARC Specialties

**11.14. Approval to Dispose of District Property:** None

**11.15. Approval of Resolution Appointment of Designated Person to Prepare 2026-2027 Budget.** Nick Valderas appointed.

**11.16. Approval of Resolution Adopting the 2026-2027 Budget Calendar**

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

**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, January 14, 2026, starting at 5:00 p.m. and going directly into Closed Session.

**19. ADJOURNMENT:**

At 6:51 p.m., Member Kraft moved to adjourn. Member Tomschin seconded.

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Member Gallegos

Motion carried.

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Jeffry Pesek, President

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Date

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Jessica Jaramillo-Flores, Secretary

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Date