

**MINUTES**  
**Meeting of the Board of Education**  
**District 201, Cook County**  
**Wednesday, November 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 5:06 p.m. on Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at in the Mustang Room at the Morton West High School by Member Pesek.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Member Pesek 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, Assistant Superintendent of Compliance Mayra Arroyo, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Josh McMahon, Director of Human Resources Randall Borgardt, Business Manager Nick Valderas, Attorney Claudia Castro, Board Clerk Connie Chapman and Assistant Board Clerk Sally Walsh.

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

Member Godinez moved to adjourn to Closed Session at 5:06 p.m. in the Mustang Room at the Morton West High School. Member Kraft 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 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)
- 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 6:02 p.m. in the Great Room at Morton West Freshman Academy. Member Godinez seconded.

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Members Gallegos and Kelly

Motion carried.

Motion carried.

**6. ROLL CALL**

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

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

Absent: Members Maria A. Gallegos and Dr. Margaret Kelly

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. Morton West AP Students**

**AP Scholars**

Alvarez; Diego

Angone; Max R.

Arias; Alexander

Arias; Ronny G.

Avila; Joseline

Bain; Beatrice D.

Bandera; Alberto

Flores; Itzel G.

Garcia Tellez; Sandra

Garcia; Jaslene A.

Garcia; Maya G.

Gonzaga; Angelo

Govea; Madison M.

Guevara; Emily

Park; Kyle H.

Plata; Naomi S.

Poulos; Alexis G.

Quintana; Oscar G.

Quiroz; Edwen

Rent; Camille F.

Rojo; Erick J.

Barajas; Xavier L.	Hernandez; Adriana A.	Romero; Brianna
Batka; Gabriel J.	Hernandez; Jennifer	Rosales; Lizbeth
Bencosme; Hannah R.	Herrera; Angelina E.	Ruiz; Abiel
Bigornia; Joreeze E.	Ionescu; Liliana V.	Salto; Xochitl S.
Briceno; Leila E.	Lopez; Elizabeth C.	Sanchez; William B.
Calderon; Kevin	Lopez; Jake	Santana; Mila I.
Calderon; Sandy V.	Loredo; Alexis S.	Sifuentes; Carlos I.
Carballo; Manuel	Marquez; Madeleine	Silva-Huerta; Wyatt R.
Carrasco; Bryan	Martinez; Aniella	Simon; Zaida R.
Carrillo; Brandon	Medina; Xavier S.	Skenandore; Dolores D.
Cerezo; Nelstar Armie M.	Miller; Eathon J.	Trujillo; Christ R.
Chavez; Meztli S.	Morales; Rachael G.	Villarreal; Adrian I.
Clara; Dahlya N.	Murillo; Julian E.	Vital; Daney
Diaz Garcia; Andres G.	Navarro; Victoria	Vrab; Xy
Estrada; Arielle E.	Omi; Evan I.	Zapata; Emiliano
Estrada; Valeria N.	Ordonez Salgado; Ixchel	Zavala; Lailoni A.
Favela; Juan E.	Palmerin-Camacho; Thannia E.	
Fernandez; Jairo	Palomo; Mateo	

#### AP Scholar with Honor

Brizuela; Victor	Martinez; Fatima A.
Chavez; Julian R.	Merino; Sergio
Cisneros; Dario	Montoya-Cervantes; Maria A.
Cosmas; Eric W.	Noyszewski; Adrianna I.
Crowe; Nathaniel A.	Perez; Benjamin N.
Diaz Magana; Brenda	Perez; Ethan
Fresnillo; Eliel J.	Piza; Rosa P.
Grotkowska; Weronika M.	Polderman; Maisey B.
Guerrero; Natalie D.	Portillo; Mathew E.
Leon; Julissa	Rosas; David
Liera; Aylin A.	Zarate; Emily L.
Martinez; Emmanuel G.	

#### AP Scholar with Distinction

Alvarez; Jacob A.	Lopez; Ricardo
Baran; Elias D.	Martinez; Nadia
Duarte-Liu; Katie F.	Pachla; Anna L.
Fallad; Kamil	Valadez; Julieta
Godinez; Jose O.	Venegas; Alan C.
Gomez; Maya C.	Zuro; Desmond F.

#### 8.2. Morton West AP Teachers

##### **AP Seminar PLT- Antonella Palazzolo, Kathy Abdul, Anna Djikas, & Dina Pettas**

The AP Seminar PLT demonstrated exceptional leadership in launching this course during its first year in District 201. Their efforts not only expanded AP access to our Mustangs but also resulted in a commendable 55% of students earning a score of 3 or higher.

**AP Psychology PLT- Rich Moore & Brenda Groeper**

This PLT continues to foster growth and achievement among our AP Mustangs. In May, 57% of students scored a 3 or higher, reflecting steady improvement. They have consistently increased both the number of exams taken and the course's overall mean score.

**AP Human Geography PLT- Mohammed Ramadan & Emily Bohne**

This team has significantly expanded student participation in AP exams and achieved a remarkable 149% increase in the 3+ rate compared to the previous year, highlighting their impactful instructional practices.

**Jorie Grande & Sarah Fromius-Hough to the AP Seminar PLT**

- 8.3. Board of Education  
Jeffry Pesek                      Mark Kraft                      Jessica Jaramillo-Flore  
Dr. Margaret Kelly              Sandra Tomschin              Maria A. Gallegos              Fernando Godinez

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

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

Nays: none  
Abstain: none  
Absent: Members Gallegos and Kelly  
Motion carried.

**11.1. Approval of Minutes:**

- 11.1.1. Closed Session
  - 11.1.1.1. Regular Board Meeting: October 8, 2025
- 11.1.2. Open Session
  - 11.1.2.1. Regular Board Meeting: October 8, 2025

**11.2. Approval of Payroll:**

- 11.2.1. Education: \$11,468,362.75
- 11.2.2. Building: \$976,451.44
- 11.2.3. Transportation: \$2,214.00

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

- 11.3.1. November 13, 2025a: \$227,742.51
- 11.3.2. November 13, 2025b: \$4,620,572.95

**11.4. Approval of Student Discipline:**

- 11.4.1. **Expulsion(s):**
  - 11.4.1.1. 491606  
Expulsion held in abeyance for the 2025-2026 school year,  
pending the successful participation at the Morton  
Alternative School.
  - 11.4.1.2. 461143  
Expelled with no services for the remainder of the 2025-  
2026 school year and the entire 2026-2027 school year.

**11.5. Approval of Personnel**

- 11.5.1. Personnel Report

**CERTIFIED STAFF**

Joseph McClelland	Fire Science and Public Safety Teacher (0.8 FTE)	West
<b>Replacement for:</b> Phillip Chiappetta		
<b>Effective:</b> <i>pending background check</i>		

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

Stefano Crancich	Varsity Girls Head Soccer Coach
Andrew Curran	Assistant Boys Wrestling Coach
Cole Guerrero	Assistant Boys Wrestling Coach

**Night School Session 2**

Wendy Baxter	Night School Teacher	West
Michaelina Considine	Night School Teacher	West

Melissa Ferreira	Night School Teacher	West
Carolina Hernandez	Night School Teacher	West
Elizabeth Hettinger	Night School Lead Teacher	West
Valerie Janak	Night School Teacher	West
Marcey Kusper	Night School Teacher	West
Yolanda Miranda	Night School Teacher	West
Mohammed Ramadan	Night School Teacher	West
Denise Reiter	Night School Teacher	West
Brett Rush	Night School Teacher	West
Christine Simek	Night School Teacher	West
Adrian Tovar	Night School Lead Teacher	West
Natalie Wodynski	Night School Teacher	West

### **Substitute Teachers**

Elva De La Torre	Substitute Teacher	
Joseph Lebar	Long Term Substitute Teacher <b>Leave Coverage for:</b> Ryan Fischer <b>Effective:</b> 01/05/2026 – 02/18/2026 (tentative)	East
Alberto Montes	Substitute Teacher	

### **NON-CERTIFIED Non-Bargaining**

Melissa Huhtelin	Part Time Occupational Therapy Assistant <b>New Position</b> <b>Effective:</b> pending background check	West
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### **Interns**

Denise Yunker	Partnerships and Research Specialist Intern <b>New Position (Approved October 2024)</b> <b>Effective:</b> 11/06/2025	District
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### **Food Service**

Lilia Gutierrez	Full Time Food Service <b>Replacement for:</b> Leticia Hernandez Pinto (transfer) <b>Effective:</b> 10/21/2025	East
Abigail Montero	Full Time Food Service (transfer from Part Time) <b>Replacement for:</b> Rhonda Bustamante <b>Effective:</b> 10/20/2025	East
Miguel Ocampo Sanchez	Part Time Food Service <b>Replacement for:</b> Kasey Jimenez (transfer)	West

**Effective: 11/10/2025**

Catalina Sanchez	Full Time Food Service (transfer from Part Time) <b>Replacement for:</b> Maria Loza (transfer) <b>Effective: 10/17/2025</b>	West
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Hilda Torres	Food Service Substitute <b>Effective: pending background check</b>	East
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### **Security**

Terrence Reed	10 Month Full Time Security <b>Replacement for:</b> Diana Enriquez <b>Effective: pending background check</b>	East
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Roberto Salas	10 Month Full Time Security <b>Replacement for:</b> Armando Rivera <b>Effective: pending background check</b>	West
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Kimberly Stuart	10 Month Full Time Security <b>Replacement for:</b> Wendy Godinez <b>Effective: pending background check</b>	FC
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### **Maintenance**

David Meneses	Receiving Clerk (transfer from Custodian) <b>Replacement for:</b> John Milaro <b>Effective: 11/13/2025</b>	West
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Dax Poprawski	Substitute Custodian	
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Hugo Sanchez	Substitute Custodian	
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### **Teaching Assistants**

Andy Delgadillo	Teaching Assistant <b>Replacement for:</b> Luis Rodriguez (transfer) <b>Effective: pending background check</b>	West
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### **SUMMER EMPLOYMENT Summer Enrichment**

Freddy Calixto	Summer Enrichment Coordinator	
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### **Summer Bridge**

Kristen McChesney	Summer Bridge Coordinator	FC
Megan Terpstra	Summer Bridge Coordinator	West

## **Summer School**

Margarita Ramirez Summer School Principal

## **SUSPENSIONS**

Employee #2101 **Effective:** 11/19/2025

Employee #9674 **Effective:** 11/19/2025

Employee #7844 **Effective:** 11/19/2025

Employee #9721 **Effective:** 11/19/2025

## **RETIREMENTS**

Cynthia Belmares-Brown English Teacher East  
**Effective:** *End of the 2027-2028 School Year*

Angelo Dizeo Custodian East  
**Effective:** 11/28/2025

Margarita Fernandez Full Time Food Service East  
**Effective:** 05/30/2026

AiLien Hung Modern Language Teacher East  
**Effective:** *End of the 2025-2026 School Year*

Jane Smith Special Education Teacher East  
**Effective:** *End of the 2029-2030 School Year*

## **NON-RENEWALS**

Jim Bageanis Head Boys Soccer Coach  
**Effective:** 11/11/2025

## **RESIGNATIONS**

James Tsenes Assistant Boys Soccer Coach (only)  
**Effective:** 11/03/2025

Zahra Sammour Assistant Girls Track Coach  
**Effective:** 11/04/2025

Joseph Waski Assistant Boys Wrestling Coach (only)  
**Effective:** 09/23/2025

## **INFORMATIONAL ONLY**

Jocelyn Figueroa 10 Month Full Time Security West  
**Offer Rescinded**



- 11.6. Approval of Board of Education 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 5:60:**
- 11.8. Approval of Student Travel:**
  - 11.8.1. Bill Bloom, Eric Kraft, Rob Anderson and 14 Students  
Boys' Cross Country State Meet  
November 7-8, 2025  
Peoria, Illinois  
Funding Source: Morton Athletics
  - 11.8.2. Kayla Schultheis, Jenna Boyajian, Brenda Gudino and 10 Students  
Morton West Operation Snowball Field Trip  
November 22-23, 2025  
East Troy, Wisconsin  
Funding Source: Operation Snowball Club Funded
  - 11.8.3. Bridget Michau  
Imaging USA 2026  
January 10-13, 2026  
Nashville, Tennessee  
Funding Source: CTE Funded
- 11.9. Approval of Facility Requests:**
  - 11.9.1. Lincoln Middle School
  - 11.9.2. WSSRA
  - 11.9.3. Lithuanian Opera Company
  - 11.9.4. Berwyn South District 100
- 11.10. Approval of Contracts (Pending Final Legal Review and Negotiation [if necessary]):**
  - 11.10.1. Bond Counsel Services
  - 11.10.2. Municipal Advisor Services
  - 11.10.3. Sentinel – Pending further Negotiations with the Superintendent
- 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
- 12. ACTIONS ITEM(S):**
  - 12.1. Approval of 2025 Tax Levy**

Member Jaramillo-Flores motioned to Approve the 2025 Tax Levy. Member Jaramillo-Flores seconded the motion.

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Members Gallegos and Kelly

Motion carried.

**12.2. Approval of the Continued Closure of the Closed Session Minutes from October 11, 2023 thru April 10, 2024 based on the review and determination that the need for confidentiality still exists for all minutes**

Member Godinez motioned to approve Continued Closure of the Closed Session Minutes from October 11, 2023 thru April 10, 2024  
Member Kraft seconded the motion.

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Members Gallegos and Kelly

**12.3. Approval of the Destruction of the Verbatim Record Recordings of the Closed Session from October 11, 2023 thru April 10, 2024**

Member Jaramillo-Flores motioned to approve the Destruction of the Verbatim Record Recordings of the Closed Session from October 11, 2023 thru April 10, 2024. Member Godinez seconded the motion.

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Members Gallegos and Kelly

**13. OLD BUSINESS:** None

**14. AUDIENCE COMMENTS:**

Name	Topic
Marcela Alvarez	Students
Jackie O'Marraha	GLP1 Shots

**15. BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS:** None

**16. DISCUSSION:** None

**17. CORRESPONDENCE:**

17.1. Thank you from District 98

**18. INFORMATIONAL ITEM:**

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

**19. ADJOURNMENT:**

At 6:58 p.m., Member Kraft moved to adjourn. Member Godinez seconded.

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Members Gallegos and Kelly

Motion carried.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeffry Pesek, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Jessica Jaramillo-Flores, Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date