

MINUTES
Meeting of the Board of Education
District 201, Cook County
Wednesday, September 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 5:04 p.m. on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 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, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Josh McMahon, Executive Director of Human Resources Randall Borgardt, CFO Nick Valderas, Board Clerk Connie Chapman and Assistant Board Clerk Sally Walsh

3. MOTION TO ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

Member Tomschin moved to adjourn to Closed Session at 5:05 p.m. in the Board Room at the Morton District Office. Member Kraft seconded.

Ayes: Members Godinez, Jaramillo-Flores, Kelly, Kraft, Pesek and Tomschin
Nays: none
Abstain: none
Absent: Member 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 CONVENE TO PUBLIC HEARING

Member Kraft motioned to adjourn from Closed Session and Convene to Public Hearing at 6:00 p.m. in the Garden Terrace room at the Morton District Office. Member Godinez seconded.

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

6. PUBLIC HEARING ON 25-26 SCHOOL BUDGET

- 6.1. Presentation by Administration: Mr. Valderas and Mrs. Lamas presented the 25-26 School Budget.
- 6.2. Discussion by Board of Education: No discussion.
- 6.3. Audience Comments: No audience comments.

7. MOTION TO ADJOURN FROM PUBLIC HEARING AND RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

Member Kraft motioned to adjourn from Public Hearing and Reconvene to Open Session at 6:06 p.m. in the Garden Terrace room at the Morton District Office. Member Godinez seconded.

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

8. 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. Kuzniewski, Attorney Claudia Castro, Board Clerk Connie Chapman and Assistant Board Clerk Sally Walsh

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

10. RECOGNITIONS:

10.1. Divas and Pink Gents: Janel Moreland, Founder and President and her Board Members: Lindsley Griffin, Leana Moreland, Arnetta Watkins and Secretary Michele McCrary thanked the Board of Education for the use of Morton West Football field to hold their 8th Annual Walk Run event. They had over 400 participants.

11. REPORTS

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

11.2. **Student Board Member's Reports:**

11.2.1. Megan Murga – Morton East: Miss Murga reported.

11.2.2. Adrian Villarreal – Morton West: Mr. Villarreal reported.

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

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

11.5. **Business Manager Report:** Mr. Valderas reported.

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

11.7. **Principal's Reports:**

11.7.1. Dr. Erin Kelly – Alternative School

11.7.2. Jose Gamboa – East Campus

11.7.3. Eric Ramirez – Freshman Center

11.7.4. Kristy Cavanaugh – West Campus

12. AUDIENCE COMMENTS ON ACTION ITEMS ONLY: None

13. ACTION ITEMS - CONSENT AGENDA

Member Pesek motioned to pull the following from the Consent Agenda and vote separately:
13.10.4 Miller Canfield and 13.10.5. PMA Securities, LLC. Member Jaramillo-Flores 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 Kraft motioned to table agenda item 13.10.4 Miller Canfield. 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.

Member Kraft motioned to table agenda item 13.10 5. PMA Securities, LLC. 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.

Member Tomschin motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, as amended. 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.

13.1. Approval of Minutes:

13.1.1. Closed Session

13.1.1.1. Regular Board Meeting: August 13, 2025

13.1.2. Open Session

13.1.2.1. Regular Board Meeting: August 13, 2025

13.2. Approval of Payroll:

13.2.1. Education: \$3,535,847.51

13.2.2. Building: \$705,808.60

13.2.3. Transportation: \$0.00

13.3. Approval of Bills for Payment:

13.3.1. August 26, 2025a: \$2,200.00

13.3.2. August 26, 2025b: \$152,590.56

13.3.3. September 11, 2025a: \$ 310,508.54

13.3.4. September 11, 2025b: \$ 3,526,201.31

13.4. Approval of Student Discipline:

13.4.1. Expulsion(s):

13.4.1.1. 481670

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

13.4.1.2. 481716

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

13.4.1.3. 461143

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

13.4.1.4. 481570

Expelled with no services for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year.

13.4.1.5. 463050

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

13.4.1.6. 461325

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

13.4.1.7. 483074

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

13.5. Approval of Personnel

13.5.1. Personnel Report

CERTIFIED STAFF

Night School Session 1

Wendy Baxter	Night School Teacher	West
Maria Chemello	Night School Teacher	West
Michaelina Considine	Night School Teacher	West
Jennie Crownson	Night School Lead Teacher	East
Elizabeth DeGraff	Night School Teacher	FC
Gordon Dezotell	Night School Teacher	FC

Melissa Ferreira	Night School Teacher	West
Jessica Gonzalez	Night School Lead Teacher	East
Kayla Harnish	Night School Teacher	FC
Carolina Hernandez	Night School Teacher	West
Elizabeth Hettinger	Night School Lead Teacher	West
Valerie Janak	Night School Teacher	West
Megan Kehoe	Night School Teacher	East
Yolanda Miranda	Night School Teacher	West
Cara Noonan	Night School Teacher	East
Esmeralda Ortiz	Night School Teacher	East
Mohammed Ramadan	Night School Teacher	West
Angelica Samata	Night School Teacher	East
Christine Simek	Night School Teacher	West
Doris Tobin	Night School Teacher	East
Adrian Tovar	Night School Lead Teacher	West
David Waldron	Night School Teacher	FC
Joseph Waski	Night School Teacher	East
Natalie Wodynski	Night School Teacher	West
Enrique Yanez	Night School Teacher	East
Erika Zacarias Govea	Night School Teacher	East

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

Gerardo Acevedo	Class of 2027	East
Michael Allen	Intramural Club	FC
Randal Ames	Intramural Club	FC
Alyssa Anselmini	Civic Leaders of America	East
Moises Bernal	Civic Leaders of America	East
Susanne Bertuccio	Literacy Club	FC
Jenna Boyajian	Assistant Softball Coach	
Camille Brandon	Black Student Union	East
Yanelly Brandon	Fall Musical Production Assistant	West
Logan Brown	SAALT	East
Anmar Cabral	Student Council/MSGA	FC
Liliana Cabrera	PBIS/CARE	FC
Elizabeth Casillas	Auto Club	East
Andres Cervantes	Mariachi Club	East
Leticia Corral	Culinary Club	FC
Marisela De La Torre	Peer Mediators	FC
Mara De Leon Moran	Bilingual Club	East
Elizabeth DeGraff	Cultural Diversity Club	FC
Gordon Dezotell	Class Cabinet 2029	FC
Alejandro Diaz Jr.	SAALT/Leadership	FC
Lisa Dura	Yoga Club	East
Roman Emano	Adventure Club	FC
Erin Fagan	TAG	FC
Kenna Farrell	Theatre Club	East

Zuzel Garcia	Fall Musical Lighting Designer	West
Itzel Gonzalez	Class Cabinet 2029	FC
Juan Gonzalez	Ecology Club	East
Nathalie Guerrero-Ramirez	Class of 2027	East
Georgia Hiotis	GSA	FC
Rachel Hosek	Mathletes	FC
Stephany Juarez	Morton Sports Club	East
Erin Laxamana	Ecology Club	FC
Erin Laxamana	TAG	FC
Leonardo Leoni	Mariachi Club	East
Lamar Linnear	Digital Media Club	FC
Donald Lloyd	Auto Club	East
Tyler Lubinus	Theatre Club	East
Malika Manouzi	Morton Sports Club	East
Melannie Martinez	Fall Musical Production Assistant	West
Carole Mestousis	Best Buddies	FC
Vanessa Montalvo	Snowball	FC
Maggie Morales	SAALT/Leadership	FC
Berenice Peralta	Snowball	FC
Alexandra Platek	Glam Club	East
Stephen Rauch	Student Council/MSG	FC
Martin Reyes	Black Student Union	East
Ruben Reyes	Anime Magna	FC
Ruben Reyes	Best Buddies	FC
Ruben Reyes	Peer Mediators	FC
Maria Rodriguez	Fine Arts Club	FC
Leticia Ruiz	Culinary Club	FC
Corilynn Taraszka	Assembly Coordinator	FC
Corilynn Taraszka	Homecoming Coordinator	FC
Dr. Victoria Therriault	Otaku Club	East
Liliana Tinoco	Fine Arts Club	FC
Brian Toms	Band Club	East
Abigail Vanderlee	Morton Medical Club	East
Victoria Villagomez	Bilingual Club	East

NON-CERTIFIED

Clerical

Sandra Cruz	Clerical Substitute	
Sonia Rada	Night School Secretary	East

Security

DeAndre Evans	10 Month Full Time Security	West
	Replacement for: Joseph Robinson	
	Effective: <i>pending background check</i>	

Jocelyn Figueroa	10 Month Full Time Security Replacement for: Armando Rivera Effective: <i>pending background check</i>	West
Maria Galvez	Temporary 10 Month Full Time Security Leave Coverage for: Andre Hunter Effective: <i>pending background check</i>	West
Theodore Meza	10 Month Part Time Security (transfer from Full Time Security) Replacement for: Demetrius Hill (transfer) Effective: <i>08/18/2025</i>	West
Horacio Villegas	10 Month Full Time Security Replacement for: Samuel Trabanino (transfer) Effective: <i>09/03/2025</i>	East
Maintenance		
Edward Kulik	Receiving Clerk (transfer from Custodian) Replacement for: John Walsh Effective: <i>09/11/2025</i>	FC
Teaching Assistants		
Jacqueline Alvarez	Bilingual Teaching Assistant Replacement for: Leonardo Leoni (transfer) Effective: <i>09/02/2025</i>	East
Maria Loza	Teaching Assistant (transfer from Food Service) Replacement for: Agency TA Effective: <i>pending licensure</i>	West
Ruth Mayorga	Teaching Assistant (transfer from West) Replacement for: Agency TA Effective: <i>Start of the 2025-2026 School Year</i>	FC
Maria Tiscareno	Bilingual Teaching Assistant Replacement for: Juan Hernandez Flores (transfer) Effective: <i>pending background check</i>	West

Police Officers

Joel Barajas	Police Officer	Alt
Ivan Huitron	Police Officer	East

JOB ABANDONMENT

Julio Velez	10 Month Part Time Security Effective: 09/02/2025	West
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RELEASES

Employee #10061	Probationary Release Effective: 09/03/2025
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RETIREMENTS

Robert Szudarski	Maintenance – Pool Operator Effective: 03/27/2026	East
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RESIGNATIONS

Evonne Carter	Teaching Assistant Effective: 08/12/2025	West
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Nereida Echeverria	Assistant Payroll Clerk Effective: 08/27/2025	District
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Arturo Estrada	10 Month Full Time Security Effective: 08/27/2025	FC
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Merced Gonzalez	10 Month Part Time Security Effective: 08/28/2025	West
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INFORMATIONAL ONLY

Augustine Melecio	Teaching Assistant Offer Rescinded	FC
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13.6. Approval of Board of Education Travel and/or Expense Reimbursement in Accordance with Board Policy 2:125: None

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

13.7.1. 4 Auto Teachers
Fall 2025 ICAIA Conference
October 16-17, 2025
Funding Source: CTE Funded

13.7.2. Mark Stoch
2025 Illinois Technology Education Conference
October 24-25, 2025
Funding Source: CTE Funded

- 13.7.3. Dan Woulfe
National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association Conference
December 12-16, 2025
Funding Source: Athletic Department

13.8. Approval of Student Travel:

- 13.8.1. Jim Bageanis, Jim Tsenes, Stefano Crancich, Malika Manouzi and 30 Students
Boys' Soccer Tournament
Peoria, Illinois
September 12-13, 2025
Funding Source: Morton Soccer
- 13.8.2. Jim Bageanis, Jim Tsenes, Stefano Crancich, Malika Manouzi and 30 Students
Boys' Soccer Tournament
Bettendorf, Iowa
September 24-27, 2025
Funding Source: Morton Soccer
- 13.8.3. Roman Emano, Stefanie Ammerman, Danielle Haas and 24 Students
Adventure Club Camping Trip
Delton, Michigan
October 10-12, 2025
Funding Source: Student Funded

13.9. Approval of Facility Requests:

- 13.9.1. Options Fair

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

- 13.10.1. Fund the Future Fundraiser – Nothing Bundt Cakes – Morton West
- 13.10.2. 2025 Spanish Honor Society Fundraiser – Churros – Morton West
- 13.10.3. 2026 Spanish Honor Society Fundraiser – Churros – Morton West
- 13.10.4. Miller Canfield - TABLED
- 13.10.5. PMA Securities, LLC - TABLED

13.11. Approval to Bid or Quote: None

13.12. Approval of Bid Results: None

13.13. Approval to Accept Donations/Grants: None

13.14. Approval to Dispose of District Property: None

14. ACTIONS ITEM(S):

14.1. Approval to Adopt the 2025-2026 School Budget

Member Jaramillo-Flores motioned the Approval to Adopt the 2025-2026 School Budget 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.

14.2. Approval to Post a Request for Proposals for Construction Management Services for the Morton 201 Technology & Trade Center Project

Member Godinez motioned to Approve to Post a Request for Proposals for Construction Management Services for the Morton 201 Technology & Trade Center Project. 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.

14.3. Approval to Select a Delegate to Represent the District at the IASB Delegate Assembly on November 22, 2025

Member Godinez motioned to Select a Delegate Assembly on November 22, 2025: Jessica Jaramillo-Flores. 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.

14.4. First and Final Approval of PRESSPlus Issue #119 Policy Updates:

Updates: 2:80, 2:130, 7:140, 7:300 & 8:80

Review and Monitoring: 1:10, 1:20, 1:30, 2:10, 2:240, 3:30, 4:50, 4:90, 4:180, 5:270, 7:40, 7:90, 7:130, 7:325, & 8:110

Member Jaramillo-Flores motioned to Approve First and Final Approval of PRESSPlus Issue #119 Policy Updates.

Updates: 2:80, 2:130, 7:140, 7:300 & 8:80

Review and Monitoring: 1:10, 1:20, 1:30, 2:10, 2:240, 3:30, 4:50, 4:90, 4:180, 5:270, 7:40, 7:90, 7:130, 7:325, & 8:110

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.

15. **OLD BUSINESS:** None

16. **AUDIENCE COMMENTS:** None

17. **BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS:** None

18. **DISCUSSION:** None

19. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

20. **INFORMATIONAL ITEM:**

20.1. The next regular Board of Education Meeting will take place at Morton Freshman Center on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, starting at 5:00 p.m. and going directly into Closed Session.

21. **ADJOURNMENT:**

At 6:42 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