

MINUTES
Meeting of the Board of Education
District 201, Cook County
Wednesday, August 12, 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 5:11 p.m. on Wednesday, August 12, 2026, in the Superintendent's Conference Room at 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, Jeffry Pesek

Absent: Members Maria A. Gallegos, Mark Kraft and Sandra Tomschin

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

3. MOTION TO ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

Member Jaramillo-Flores moved to adjourn to Closed Session at 5:11 p.m. in the Superintendent's Conference Room at the Morton District Office. Member Godinez seconded.

Ayes: Members Godinez, Jaramillo-Flores, Kelly and Pesek

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Members Gallegos, Kraft and Tomschin

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 Godinez motioned to adjourn from Closed Session and Reconvene to Open Session at 6:03 p.m. in the LSS Conference room at the Morton District Office. Member Jaramillo-Flores seconded.

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

6. ROLL CALL

Secretary Jaramillo-Flores called the roll and the following were present:
Members Fernando Godinez, Jessica Jaramillo-Flores, Dr. Margaret Kelly, Jeffry Pesek and Sandra Tomschin

Absent: Members Maria A. Gallegos and Mark Kraft

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

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

8. RECOGNITIONS:

8.1. Pink Divas & Gents

9. REPORTS

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

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

9.2.1. Annabelle Linton – Morton East

9.2.2. Sofia Davila-Blanco – Morton West

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

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

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

9.6. **Executive Director of Human Resources Report:** Mr. Randy Borgardt reported.

9.7. Principal's Reports:

9.7.1. James Connelly – CTE School

9.7.2. Dr. Erin Kelly – Alternative School

9.7.3. Jose Gamboa – East Campus

9.7.4. Eric Ramirez – Freshman Center

9.7.5. Dr. Jorge Sanchez – West Campus

10. AUDIENCE COMMENTS ON ACTION ITEMS ONLY: None

11. ACTION ITEMS - CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Members Gallegos and Kraft

Motion carried.

11.1. Approval of Minutes:

11.1.1. Closed Session

11.1.1.1. Regular Meeting: July 8, 2026

11.1.2. Open Session

11.1.2.1. Regular Meeting: July 8, 2026

11.1.2.2. Special Meeting: July 29, 2026

11.2. Approval of Payroll:

11.2.1. Education: \$1,506,729.99

11.2.2. Building: \$730,488.71

11.2.3. Transportation: \$0.00

11.3. Approval of Bills for Payment

11.3.1. August 13, 2026a: \$145,720.21

11.3.2. August 13, 2026b: \$4,776,795.23

11.4. Approval of Personnel

11.4.1. Personnel Report

ADMINISTRATION

Sarah Fromius-Hough Special Education Coordinator (transfer from West
Instructional Coach)

Replacement for: Freddy Calixto

Effective: 08/10/2026

CERTIFIED STAFF

Rebeka Reyes	English Teacher	East
	Replacement for: Stefanus Doelman	
	Effective: <i>Start of the 2026-2027 School Year</i>	

Substitute Teachers

Angel Gaona	Substitute Teacher
Omar Fernandez	Substitute Teacher

NON-CERTIFIED**Non-Bargaining**

Raquel Caballero	Human Resources Coordinator (transfer from Human Resources Specialist)	District
	Replacement for: Rebecca Ziccardi	
	Effective: <i>08/21/2026</i>	

Crystal Perez	Human Resources Specialist (transfer from Human Resources Generalist)	District
	Replacement for: Raquel Caballero	
	Effective: <i>08/21/2026</i>	

Food Service

Liza Velasquez	Full-Time Food Service	East
	Replacement for: Raquel Fregoso	
	Effective: <i>pending background check</i>	

SUSPENSIONS

Employee #9250	Effective: <i>08/19/2026</i>
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Employee #10118	Effective: <i>08/19/2026, 08/26/2026, 09/02/2026, 09/09/2026, and 09/16/2026</i>
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RESIGNATIONS

Ariadna Galindo Rodriguez	EL Teaching Assistant	West
	Effective: <i>08/10/2026</i>	

Matthew Kocourek	Director of PE/Health/Driver Education	District
	Effective: <i>08/11/2026</i>	

Ashley Waitekus	10 Month Part Time Security	West
	Effective: <i>07/24/2026</i>	

Rebecca Ziccardi	Human Resources Coordinator	District
	Effective: <i>08/20/2026</i>	

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

11.5.1. Dan Wolfe
NIAAA National Conference
December 11-15, 2026
Funding Source: Athletic Budget

11.6. Approval of Student Travel:

11.6.1. Stefano Crancich, Kevin Cervantes, Malika Manouzi and
Approximately 26 students.
Soccer Tournament
September 23-26, 2026
Bettendorf, Iowa
Funding Source: Morton Athletics

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

11.7.1. Progress Learning ACT Suite

11.7.2. Scoreboard – Morton West Band Fundraiser

12. ACTIONS ITEM(S):

12.1. Approval of Chief Financial Officer Employment Contract

Member Jaramillo-Flores motioned to approve the Chief Financial Officer Employment Contract. Member Godinez seconded the motion.

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

12.2. First Reading of the PressPlus 122 Board Policy Updates:

Draft Updates:
2:230, 5:70, 5:240, 6:70, 6:80, 6:190, 7:130 and 8:70

Draft Update – New
2:120-E3

Draft Update – Rewritten
7:330

Review and Monitoring:
2:30, 3:40, 3:50, 3:60, 3:70, 4:120, 4:175, 5:40, 5:110, 5:140, 5:185, 7:30, 7:80,
7:345 and 8:100

Member Jaramillo-Flores motioned to approve the First Reading of the PressPlus 122 Board Policy Updates. Member Godinez seconded the motion.

Ayes: Members Godinez, Jaramillo-Flores, Kelly, Pesek and Tomschin
Nays: none
Abstain: none

Absent: Members Gallegos and Kraft
Motion carried.

13. **OLD BUSINESS:** None

14. **AUDIENCE COMMENTS:**

Name

Leena Van

Topic

Changes in Policy

15. **BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS:** None

16. **DISCUSSION:** None

17. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Superintendent Kuzniewski read a thank you card from Pink Divas & Gents.

18. **INFORMATIONAL ITEM:**

18.1. The next regular Board of Education Meeting will take place at Morton District Office on Wednesday, September 9, 2026, starting at 5:00 p.m. and going directly into Closed Session.

19. **ADJOURNMENT:**

At 6:37 p.m., Member Godinez moved to adjourn. Member Tomschin seconded.

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

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Members Gallegos and Kraft

Motion carried.

Jeffry Pesek, President

Date

Jessica Jaramillo-Flores, Secretary

Date