

MINUTES
Meeting of the Board of Education
District 201, Cook County
Wednesday, March 11, 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 5:04 p.m. on Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at in the Great Room at Morton Freshman Center by Member Pesek.

2. ROLL CALL

Board Clerk Chapman called the roll and the following were present:
Members Fernando Godinez, Dr. Margaret Kelly, Mark Kraft and Jeffry Pesek

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

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 Karl Vogel, 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 5:04 p.m. in the Board Room at the Morton District Office. Member Kraft seconded.

Ayes: Members Godinez, Kelly, Kraft and Pesek
Nays: none
Abstain: none
Absent: Members Gallegos, Jaramillo-Flores 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 Kraft motioned to adjourn from Closed Session and Reconvene to Open Session at 6:04 p.m. in the Great Room at the Morton Freshman Center. Member Godinez seconded.

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

6. ROLL CALL

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

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

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

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. Girls' Bowling – State Qualifiers

Jaylen Blancarte - 3 rd @ State	Xitlaly Acosta	Summerlynn Robinson
Lizabeth Sanchez	Makayla Veals	Madyson Veals
Renata Roman	Dolores Skenadore	Darla De La Vega Aspera

Coaches:

Malika Manouzi	Jim Tsenes	Jeremy Bertosa
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8.2. Girls' Wrestling – State Qualifiers

Andaira Marron	Anali Wilson - 3 rd @ State
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Coaches:

Fernando Arratia	Evan Gronlund	Nadia Flores
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8.3. Boys' Wrestling – State Qualifiers

Santiago Moya

Coaches:

Jim Hensley	Gary DeCata	Dan Levy
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8.4. **Boys' Swim & Dive – State Qualifiers**

Noah Deande

Coach: Mike McGlennon – Sectional Coach of the Year

8.5. **All Conference Athletes:**

Cheer:

Jose Martinez
Jayda Naranjo

Lennox Tolentino
Natalia Hernandez

Adamaris Villegas

Dance:

Gabriella Munoz

Anyelina Flores Pinto

Lidia Arreola

Girls' Wrestling:

Jordan Rodriguez
Luissiana Guerrero

Karla Munoz
Annabelle Linton

Victoria Vargas

Girls' Basketball:

Nora Abu-Taleb

Leah Brown

Boys' Basketball:

Miguel Gaspar

Angelo Lazo

Boys' Wrestling:

Nicolas Jaramillo

9. REPORTS

9.1. **Superintendent's Committee Reports:** None

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 for Compliance:** Mayra Arroyo reported.

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

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

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

9.8. **Principal's Reports:**

9.8.1. James Connelly – CTE School

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 Kraft motioned to pull the Consent Agenda #11.4.3. and to vote separately. Member Godinez seconded the motion.

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

Member Kraft motioned to Table Consent Agenda #11.4.3. Member Godinez seconded the motion.

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

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

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

11.1. Approval of Minutes:

- 11.1.1. Closed Session
 - 11.1.1.1. Regular Board Meeting: February 11, 2026
- 11.1.2. Open Session
 - 11.1.2.1. Regular Board Meeting: February 11, 2026

11.2. Approval of Payroll:

- 11.2.1. Education: \$7,999,091.80
- 11.2.2. Building: \$985,794.49
- 11.2.3. Transportation: \$1,661.75

11.3. Approval of Bills for Payment:

- 11.3.1. March 12, 2026a: \$121,210.27
- 11.3.2. March 12, 2026a, 2025b: \$3,794,496.97

11.4. Approval of Student Discipline

- 11.4.1. 470266
Change of placement to an alternate educational setting. The student will be enrolled at the Morton Alternative School for the remainder of the 25-26 school year.
- 11.4.2. 483099
Change of placement to an alternate educational setting. The student will be enrolled at the Morton Alternative School for the remainder of the 25-26 school year and the entire 26-27 school year.
- 11.4.3. 480136 - TABLED
- 11.4.4. 460708
Change of placement to Morton Alternative School PM program where the student can obtain the remainder of their credits online for the remainder of the 25-26 school year.
- 11.4.5. 462270
Change of placement to an alternate educational setting. The student will be enrolled in the online classes which will be monitored by the West school counselor for the remainder of the 25-26 school year.
- 11.4.6. 470234
Change of placement to an Alternate educational setting. The student will be enrolled at the Morton Alternative School for the remainder of the 25-26 school year and the first semester of the 26-27 school year.
- 11.4.7. 470504
Change of placement to an Alternate educational setting. The student will be enrolled at the Morton Alternative School for the remainder of the 25-26 school year and the first semester of the 26-27 school year.
- 11.4.8. 470299
Change of placement to an Alternate educational setting. The student will be enrolled at the Morton Alternative School for the remainder of the 25-26 school year and the first semester of the 26-27 school year.
- 11.4.9. 483074
Change of educational placement with services at the Morton Alternative school PM program for the remainder of the 25-26 school year and the entire 26-27 school year. Student will not attend the Morton Alternative School in person, but will have access to online classes. Student will also have access to the Morton Alternative School counselor for academic support and the Morton Alternative School social worker for social/ emotional and basic need support.
- 11.4.10. 470130
Expulsion without services remainder 25-26 and entire 26-27 school year.

- 11.5. Approval of Board of Education Travel and/or Expense Reimbursement in Accordance with Board Policy 2:125:** None
- 11.6. Approval of Staff Travel and/or Expense Reimbursement in Accordance with Board Policy 5:60:**
- 11.6.1. Up to Six (6) Staff Members
Cave Tech and Trade Center Tour
March 18-19, 2026
Funding Source: Local Funds
- 11.6.2. Up to Ten (10) Staff Members
2026 NASRO National School Safety Conference
June 28 - July 2, 2026
Funding Source: Local Funds
- 11.7. Approval of Student Travel:**
- 11.7.1. Malika Manouzi, Jeremy Bertosa, Jim Tsenes and 10 Students
IHSA State Girls' Bowling Tournament
February 18-21, 2026
Rockford, Illinois
Funding Source: Morton Athletics
- 11.7.2. Jim Hensley, Gary DeCata, Dan Levy, Andrew Curran and 4 Students
IHSA Boys' State Wrestling Tournament
February 18-21, 2026
Champaign, Illinois
Funding Source: Morton Athletics
- 11.7.3. Fernando Arratia, Nadia Flores, Evan Gronlund and 6 Students
IHSA Girls' Wrestling State Tournament
February 26-28, 2026
Bloomington, Illinois
Funding Source: Morton Athletics
- 11.7.4. Alana Mitrovich and 2 East Students
FCCLA State Leadership Conference and Competitions 2026
April 8-10, 2026
Springfield, Illinois
Funding Source: CTE Funded
- 11.7.5. Mark Stoch, Ian Armstrong, Mariana Valdes and up to 9 Engineering Students
Illinois Design Educators Association's 49th Annual Competition
April 10-11, 2026
Normal, Illinois
Funding Source: CTE Funded
- 11.7.6. Stefano Crancich, Malika Manouzi, Jim Tsenes and 30 Students
Girls' Soccer Tournament
April 29 - May 2, 2026
Bettendorf, Iowa
Funding Source: Morton Athletics

- 11.8. Approval of Facility Requests:**
 - 11.8.1. Mustangs Youth Football and Cheer
- 11.9. Approval of Contracts (Pending Final Legal Review and Negotiation [if necessary]):**
 - 11.9.1. Red Rover
 - 11.9.2. Sikich
 - 11.9.3. Freshman Laptop Purchase: 26-27 School Year
 - 11.9.4. Wagstaff & Cartmell, LLP
- 11.10. Approval to Bid or Quote:**
 - 11.10.1. Phase 2 Tuckpointing at Morton West
- 11.11. Approval of Bid Results:**
 - 11.11.1. Work Vehicles for Maintenance
- 11.12. Approval to Accept Donations/Grants:** None
- 11.13. Approval to Dispose of District Property:**
 - 11.13.1. FC Gym Equipment
- 11.14. Approval of Illinois High School Association Membership Renewal for 2026-2027 School Year**

12. ACTIONS ITEM(S):

12.1. Approval of Personnel

- 12.1.1. Personnel Report

Member Pesek motioned to approve the Personnel Report. Member Godinez seconded the motion.

Ayes: Members Godinez, Murga, Pesek, Tomschin and Villarreal

Nays: none

Abstain: Members Kelly and Kraft

Absent: Members Gallegos, Jaramillo-Flores and Tomschin

Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATION

Administrator Renewals for the 2026-2027 School Year

Daniel Anzilotti	Assistant Principal	West
Sean Arana	Dean of Students	East
Mayra Arroyo	Assistant Superintendent for Compliance and Accountability	District
Bart Bates	Dean of Students	Alt
Nicholas Battaglia	Assistant Principal	West
Melody Becker	Director of EL and Modern Language	District
Keith Beisman	Chief Technology Officer	District

Carol Best	Executive Director of Student Services	District
Eric Bjornstad	Director of Science	District
Randall Borgardt	Executive Director of Human Resources	District
Xiomara Bustamante	Dean of Students	West
Freddy Calixto	Special Education IEP Facilitator	West
Christopher Camerano	Dean of Students	East
Kristina Cavanaugh	Principal	West
Arianna Chavez	Assistant Principal	FC
James Connelly	Tech and Trade Center Principal	District
Estefania Cortes	Assistant Principal	East
Salandra Crockett	Dean of Students	East
Colleen Del Monaco	Director of CTE	District
Megan Delaney	Director of English Language Arts & Media Services	District
Linda Demro	Special Education Coordinator	FC
Benjamin Dobes	Dean of Students	FC
Hannah Gallardo	Career and Work Based Learning Coordinator	West
Jose Gamboa	Principal	East
Kaitlyn Gill	Dean of Students	East
Madeline Geyer	Dean of Students	West
Dustin Heap	Assistant Principal	West
Megan Holub	Director of Mathematics	District
Alex Karr	Dean of Students	West
Dr. Erin Kelly	Principal	Alt
Lauren Keppler	Biliteracy Coordinator	East
Matthew Kocourek	Director of PE, Health, and Driver Education	District
Natalie Kozlowski	Assistant Director of Athletics and Activities	District
Daniel Loftus	Special Education Coordinator	MTC
Kristen McChesney	Teacher Appraisal Specialist	FC
Dr. Joshua McMahan	Assistant Superintendent of Learning	District
Barbara Meeters	Special Education Coordinator	West
Stephen Ngo	Teacher Appraisal Specialist	West
Dr. Michael Parrie	Assistant Principal	East
McKenna Powers	Dean of Students	West
Jennifer Pufpaf	Special Education Coordinator	West
Jennifer Pustelnik	Assistant Principal	FC
Eric Ramirez	Principal	FC
Margarita Ramirez	Biliteracy Coordinator	West
Gloria Ramirez-Solis	Director of MTSS	District
JoAnne Rzadzki	Assistant Principal	East
Samantha Skubal	Assistant Principal	West
Laura Smith	Teacher Appraisal Specialist	East
Megan Stachura	Special Education Coordinator	East
Mark Sujak	Assistant Principal	East
Amanda Torres	Assistant Principal	West
Kevin Vesper	Director of Social Science and Fine Arts	District
Daniel Woulfe	Director of Athletics and Activities	District

CERTIFIED STAFF

Shu Cho	Fire Science and Public Safety Teacher (0.8 FTE) Replacement for: Joseph McClelland Effective: <i>pending background check</i>	West
Dr. Jason Hlavacs	TSI Teacher (transfer from Career and Work-Based Learning Coordinator) Replacement for: Lamar Linnear Effective: <i>2026-2027 School Year</i>	FC

Night School Session 3

Wendy Baxter	Night School Teacher	West
Gabrielle Boone	Night School Teacher	West
Maria Chemello	Night School Teacher	West
Michaelina Considine	Night School Teacher	West
Beth DeGraff	Night School Teacher	FC
Gordon Dezotell	Night School Teacher	FC
Melissa Ferreira	Night School Teacher	West
Kent Frankfother	Night School Teacher	East
Miranda Garcia	Night School Teacher	East
Jessica Gonzalez	Night School Teacher	East
Karla Gonzalez	Night School Secretary	East
Kayla Harnish	Night School Teacher	FC
Carolina Hernandez	Night School Teacher	West
Elizabeth Hettinger	Night School Teacher	West
Maritza Huerta	Night School Teacher	East
Valerie Janak	Night School Teacher	West
Yolanda James	Night School Teacher	West
Stephany Juarez	Night School Teacher	East
Megan Kehoe	Night School Teacher	East
Blanca Lopez	Night School Secretary	West
Michael McGlennon	Night School Teacher	West
Gabriel Negrete	Night School Teacher	West
Cara Noonan	Night School Teacher	East
Sonia Rada	Night School Secretary	East
Mohammed Ramadan	Night School Teacher	West
Veronica Rundell	Night School Teacher	East
Chris Simek	Night School Teacher	West
Doris Tobin	Night School Teacher	East
Adrian Tovar	Night School Teacher	West
Maricela Venegas Prado	Night School Teacher	East
David Waldron	Night School Teacher	FC
Joseph Waski	Night School Teacher	East
Natalie Wodynski	Night School Teacher	West
Erika Zacarias-Govea	Night School Teacher	East

Substitute

Marcelo David Silva	Science Long Term Substitute	East
	Resignation Coverage for: Brian Paychek	
	Effective: <i>pending background check</i>	

NON CERTIFIED STAFF**Food Service**

Cristofer Ibarra-Urquizo	Food Service Substitute	West
	New Position	
	Effective: <i>pending background check</i>	

Guadalupe Salgado	Food Service Substitute	West
	New Position	
	Effective: <i>pending background check</i>	

Maintenance

Christopher Hawn	Substitute Custodian	
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Security

Mark Pacheco	10 Month Full Time Security	FC
	Replacement for: Salvador Diaz (shift transfer)	
	Effective: <i>02/23/2026</i>	

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT**Summer Bridge**

Wendy Baxter	Summer Bridge Teacher	West
Logan Brown	Summer Bridge Teacher	West
Miranda Garcia	Summer Bridge Teacher	West
Leah Haft	Summer Bridge Teacher	West
Juan Hernandez-Flores	Summer Bridge Teacher	West

Summer Temporary Operations Help

Marisol Beltran	Summer Temporary Operations	East
Juanita Chacon	Summer Temporary Operations	East
Rosalva Chacon	Summer Temporary Operations	East
Dayanna Gonzalez	Summer Temporary Operations	East
Santos Patino	Summer Temporary Operations – Residency Specialist	East
Ana Rodriguez	Summer Temporary Operations	East
Ariana Villasenor Guzman	Summer Temporary Operations – Residency Specialist	East

SUSPENSIONS

#8986	Effective: 03/18/2026, 03/25/2026, 04/08/2026
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RESIGNATIONS

Eric Kraft	Girls Soccer Coach (only) Effective: 02/02/26	
Brian Paychek	Science Teacher Effective: 02/27/2026	East
Shamar King	10 Month Full Time Security Effective: 03/13/2026	FC
Kevin Quintana	Teacher Aide 6.5 Effective: 02/20/2026	West
Stephanie Tadda	Freshman Edge Teacher Effective: End of the 2025-2026 School Year	West

REQUESTS FOR POSITIONS

Executive Director of Safety & Alternative Educational Programs	12 Month Administration New Position Effective: July 1, 2026	District
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12.2. Approval of Superintendent's Contract

Member Kraft motioned to approve the Superintendent's Contract. Member Godinez seconded the motion.

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

12.3. Approval of Resolution Authorizing Litigation against Social Media Companies

Member Kraft motioned to approve the Resolution Authorizing Litigation against Social Media Companies. Member Godinez seconded the motion.

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

12.4. Approval of Resolution Authorizing Notice of Dismissal and Non-Renewal to 1st Year, 2nd Year and 3rd Year Probationary Teachers

Member Kraft motioned to approve Resolution Authorizing Notice of Dismissal and Non-Renewal to 1st Year, 2nd Year and 3rd Year Probationary Teachers. Member Godinez seconded the motion.

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

13. **OLD BUSINESS:** None

14. **AUDIENCE COMMENTS:** None

15. **BOARD MEMBERS 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, April 8, 2026, starting at 5:00 p.m. and going directly into Closed Session.

19. **ADJOURNMENT:**

At 6:50 p.m., Member Kraft moved to adjourn. Member Godinez seconded.

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

Jeffry Pesek, President

Date

Jessica Jaramillo-Flores, Secretary

Date