

Superintendent's Report

April 8, 2026

J. Sterling Morton High School District 201

Dr. Michael Kuzniewski, Superintendent

District Overview and Spring Reopening

Following Spring Break, I would like to thank our students, staff, and families for a smooth return to in-person instruction on April 7. Our buildings reopened with strong attendance, renewed energy, and a clear focus on the final instructional stretch of the school year. Administrators across all campuses report positive engagement as we enter a critical period for academic growth, assessments, and end-of-year planning.

Student Achievement and Instructional Focus

As we move through April, instructional efforts remain centered on maintaining rigor while providing targeted supports for students. Teachers are actively preparing students for upcoming state assessments and final course benchmarks. Intervention blocks, tutoring opportunities, and credit recovery supports continue across all campuses to ensure students remain on track for course completion and graduation.

Additionally, departments are engaging in curriculum reflection and planning for the 2026–2027 school year, with an emphasis on vertical alignment, culturally responsive instruction, and postsecondary readiness. These efforts align with our strategic goals of equity, excellence, and continuous improvement.

Student Life, Engagement, and Recognition

April is an especially active month for student engagement, with numerous events scheduled across the district. Highlights include:

- **Student of the Month recognitions** at Morton East, Morton West, and the Freshman Center, celebrating students who exemplify scholarship, leadership, and positive contributions to their school communities.
- **Prom season**, beginning with Morton East and followed by Morton West, providing memorable experiences for our students as they celebrate this important milestone.
- **Fine Arts Showcase and Art Show** at Morton West, highlighting the talent, creativity, and hard work of our performing and visual arts students.
- **Senior awards events** and recognition ceremonies, which honor academic achievement, service, and postsecondary commitments.

These activities play a critical role in fostering a sense of belonging and pride among our students and reinforce the importance of a well-rounded educational experience.

Family and Community Engagement

Throughout April, the district continues to prioritize strong family and community partnerships. Events such as **Coffee with the Principal**, PTO meetings, and culturally responsive celebrations like **Día del Niño** provide meaningful opportunities for families to connect with school leaders and staff.

We are encouraged by continued family participation at these events and remain committed to clear communication and collaboration as we prepare for the end of the school year and transitions into summer programming.

Personnel and Organizational Work

At the district level, we continue to focus on personnel planning, staffing needs, and professional growth. Administrators are in the early stages of evaluating staffing models, anticipated retirements, and hiring needs for next year to ensure continuity of services and program strength.

We also remain engaged in collaborative work with employee groups, emphasizing transparency, mutual respect, and alignment with district goals.

Facilities, Operations, and Summer Planning

Planning for summer projects is underway, including routine maintenance, instructional space improvements, and safety-related upgrades across the district. These preparations are essential to ensuring our buildings are ready to support students and staff at the start of the 2026–2027 school year.

Operations teams continue to monitor building conditions closely and coordinate with administrators to minimize disruptions to instruction and student activities.

Looking Ahead

As April progresses, our focus will increasingly shift toward:

- End-of-year assessments and accountability measures
- Graduation preparations and senior transitions
- Budget planning and staffing recommendations for the coming year
- Continued community engagement and celebration of student success

I want to thank the Board of Education for its leadership and continued support, as well as our students, staff, and families for their dedication to the District 201 community. It is an honor to serve this district during such an impactful time of the school year.

My agenda items for tonight

Agenda Items to Highlight

Agenda Item 9.3 – Superintendent’s Report Attachments

Included in your Board packet are the Student Activity and Health Services reports from each campus, along with the Monthly Truancy Report for February.

Agenda Item 9.8 – Principals’ Reports

Our principals will provide brief updates, and their comprehensive written reports are included in the Board packet for your review.

Consent Agenda

Agenda Item 11.1.1 & 11.1.2 – Approval of Minutes

The minutes from both the closed and open sessions of the March 11, 2026, Regular Board Meeting are included for approval.

Agenda Item 11.4 – Student Discipline

Student disciplinary cases are listed with their corresponding recommendations for Board action

That concludes my report.