



MORTON COLLEGE

COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO.

527 COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, October 11, 2018

A Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Morton College was held Thursday, October 11, 2018, beginning at 11:00 AM in the Morton College Board Room (221B) of Building B located at 3801 S. Central Avenue, Cicero, Illinois.

1. **Call to Order**

The Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Illinois Community College District No. 527 was called to order by Board Chair Frank Aguilar at 11:04 AM on Wednesday, September 26, 2018, in the Morton College Board Room (221-B).

2. **Roll Call**

Present:

Frank J. Aguilar, Chair
Susan L. Banks, Trustee
Joseph J. Belcaster, Trustee
Jose A. Collazo, Secretary
Anthony Martinucci, Vice Chair
Frances Reitz, Trustee
Jesus Javier Ruan, Advisory Student Member

Absent:

Melissa Cundari, Trustee

Also Present:

Dr. Stanley Fields, President
Dr. Linnea Stenson, Higher Learning Commission Liaison

3. **Citizen Comments**

None

4. **"The Importance of Regional Accreditation to an Institution"**

Dr. Linnea Stenson, Higher Learning Commission Liaison, gave a presentation on the importance of accreditation. The presentation is attached.

Questions:

Dr. Fields: Is the HLC's focus to regulate or help institutions?

Dr. Stenson: The HLC is here to help and support institutions.

Dr. Fields: In August, the College sent a 3-page letter explaining the actions we are taking to improve. Will this letter help?

Dr. Stenson: The HLC Board will consider all evidence when making their decision.

Dr. Stenson: Why is the attorney seated at the Board table? The attorney should be moved to the audience. The attorney is the College's attorney, not the Board's attorney. You may still ask him questions during the meeting, but it is important to move the attorney to the audience to establish separation.

Dr. Stenson: Why is Trustee Cundari not in attendance?

Trustee Reitz: Trustee Cundari has a position with the Federal Government, and cannot attend meetings on Wednesdays. The Board was given 3 dates to choose from, and October 11th was the only date that she could not attend. Trustee Cundari could not attend by phone per Board Policy only allowing 2-phone attendances per year.

Dr. Fields: What is the appeal process?

Dr. Stenson: The only appealable sanction is withdrawal. We will go through those steps with the institution should that decision be reached by the HLC Board.

Dr. Fields: Going forward, would the Board Agenda and Minutes be a good place to demonstrate action?

Dr. Stenson: Yes. It is also important to establish your Board Calendar each year, and do not change the meeting dates. This past year the Board had quite a few reschedules, and one meeting was canceled and not rescheduled.

5. Board Member Comments

Trustee Reitz: Our Board retreats have fallen off schedule, and I feel it is important to continue with these practices. Dr. Stenson said it is important to continue educating yourselves, the AGB and ACCT conferences are great resources for learning.

The Board had retreats on March 12, 2016, June 7, 2017 and November 18, 2017 with Dr. Fields.

6. Adjournment

Trustee Martinucci moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board. Trustee Collazo seconded the motion.

Advisory Vote-Student Member Ruan: Aye

Aye: Trustees Aguilar, Banks, Belcaster, Collazo, Martinucci, and Reitz.

Nays: None. Absent: Trustee Cundari. Motion Carried.

This meeting was adjourned at 12:16 PM

The Regular Board Meeting will be on Wednesday, October 17, 2018 at 11am.

Frank J. Aguilar,
Board Chair

Jose Collazo
Board Secretary