



MORTON COLLEGE

COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO.527

Minutes for the Special Board Meeting/Board Retreat

Saturday, November 23, 2024

Approved

1. Call to Order

The Special Board Meeting/Board Retreat was called to order by Board Chair, Leonard Cannata at 9:20 AM on Saturday, November 23, 2024, at The Westin Michigan Avenue in Huron A – 2nd Floor, 909 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611.

2. Roll Call

Present:

Leonard Cannata, Trustee
Jose Collazo, Trustee
Susan Grazzini, Trustee
Anthony Martinucci, Trustee
Oscar Montiel, Trustee
Frances F. Reitz, Trustee (arrived at 9:24 a.m.)
Gizelle Beltran, Student Trustee

Absent:

Charles Hernandez, Trustee

Also Present:

Dr. Keith D. McLaughlin, President

3. Citizen Comments

None

4. General Discussion of Matters Relating to the Short- and Long-Term Future of the College.

- 4.1. Year-in-Review
- 4.2. Values and Goals
- 4.3. HLC Update
- 4.4. Organizational Design and Development
- 4.5. Strategic Planning & Facilities
- 4.6. Board and Institutional Policies
- 4.7. Board Priorities
- 4.8. Board Development and Governance
- 4.9. 100th Year Anniversary Updates

Dr. McLaughlin started by welcoming everyone and thanked the board for their service. He knows that they are not often recognized for giving their time and energy in a volunteer capacity serving as a member of the board and all the responsibilities that go with it. Over the past year, he has relied on their wise counsel, trusted advice, steady guidance, and insight and support in his role as President. It has been his honor and privilege to lead the institution with 100 years of legacy. 100 years is amazing and to be a part of positioning and preparing the institution to grow and thrive long into the future. Dr. McLaughlin is looking forward to the new year that we are about to embark upon and all that it holds. As a board and as the administration of the college working together, we can face challenges and create a better future, and that is really what we are here to cover today.

Dr. McLaughlin touched on one of the agenda items, the Higher Learning Commission, because we have a focus visit coming up early next year. He thinks it is important to have a discussion today about that and to give an update, review, and reflect on some of the issues that led us to that visit. The Higher Learning Commission is there to advocate and support institutions that are members of that organization. They provide our accreditation and recognition of our accreditation, so he will always operate in the spirit that is what HLC is about.

Dr. McLaughlin stated that we are going to adjust this agenda based on the board's priorities, but it's just to do a flyover of a number of different issues and topics that are covered as the highest priority in the coming months but to remain flexible today.

4.1 Year-in-Review

Dr. McLaughlin asked the board to talk about from what we can recall some positive things that really stand out to them over the year about the institution, about their experience with the board, and how things are generally going. Then we would shift over to the Delta Sign, which is from the Greek alphabet, which represents change. We can look at the next year, in the coming years, and what we would really like to think about planning in terms of change. Board members were actively engaged and provided feedback.



Trust
Transition
Board Leadership
Communication
Team Building
Respect
Student Trustee
Openness
Stakeholder Engagement
Pride in Facilities/Campus



Rocket Property Development
Board Evaluation
Fundraising
High School Partnership
Security - Visibility
Alum Relations Database
Theatre
Student Fundraising

4.2 Values and Goals

Dr. McLaughlin mentioned the Core Values that have been around for a very long time. Internally we've been discussing our core values, it has been a very good discussion, and we had an open forum, and we spent some time talking about our values.

4.4 Organizational Design and Development

Dr. McLaughlin highlighted some reorg proposals that will be brought forward to the board. Our new Vice President of Academic Affairs, Sheldon Walcher is working on this and trying to create a structure that's much more efficient, effective, and organized around several major areas.

Dr. McLaughlin let the board know he continues to hear from administrative staff that they think there should be some consideration given whether consolidating responsibilities and having people take additional responsibilities, we are talking about nonunion employees, and whether there should be additional compensation associated with that. A discussion ensued between the President and the Board. Dr. McLaughlin mentioned we could do a detailed comprehensive salary study.

4.9 100th Year Anniversary Updates

Dr. McLaughlin concluded the discussion by highlighting the continuing celebration of our 100th anniversary. Our next big event will be in April, which will be the Gala.

6. Adjournment

Trustee Martinucci made a motion to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting at 12:05 p.m.

Trustee Collazo seconded the motion.

Ayes: Trustees, Cannata, Collazo, Martinucci, Montiel, and Reitz

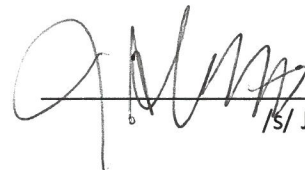
Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Hernandez

Motion Carried



/s/ Leonard Cannata,
Board Chair



/s/ Jose Collozo,
Secretary