



MORTON COLLEGE  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO.527  
Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting  
Thursday, February 27, 2025

**Approved**

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**1. Call to Order**

The Regular Board meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Leonard Cannata at 10:10 AM on Thursday, February 27, 2025, at the Centennial Room, located at 3801 S. Central Ave., Cicero, IL 60804.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Roll Call**

**Present:**

Leonard Cannata, Trustee  
Jose Collazo, Trustee  
Charles Hernandez, Trustee  
Anthony Martinucci, Trustee  
Oscar Montiel, Trustee  
Gizelle Beltran, Student Trustee

**Absent:**

Susan Grazzini, Trustee  
Frances F. Reitz, Trustee

**Also Present:**

Dr. Keith D. McLaughlin, President  
Edward Wong Attorney, Del Galdo Law Group, LLC

**4. Citizen Comments**

Alexander Hottes, from Lyons, asked the board in January about the veterans parking spaces. He spoke with Student Trustee Beltran about a week ago but was here to look for what the process is to make this request more formal and move forward with this.

Trustee Cannata told Alexander if available to stick around and discuss the request with President McLaughlin after the meeting.

Trustee Hernandez inquired whether we had addressed the students' concerns about ICE on campus. Dr. McLaughlin responded, saying, Yes, sir, and we have provided information to our faculty and staff regarding our policies and procedures.

## **5. Reports**

### **5.1 ICCTA-ACCT**

Trustee Hernandez reported on ICCTA, informing everyone of the next meeting on March 14-15, and will report back on the March meeting.

### **5.2 Student Trustee – Gizelle Beltran**

Student Trustee Gizelle Beltran highlighted the Valentine's event, FAFSA Palooza, and the tutoring center snack giveaway.

## **6. President's Report**

Dr. McLaughlin started his report by inviting Rebecca Primm, one of our art instructors, who would like to share some great news about the talented group of students in the arts and their accomplishments. Rebecca shared the two out of the three art competitions the students were involved in. The first show was in the fall, held at Northeastern Illinois University where we took first and second place. The second show was held at Governor's State University where the students took eleven out of the 20 awards. Keith McLaughlin congratulated the students. We're so proud of you and how you represent Morton College and just showcasing the talent that's here in our world, and to all the instructors, Rebecca's colleagues as well for guiding and leading our students in this way.

Dr. McLaughlin introduces our long-time automotive technology instructor Donald Sykora to highlight his New Zealand trip. Don thanked the board, the college, and everybody who supports the automotive program for him being able to attend the EV Technology Training through the IGEN RevUp New Zealand Exchange. This exchange program allowed a group of about 18 instructors and administrators from throughout the state to attend hands-on training. They were able to visit the facilities, work with the instructors, and get their hands on all vehicles and everything that we talk about in our online classes. Half the trip was hands-on training, and the other half of the trip was cultural immersion.

Dr. McLaughlin introduced our Athletic Director, Lee Milano, who shared about an outreach that was conducted recently, as well as good news about our men's basketball team. Lee first thanked Trustee Montiel for helping him set up on February 17<sup>th</sup>, President's Day, between our men's basketball program and our women's softball program, 2 hours a day to work with youth from 8 to 14 years old at the Boys Club. Lee highlighted the day and how important it is for the youth to spend time with college students and college coaches and for students to volunteer and give back to the community. The second news item Lee highlighted was the men's basketball team won the Skyway Conference, and they are working towards the playoffs.

Dr. McLaughlin introduced our Vice President of Academic Affairs, Sheldon Walcher, to highlight a couple of programs. Dr. Walcher shared some of the innovations that we're about to launch, one of which is the Panther Pathways Initiative. Another initiative we've been involved in through the state is a state equity plan. Bringing the two initiatives together, we have Panther Pathways. We will pilot in the fall and to pilot something like this, you have to bring together a really big team, and he is really excited to say that this experience of even planning this pilot has allowed Dr. Walcher to get to know the administrative staff and faculty in a way that he probably wouldn't have. Dr. Walcher emphasized how fantastic our administration is here at the college and our students are phenomenal, and they deserve the best from us and we're trying to give them the best.

Dr. McLaughlin concluded his report by introducing Scott Ulbrich from IT. Scott emphasized that IT is doing a lot of good work in expanding technology, making technological access easier, and more intuitive for students, and as Sheldon mentioned, our students expect the best from us, and IT is working on it, and that we focus on student success. Scott discussed cybersecurity, launching a new portal for students and employees, and a new mobile app. Scott also highlighted that other higher education institutions across the country are reaching out to Morton to get ideas and feedback on how they are liking the portal and the mobile app. Dr. McLaughlin stated that he doesn't think there is a better compliment than that than to get contacted by other colleges and universities from across the country who are hearing about what we're doing with this technology to benchmark us.

## **7. Consent Agenda**

Trustee Hernandez questioned item 7.15 and 7.26.1. A conversation ensued between Trustee Hernandez and President McLaughlin.

Trustee Martinucci made a motion to approve the consent agenda as amended, which includes agenda items 7.1 to 7.27.1, as listed below.

Student Trustee Beltran seconded the motion.

Ayes: Trustees, Cannata, Collazo, Hernandez, Martinucci, Montiel, and Beltran

Nays: None

Abstain: Trustee Hernandez

Absent: Grazzini and Reitz

Motion Carried

- 7.1. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting held on January 22, 2025.
- 7.2. Approval and ratification of accounts payable and payroll for the month of January 2025, in the amount of \$2,365,979.00, and budget transfers in the amount of \$26,100.00.
- 7.3. Approval of the Monthly Budget Report for the fiscal year to date ending in January 2025.
- 7.4. Approval of the Treasurer's Report for January 2025.
- 7.5. Approval of the Morton College Long Range Financial Plan FY2024 – FY2028.
- 7.6. Out-of-state travel to Keith McLaughlin to the American Association of Community Colleges Annual (AACC), in Nashville, TN, from April 12, 2025, through April 16, 2025, in the approximate amount of \$2,550.00.
- 7.7. Approval of the Faculty Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- 7.8. Approval of the curriculum changes as submitted.
- 7.9. Approval of the lane change, and new salary per the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) for Asiyya Ashraf, FT Faculty, Biology, effective January 9, 2025.
- 7.10. Approval of the lane change, and new salary per the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) for Lauren Caruso, FT Faculty, Nursing, effective January 9, 2025.
- 7.11. Approval of Overload Employment Report for spring semester 2025 in the amount of \$382,193.32, as submitted, pending additional class cancellations and/or additions.
- 7.12. Approval of the Adjunct Faculty Assignment/Employment Report for spring semester 2025 in the amount of \$663,017.56, as submitted, pending additional class cancellations and/or additions.
- 7.13. Approval of a temporary 10% increase, per the Classified union agreement, for Angelica Alvarado to assist with the responsibilities and tasks of the Registrar, effective October 24, 2024.
- 7.14. Approval of a temporary 10% increase, per the Classified union agreement, for Guadalupe Perez to assist with the responsibilities and tasks of the Registrar, effective October 24, 2024.



- 7.15. Approval of an additional \$50,000.00 for legal representation of Patrick J. Walsh of Griffin Williams McMahon & Walsh to perform various legal services for FY25.
- 7.16. Approval of Heartland Business Systems to upgrade the Morton College phone system software, in the amount of \$58,999.18.
- 7.17. Approval of Hildebrand Sporting Goods as the lowest responsible bidder for Athletic Team Apparel for a three-year contract from February 26, 2025, through January 31, 2028, in the amount not to exceed \$450,000.00 for the duration of the contract.
- 7.18. Approval of FieldTurf, contracted by Sourcewell, for the removal of existing turf and replacement with new turf on Carbajal Field, in the amount of \$500,795.54.
- 7.19. Approval of the renewal resolution approving and adopting an affiliation agreement between Morton Community College District No. 527 and Lighthouse Hospice Care, LLC for nursing student clinicals.
- 7.20. Approval of the resolution approving and adopting a master educational affiliation agreement between Morton Community College District No. 527 and Enhance Rehab IL LLC.
- 7.21. Approval of the renewal resolution approving and adopting a nursing affiliation agreement between Morton Community College District No. 527 and Maryville Academy, for nursing student clinicals.
- 7.22. Approval of the HPITSP/GTSA agreement between Morton College and Hyundai Motor America.
- 7.23. Approval of the partnership agreement between Morton College and The Board of Education of Cicero School District No. 99.
- 7.24. Approval of the donation of eight (8) obsolete, unusable treadmills to the Town of Cicero.
- 7.25. Approval of Position Changes
  - 7.25.1. Monica Rosas, New Position, Director of Student Success and Retention, Nonunion Position, \$85,000.00, effective January 26, 2025.
- 7.26. Approval of Updated Job Description
  - 7.26.1. Executive Director of Facilities Management and Public Safety/Police
- 7.27. Approval of Retirement
  - 7.27.1. Cristina Trujillo, Custodian, effective March 28, 2025.

**8. Informational Only 8.1 – 8.2.13**

**9. Approval of the updated Residency Policy, as submitted.**

Trustee Martinucci made a motion to approve the updated Residency Policy, as submitted.

Trustee Collazo seconded the motion.

Ayes: Trustees, Cannata, Collazo, Hernandez, Martinucci, Montiel, and Beltran

Nays: None

Absent: Grazzini and Reitz

Motion Carried

**10. Closed Session – Cancelled**

**11. Approval of employment status of five tenure, four non-tenure continued employment, and one non-continuation of instructors for the Academic Year 2025-2026.**

Trustee Martinucci made a motion to approve employment status of 5 tenure, 4 non-tenure continued employment, and 1 non-continuation of instructors for the Academic Year 25-26.

Trustee Hernandez seconded the motion.

Ayes: Trustees, Cannata, Collazo, Hernandez, Martinucci, Montiel, and Beltran

Nays: None

Absent: Grazzini and Reitz

Motion Carried

**12. Approval of the Settlement Agreement and Release between Morton Community College, RJA/A, LTD, and Richard J. Ahrham.**

Trustee Martinucci made a motion to approve the Settlement Agreement and Release between Morton, RJA, and Ahrham.

Trustee Collazo seconded the motion.

Ayes: Trustees, Cannata, Collazo, Hernandez, Martinucci, Montiel, and Beltran

Nays: None

Absent: Grazzini and Reitz

Motion Carried

**13. Approval of the Settlement Agreement and Release between Morton Community College District 527, Alden Bennett Construction, and Ritchie Schullo.**

Trustee Martinucci made a motion to approve the Settlement Agreement and Release between Morton, Alden Bennett, and Schullo.

Student Trustee Beltran seconded the motion.

Ayes: Trustees, Cannata, Collazo, Hernandez, Martinucci, Montiel, and Beltran

Nays: None

Absent: Grazzini and Reitz

Motion Carried

**14. Adjournment**

Trustee Martinucci made a motion to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting at 11.02 a.m.

Trustee Collazo seconded the motion.

Ayes: Trustees, Cannata, Collazo, Hernandez, Martinucci, Montiel, and Beltran

Nays: None

Absent: Grazzini and Reitz

Motion Carried



/s/ Leonard Cannata,  
Board Chair



/s/ Jose Collozo,  
Secretary

