



MORTON COLLEGE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO.527
Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 22, 2025

Approved

1. Call to Order

The Regular Board meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Leonard Cannata at 10:04 AM on Wednesday, January 22, 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 (attended virtually)
Anthony Martinucci, Trustee
Oscar Montiel, Trustee
Frances F. Reitz, Trustee
Gizelle Beltran, Student Trustee

Absent:

Susan Grazzini, Trustee

Also Present:

Dr. Keith D. McLaughlin, President
Edward Wong Attorney, Del Galdo Law Group, LLC (attended virtually)

4. Citizen Comments

Alexander Hottes, a VA student from Lyons, proposed that the college reserve two to three parking spots for veterans and active military as a simple but meaningful gesture. He also addressed that he was accidentally dropped from a class, which was rectified rather quickly, but had an issue with an advisor/financial aid office. The advisor gave a lot of pushback and refused to speak with financial aid. Alex was told his advisor was not there and felt dismissed and not acknowledged. He did not file a complaint and is just hopeful for a better outcome in the future for VA students.

Chair Cannata requested that this be addressed with the appropriate staff for clarification and rectification purposes. He also acknowledged that he does not think that anyone on the board would oppose parking spaces, and for the college to appropriately look into that. He wouldn't have an issue for veterans as well as disabled veterans who may not be eligible for handicapped parking spots.

Dr. Keith McLaughlin stated he will look into both matters and will keep the board informed.

The Board thanked Alex for his comments and his service.

5. Reports

5.1 ICCTA-ACCT

Trustee Hernandez reported on ICCTA that on February 19th, they will have the budget address in Springfield. January 4-7th, they had the lame duck session and will go back on January 25th. Trustee Hernandez congratulated President McLaughlin on his position as Board Chair of the NACTC. On a final note, the Social Security Fairness Act has passed.

5.2 Student Trustee – Gizelle Beltran

Student Trustee Gizelle Beltran highlighted Morton College welcome week. First on the list was the DACA renewal and Public Benefits Workshop, 28 DACA renewals were received, and 16 public benefits were given to students. Gizelle emphasized there is fear in students coming on campus for what may happen next with all the politics going around. She wants them to feel safe. Student Trustee also highlighted the Ask Me table, the Resource Fair, and the Campus Life Fair.

A discussion ensued between Trustee Hernandez and Trustee Cannata regarding the Student Trustee's remark about students being fearful of coming to campus.

6. President's Report

Dr. McLaughlin started his report by inviting the Dean of Student Services, Jamar Orr, to give a couple of presentations, both to highlight our students, with the Phi Theta Kappa program as well as some additional services that we will be providing to our students that I think are very relevant to some of the discussions that we are having today.

Jamar Orr highlighted Phi Theta Kappa, one of our premier student organizations; under the leadership of one of our advisors, Angelo Greene, we've gone from a two-star to a five-star chapter. We've also had a student be recognized coming out of our Phi Theta Kappa for the Nota Bene, which is honoring a student at a community college for their literacy works, and we've also seen 109% growth in this organization. The primary purpose is to help college students succeed and provide the resources for them to be able to do so. Mr. Orr invited a couple of students and advisor Angelo up to share a little bit about their experience. Eliana Ruiz, President of PTK, highlighted the events that were held, what the chapter offers, such as scholarships and so forth, and the Ask Me table. Victoria Calderon, VP of PTK, explained what their jobs entailed, which is to help students grow in their leadership skills. Angelo Greene, Student Success Coach, highlighted what PTK can do not only for students but also for advisors and bridge that gap between students being here at the community college level, getting any kind of professional development, and transferring over to their four-year school as well. Mr. Greene also touched on the membership dues and upcoming conferences.

Mr. Orr transitioned to mental health support and TimelyCare. We were fortunate enough as an institution to be awarded the Mental Health Early Action on Campus Grant in the amount of \$120,000.00 to be able to fund TimelyCare. Mr. Orr invited our two mental health counselors, Jennifer Iniquez and Sandra Salas to speak about mental health and how TimelyCare can support our students. Sandra and Jennifer highlighted the reason why they applied for the grant is because we need to have more resources for our students. TimelyCare was chosen because they realized at a conference that there were a lot of colleges and universities from Illinois that already used TimelyCare and have been successful in providing additional resources, peer support, and additional counseling 24/7 resources all together just wrap-around services that our students can benefit from. We are also able to see any notes made on a student that has been seen through TimelyCare. It also aligns with the Peer Support component of the Act where we are required to have peer support on campus for students. Trustee Reitz commented on how important these resources are for our students and suggested contacting the Animal Welfare Department at the Town of Cicero to bring in lab pups for therapy support.

Dr. McLaughlin also thanked our students and staff working with our students in PTK. What an outstanding program and outstanding leadership that you are showing. This is such an enriching learning experience for you and for those students that participate in this. We thank you for your dedication and commitment to growing it, building it, and making it successful.

Dr. McLaughlin concluded his report by highlighting the new strategic plan, starting conversations about the fiscal year 26 budget, continuing conversations for future options for the Rocket Property, focusing on our leadership development, and a couple of our 100th-anniversary events with our grand finale at commencement.

7. Consent Agenda

Trustee Cannata removed 7.5 at this time as we are not in receipt of that audit report at this time.

Trustee Martinucci made a motion to approve the consent agenda as amended, which includes agenda items 7.1 to 7.13.4, as listed below, with the exclusion of item 7.5.

Trustee Collazo seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Grazzini

Motion Carried

- 7.1. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting held on December 13, 2024.
- 7.2. Approval and ratification of accounts payable and payroll for the month of December 2024, in the amount of \$3,680,944.00, and budget transfers in the amount of \$55,000.00.
- 7.3. Approval of the Monthly Budget Report for the fiscal year to date ending in December 2024.
- 7.4. Approval of the Treasurer's Report for December 2024.
- 7.5. Approval of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for FY24, and the accompanying communication prepared by Forvis, LLP Auditors.
- 7.6. Approval of out-of-state travel to Dr. Keith McLaughlin, to attend the NACTC February Board Meeting in Tampa, FL, from February 5, 2025, through February 7, 2025, at approximately \$800.00 and to attend the ACCT National Legislative Summit in Washington, DC, and meetings with congressional offices, from February 9, 2025, through February 12, 2025, in the approximate amount of \$1,350.00.
- 7.7. Approval of the Classified Staff Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- 7.8. Approval of the curriculum changes as submitted.
- 7.9. Approval of TimelyCare online platform to provide virtual Mental Health care to Morton College students. Funding has been awarded through an ICCB grant in the amount of \$120,000.00, whereas \$116,000.00 will cover a 2-year contract with TimelyCare. \$4,000.00 will be allotted for mental health training and awareness on campus.
- 7.10. Approval of the Nursing ATI for the Spring/Summer 2025 Semester, in the amount of \$40,351.00.
- 7.11. Approval of the Adjunct Faculty consultation hours report for the 2024 fall semester in the amount of \$17,433.66 as submitted.
- 7.12. Approval of the resolution approving and adopting a master educational affiliation agreement between Morton Community College, District 527, and Chicago Center for Sports Medicine and Orthopedic Surgery.
- 7.13. Approval of New/Updated Job Descriptions

- 7.13.1. Director of Learning Resources, New Job Description
- 7.13.2. Executive Director of Workforce Innovation and Strategic Partnerships, New Job Description
- 7.13.3. Director of Student Success and Retention, New Job Description
- 7.13.4. Library Service Aide, New Job Description

Trustee Cannata made a motion to table item 7.5 of the consent agenda.

Trustee Martinucci made a motion to approve tabling item 7.5 of the consent agenda.

Trustee Collazo seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Grazzini

Motion Carried

8. Informational Only 8.1 – 8.2.7

9. Approval of the first reading of the updated Residency Policy.

Trustee Martinucci made a motion to approve the first reading of the updated Residency Policy.

Trustee Reitz seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Grazzini

Motion Carried

10. Closed Session – Cancelled

11. Approval of the Termination of Employment – Russell Streuly, PT Fitness Center Specialist, effective December 16, 2024.

Trustee Martinucci made a motion to approve the first reading of the updated Residency Policy.

Trustee Montiel seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Grazzini

Motion Carried

12. Adjournment

Trustee Martinucci made a motion to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting at 10:40 a.m.


Trustee Collazo seconded the motion.

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


Nays: None

Absent: Grazzini

Motion Carried



/s/ Leonard Cannata,
Board Chair



/s/ Jose Collozo,
Secretary