



MORTON COLLEGE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO.527
Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 26, 2025

Approved

1. Call to Order

The Regular Board meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Leonard Cannata at 10:07 AM on Wednesday, March 26, 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
Susan Grazzini, Trustee
Anthony Martinucci, Trustee
Oscar Montiel, Trustee
Frances F. Reitz, Trustee
Gizelle Beltran, Student Trustee

Absent:

Charles Hernandez, Trustee

Also Present:

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

4. Citizen Comments

None

5. Reports

5.1 ICCTA-ACCT

None

5.2 Student Trustee – Gizelle Beltran

Student Trustee Gizelle Beltran highlighted the University Day, Midterms Week, Blues Concert, and UIC Advisor Day.

6. President's Report

Dr. McLaughlin started his report with an unveiling and asked our Dean of Career, Technical, and Adult Education, Laurie Cashman, to lead us out with talking about that. Laurie was so delighted

to be the person to introduce the two people responsible for this bench, they are Zachary Petrauskas and Rebecca Primm. Rebecca Primm, our Humanities Department Chair and full-time Art Faculty, is in her 12th year with Morton. She shared she was really happy to collaborate across departments, Arts and Sciences, and CTE, using their collective talents to create something meaningful for our college community to celebrate our 100th anniversary. Rebecca designed an important piece of the bench. Zachary Petrauskas, who created the bench, is an adjunct instructor in both Welding and AutoCAD at Morton, and he's been teaching with us for roughly 3 years, he was also a student here. He is a lifelong Berwyn resident who recently opened his own business, which involves construction management, structural and architectural steel drafting, and furniture design. He's also a practicing artist and his stained glass was recently on display here for the alumni showcase.

Rebecca stated when we originally were asked to do this, we brainstormed a lot of ideas and Zach really took on the role of project management of this whole thing. We tried to represent the years 1924 to 2024 but also have the original logo and then the current logo in the 100 years, so trying to just show the progression of the college. That was my contribution.

Zachary highlighted Carlos Marquez in the AutoCAD department. His company cut this out for us and he helped iron things out just to implement the design. I like Rebecca's contributions a lot. I think she kind of cut the stone if you will, the gem, and I set it in its binding. He was in the first class of the Welding department and Mr. Sanchez has been a great role model to him. Zachary is thankful for his position here and for what the college has given him in terms of technical ability. It was a pleasure and an honor to give back. Zach is very happy to have the welding department and thinks it's a great addition to the college. It can be something really beautiful that we can strengthen our community and just bring nice jobs to the area.

Dr. McLaughlin thanked them both again and expressed how beautiful and amazing the bench was.

Dr. McLaughlin introduced Athletic Director Lee Milio to highlight the Men's Basketball team and a special recognition of their coach Jon Rush. Lee first thanked the Trustees and President for supporting athletics. The team finished this year 21 and 11, 12 and 2, and won the Skyway Conference. They were 15 and 4 in the second half of the season and they have some individual accolades, but I also want to recognize Jon Rush and his staff who do an excellent job and run a program the way it's supposed to be run with integrity and teaching more than just also athletics. Jon was also named Skyway Conference Coach of the Year!

Jon Rush started by thanking everyone for having them and none of this success would be possible without the support of this room. He continued to state that we just try to go out and find young men of high character. We're looking to come here and kind of add to what we have going on here at Morton College, academically first and then obviously athletically second. Jon highlighted Adrian Anderson, who on January 14th, Pack the Place night, where we played Oakton Community College and Adrian had a game-high of 37 points. He's a local guy of the community who attended Morton High School, so just having local guys in the community who can step into our college and then make an impact on what we do is huge. Again, Jon thanked everyone for having them.

Dr. McLaughlin thanked Jon and congratulated him on his recognition as an outstanding coach. We're so glad to have you and just the leadership you're providing for the whole team. But all around, congratulations to our players who make us proud, and we thank you for being here.

Dr. McLaughlin introduced Mireya Perez, CFO/Treasurer and she reported that Forvis, LLP, completed the Annual External Audit. Mireya introduced Director Kimberly Marshall who reported on the institution's reports and reported a clean audit for FY24. Mireya also reported that our bond rate remains at a AA minus with a stable outcome.

Dr. McLaughlin thanked the board again for their engagement with the HLC Team this week. We'll hear about that in a few weeks, but certainly, we received some very positive feedback on the way out, and just in terms of campus climate and culture and the work that we're doing was positive.

Dr. McLaughlin was also happy to report, hot off the press, regarding our commencement speaker, we extended an invitation to the Illinois Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Honorable Chris Welch, and he accepted to speak at our Commencement this year. We are excited about the commencement being a part of our 100th-year celebration as we are going to be returning to the first location of the first graduation that took place with Morton College back at East High School.

Dr. McLaughlin highlighted the Gala coming up on April 11th.

Dr. McLaughlin reported on a new purchase of a golf cart for our police department, and overall, it is a nice vehicle, and thinks it's going to be a real asset to our police. Chief Michael Wolff added that it is more of an all-terrain vehicle so we could get up the curbs and the hills. It is equipped to up to 30 mph, but not only is it for responding, it is for the community and whoever needs assistance.

Dr. McLaughlin concluded his report by stating that we are in the process of preparing the fiscal year 26 budget and we're really going through a thorough process with our team, with our staff under the leadership of the senior staff to really put together a budget that we think is impactful and responsible. Certainly, in terms of budget priorities, as those conversations start, Keith will be looking to the board for feedback as we look ahead to the next fiscal year.

7. Consent Agenda

Trustee Martinucci made a motion to approve the consent agenda as amended, which includes agenda items 7.1 to 7.20.2, as listed below.

Student Trustee Grazzini seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Hernandez

Motion Carried

- 7.1. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting held on February 27, 2025.
- 7.2. Approval and ratification of accounts payable and payroll for the month of February 2025, in the amount of \$4,074,839.00, and budget transfers in the amount of \$146,521.00.
- 7.3. Approval of the Monthly Budget Report for the fiscal year to date ending in February 2025.
- 7.4. Approval of the Treasurer's Report for February 2025.
- 7.5. Approval of changes made to the Academic Calendar 2024-2025.
- 7.6. Approval of changes made to the Academic Calendar 2025-2026.
- 7.7. Approval of the course fee changes effective Fall 2025 term, as submitted.
- 7.8. Approval of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for FY24, and the accompanying communication prepared by Forvis Mazars, LLP Auditors.

- 7.9. 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 January 17, 2025, until hiring the new Registrar.
- 7.10. 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 January 17, 2025, until hiring the new Registrar.
- 7.11. Approval of the Technology Vision Alignment Assessment by CampuWorks, in the amount of \$49,256.00.
- 7.12. Approval of the architectural fees in the amount of \$56,000.00, for Legat Architects to renovate the Microbiology Lab.
- 7.13. Approval of the amended agreement with Cornerstone Government Affairs, Inc. for April 1, 2025, through March 31, 2026, in the amount of \$14,000.00/month.
- 7.14. Approval of the increase to \$150,000.00 purchase funds for licenses and equipment from Nobletech for the remainder of fiscal year 2025, as submitted.
- 7.15. Approval of the increase to \$150,000.00 purchase funds for licenses and equipment from Paragonmicro for the remainder of fiscal year 2025, as submitted.
- 7.16. Approval of the renewal of the clinical resolution approving and adopting a nursing affiliation agreement between Morton College and RML Specialty Hospital.
- 7.17. Approval of the resolution approving and adopting a master educational affiliation agreement between Morton College District 527 and Weil Foot & Ankle Management, LLC dba Balance Health.
- 7.18. Approval of Full-Time Employment
 - 7.18.1. Veronica Ramos, Custodian, Union Position, effective March 31, 2025.
- 7.19. Approval of Position Changes
 - 7.19.1. Carla McKenzie, Director of Teaching and Learning Resources, Nonunion Position, \$90,000.00, effective March 4, 2025.
 - 7.19.2. Michael Rose, Executive Director of Workforce Innovation and Strategic Partnerships, Nonunion Position, \$105,000.00, effective March 4, 2025.
 - 7.19.3. Brandie Windham, Executive Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Academic Planning, Nonunion Position, \$130,000.00, effective March 4, 2025.
 - 7.19.4. Joseph Florio, 10% increase due to updated job description of Executive Director of Facilities Management and Public Safety/Police, salary increase of \$148,994.00, effective March 27, 2025.
 - 7.19.5. Michael Wolff, hourly rate increase, Chief of Campus Police, \$48.00/per hr., effective March 27, 2025.
- 7.20. Retirement
 - 7.20.1. James T. Sassetti, Adjunct, Law Enforcement, effective June 1, 2025.
 - 7.20.2. Dr. Behrooz Sedaie, Faculty, Economics, effective September 1, 2025.

8. Informational Only 8.1 – 8.3.1

9. Closed Session – Cancelled

10. Approval of the Separation Agreement: Comprehensive Separation, Waiver, and General Release of all Claims between Sandra Alcala, and the Board of Trustees of Morton College, Illinois Community College District 527.

Trustee Martinucci made a motion to approve the Separation Agreement: Comprehensive Separation, Waiver, and General Release of all Claims between Sandra Alcala, and the Board of Trustees of Morton College, Illinois Community College District 527.

Trustee Grazzini seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Hernandez

Motion Carried

11. Adjournment

Trustee Martinucci made a motion to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting at 10.34 a.m.


Trustee Collazo seconded the motion.

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


Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Hernandez

Motion Carried



/s/ Leonard Cannata,
Board Chair



/s/ Jose Collozo,
Secretary

