



MORTON COLLEGE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO.527
Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Approved

1. Call to Order

The Regular Board meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Leonard Cannata at 9:38 AM on Wednesday, June 25, 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. Swearing in of Student Member Eliana Ruiz

Student member, Eliana Ruiz, was sworn in by Edward Wong, Attorney.

4. Roll Call

Present:

Leonard Cannata, Trustee
Jose Collazo, Trustee
Susan Grazzini, Trustee
Charles Hernandez, Trustee
Anthony Martinucci, Trustee
Oscar Montiel, Trustee
Frances F. Reitz, Trustee
Eliana Ruiz, Student Trustee

Also Present:

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

5. Citizen Comments

None

6. President's Report

Dr. McLaughlin started his report by inviting Michael Rose to the podium. Michael will be sharing a strategic opportunity. We need to expand the reach and impact of our adult literacy program, Project Care, by merging with another organization that provides similar services.

Michael Rose, Executive Director of Workforce Innovation and Strategic Partnerships, gave a brief background about Project Care. Project Care is our adult volunteer literacy service, which provides tutoring to adults in and around Cicero and Berwyn. The program was taken over by Rebecca Angevine, who was hired as a part-time staff member in 2020. In February of 2020, there was one student, one tutor, COVID hit, things went virtual, and since then, by 2023, Rebecca has grown the program to 75 students, 25 tutors, and it continues to grow today. Michael recognized

Rebecca for her work. Rebecca started full-time in 2023 and continued to work hard to grow the program. The program is funded by the Secretary of State through the Adult Volunteer Literacy Grant. Rebecca's hard work was recognized in 2024 when the State reached out to Morton and asked us to begin conversations with TEACH, which was funded by the Congregation of Saint Joseph and the Secretary of State to provide additional adult volunteer literacy services in suburban Cook County. TEACH had done some really great work around the area, but the Congregation of Saint Joseph made the decision to sunset the program, and they're reaching out to partners to see who could take over their tutors, who could take over their students, and the Secretary of State pointed them towards us. It was a great opportunity, and we spent about a year talking about their program and trying to figure out how we could merge the two programs. This is also an opportunity for us to expand our reach to five different sites within Cicero, Berwyn, and Summit as well to grow the Project Care program by over 150 new students, about 100 new tutors, and part of it included a donation generously from the Congregation of Saint Joseph for about \$100,000.00 over 2 years to support that growth. Part of that will be used to bring on Sylvia Chavez, who was the former director of TEACH, as a consultant for the first year to provide input on streamlining our services. It is a small program, small staff, but it's an important part of what we do to help the community and is a great gateway into the college for a lot of people in this community. Michael is excited to report back on how successful it will become.

Keith thanked Michael for his leadership and, of course, Rebecca, our program here is really recognized as a high-quality program providing vital service to our community. This is an outstanding opportunity for us to be able to expand our reach and impact and for these students to likely consider us for the next steps to enroll at the college.

Dr. McLaughlin mentioned the progress of the outside perimeter project, and we are moving along on schedule. Mr. Florio, Executive Director of Facilities Management and Public Safety/Police, will be meeting with representatives from the Capital Development Board to discuss jump-starting the long-delayed project in the E building with our athletic and fitness center facility. We are particularly anxious to move this project forward so that the new elevator in that building can finally be installed, which is important to provide access to the fitness center on the 2nd floor for those who require an elevator.

Dr. McLaughlin highlighted the tentative budget and looks forward to the conversations in the coming weeks before the adoption of the final budget with the trustees about priorities and parameters for the FY26 budget. It really is a blueprint, as budgets always are, for how we anticipate furthering the mission of the college and supporting the success of our students and the district, and the year ahead and beyond. We want to make sure that our budget supports the goals of our new strategic plan that represents good stewardship to all our parts of the operating revenue that's been entrusted to us through the local property tax dollars, state aid, and tuition dollars that students pay to attend here. As the board knows, as the governing board of the institution, we recognize one of your primary roles to be fiduciaries, and to that the leadership team stands ready to make adjustments to the new fiscal year budget based on your input and feedback before the final action in August.

Dr. McLaughlin had the privilege of meeting with Jee Hang Lee, the President and CEO of the National Association of Community College Trustees. Trustee Martinucci joined us for that. Keith had the opportunity to have a conversation with Jee Hang that was very informative, with his work in Washington, with the new administration, with questions about what might be happening at the Department of Education, and all that's related to that. It was very informative and beneficial to him personally.

Dr. McLaughlin highlighted the good news about the HLC evaluation team, and then the Institutional Actions Council recommended the removal of notice for the institution. Excellent news! Keith thanked the trustees for their work and support in moving us in that direction. Also, the Nursing Program recently received full accreditation, as well as the Physical Therapy Assistant Program. He thanked and congratulated Dean Cashman, Cynthia Young, Nursing, and Cara Bonick, PTA, for their work.

Dr. McLaughlin highlighted that the graduation in May at Morton East High School was the grand finale for a year-long celebration of the College's Centennial. We look forward to the future with the college's new three-year strategic plan. Keith thanked everyone who worked on that to develop the plan and guide the institution in the years ahead, as we undertake that.

Dr. McLaughlin noted that as we prepare in the months ahead to search for new leadership in the IT department, we recognize that this area provides critical functions and support. We must have interim leadership in place until such time, and here with us today is John Bax, who comes to us under the umbrella of CampusWorks. We are currently working with CampusWorks to audit all of our enterprise systems to ensure that our processes are optimized, and that includes those related to all the components in the student services area, institutional research, compliance, and business operations. John comes to us with extensive IT experience. He's had 30 years of experience in higher education, government, and cybersecurity. His expertise is in IT services management and infrastructure, cybersecurity, strategic planning, budgeting, and program management. In terms of his career highlights, John has served as CIO and CISO at Lincoln University. He was the Director of IT at Missouri University of Science and Technology. Information Security Officer for Missouri's Office of Administration, a consultant for the Missouri Department of Higher Education, Director of Application and Data Services at Missouri's Department of Health and Senior Services, and then Deputy CIO at Missouri's Department of Natural Resources. Those are the highlights of the extensive experience John brings to us to IT, which will be of value to us as we conduct a search and prioritize what our needs are for leadership in that department in the next few months as we move through this transition.

Dr. McLaughlin concluded his report by mentioning that Joe Florio and Mireya Perez are working to develop a competitive price structure for the rental of college facilities. We believe this can serve as an important alternative revenue stream for the college and the future. We think the college's location and abundance of parking make us an attractive venue for organizations looking to rent space. Of course, this does not change our commitment to providing space at no or low fees to community groups and organizations.

7. Approval of the public display of the tentative annual budget for Fiscal Year 2026 and the accompanying public notice, as required by Chapter 110, Act 805, Section 3-20 of the Illinois Compiled Statutes.

Trustee Grazzini made a motion to approve the public display of the tentative annual budget for Fiscal Year 2026 and the accompanying public notice, as required by Chapter 110, Act 805, Section 3-20 of the Illinois Compiled Statutes.

Trustee Martinucci seconded the motion.

Ayes: Trustees, Cannata, Collazo, Grazzini, Hernandez, Martinucci, Montiel, Reitz, and Ruiz

Nays: None

Motion Carried

8. Consent Agenda

Trustee Grazzini made a motion to approve the consent agenda as amended, which includes agenda items 8.1 to 8.38.2, as listed below.

Trustee Reitz seconded the motion.

Ayes: Trustees, Cannata, Collazo, Grazzini, Hernandez, Martinucci, Montiel, Reitz, and Ruiz

Nays: None

Motion Carried

- 8.1. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting held on April 25, 2025.
- 8.2. Approval and ratification of accounts payable and payroll for April 2025 in the amount of \$145,953.00 and budget transfers in the amount of \$185,556.00.
- 8.3. Approval of the Monthly Budget Report for the fiscal year to date ending in April 2025.
- 8.4. Approval of the Treasurer's Report for April 2025.
- 8.5. Approval and ratification of accounts payable and payroll for May 2025 in the amount of \$815,054.00 and budget transfers in the amount of \$40,969.00.
- 8.6. Approval of the Monthly Budget Report for the fiscal year to date ending in May 2025.
- 8.7. Approval of the Treasurer's Report for May 2025.
- 8.8. Approval of a one-time rollover of the balance of the FY25 Senior Cabinet unused vacation leave days above the annual 20-day rollover limit.
- 8.9. Approval of out-of-state travel for Dr. Keith McLaughlin to attend the NACTC 2025 Summer Symposium in Cleveland, OH, from June 26, 2025, through June 28, 2025, at the approximate cost of \$1,200.00.
- 8.10. Approval of out-of-country travel for Shannon Martino to the archaeological research site in Kakaberd, Armenia, from July 7, 2025, through July 31, 2025, at the approximate cost of \$3,200, paid for through Faculty Development.
- 8.11. Approval of the 2025 – 2028 Institutional Strategic Plan.
- 8.12. Approval of changes in the curriculum, as submitted.
- 8.13. Approval of the Adjunct Faculty consultation hours for Spring 2025, in the amount of \$20,857.36, as submitted.
- 8.14. Approval of a 10% increase to the current salary of Scott Ulbrich, Classified Excluded, Systems Administrator, effective May 1, 2025, until July 31, 2025.
- 8.15. Approval of NRG Business Marketing LLC for Ni-Cor gas supplier, in the amount of an additional \$18,000.00 for FY25.
- 8.16. Approval of the renewal of print periodical and journal subscriptions for the library from EBSCO, FY26, in the amount of \$26,778.00.
- 8.17. Approval of Michael Kautz Carpet to replace flooring in seven classrooms and the elevator area of the second-floor C Building in FY26, in the amount of \$49,480.00.
- 8.18. Approval of the purchase and installation of new batting cages for Baseball and Softball by Van's Enterprises, in the amount of \$46,250.00.
- 8.19. Approval of the Project CARE Transition Consultant with Silvia Chavez, not to exceed \$50,000.00, funded exclusively by funds from the Congregation of St. Joseph provided for this purpose.
- 8.20. Approval of the additional payment for All Pro Instructional Services for FY25 of \$55,000.00, paid from the student registration costs.
- 8.21. Approval of Cengage/ED2GO Instructional Services in the total amount not to exceed \$55,000.00,

paid from the student registration costs.

- 8.22. Approval of the purchase of online databases from the consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI), FY26, in the amount of \$58,641.00.
- 8.23. Approval of a one-year agreement with Journey Ed for campus Microsoft licensing, in the amount of \$66,261.12, as submitted.
- 8.24. Approval of the purchase of MacBook laptops for the Panther Pathways Program, in the amount of \$86,425.00, half in FY25 and half in FY26.
- 8.25. Approval of Gabriel Environmental Services to test soil on the Rocket Property, not to exceed \$90,000.00.
- 8.26. Approval of the continued consulting agreement with AMZEC LLC increased from \$77,000.00 to \$93,500.00, for FY25, as submitted.
- 8.27. Approval of the continued consulting agreement with Ryan Denson, Paramedic Program Director, from \$97,000.00 to \$106,225.00, for the balance of FY25, funded through the existing paramedic budget and Perkins Grant.
- 8.28. Approval of the independent consultant agreement renewal with Ryan Denson, Paramedic Program Director, effective July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, in the amount of \$102,357.00/year.
- 8.29. Approval of the one-year engagement with Forvis LLP. An accounting firm to perform the FY25 college audit in the amount of \$107,217.00.
- 8.30. Approval of Signature Transportation Group, the lowest responsible bidder, for the charter bus services, for a three-year contract effective July 1, 2025, in the amount of \$150,000.00.
- 8.31. Approval of a three-year agreement with Quest for Kace Systems Management Product, in the amount of \$157,291.30, as submitted.
- 8.32. Approval of the paralegal internship agreement with First Defense Legal Aid.
- 8.33. Approval of the Partnership Agreement between Morton College and Cicero School District 99 for offering a Photo and Video Internship with the District.
- 8.34. Approval of the Educational Affiliation Agreement with Cicero School District 99 and the Board of Trustees of Morton College for Nursing student clinicals.
- 8.35. Approval of the resolution approving and adopting a master educational affiliation agreement between Morton Community College District 527 and Vital Rehabilitation Association Inc.
- 8.36. Approval of Full-Time Employment
 - 8.36.1. Christopher Dominguez, Accounting Assistant, Union Position, effective June 2, 2025.
 - 8.36.2. Alberto Sanchez, Campus Police Lieutenant, Non-Union, \$84,000.00, effective June 2, 2025.
 - 8.36.3. Lissette Melgoza, Student Success Coach, Union Position, effective June 16, 2025.
- 8.37. Retirement
 - 8.37.1. Maria Berthiaume, Campus Police Officer (PT), effective
 - 8.37.2. Gene Jundt, Adjunct, Adult Education, effective August 1, 2025.
 - 8.37.3. Ruben Ruiz, Chief Information Officer, effective August 31, 2025.
- 8.38. Approval of Facility Use Permits
 - 8.38.1. Stickney Forest View Little League to use the Morton College Softball Field for a game on June 6, 2025.
 - 8.38.2. Azteca Baseball to use the field on the following dates: 6/29/25, 7/13/25, 8/3/25, and 8/10/25.

9. Informational Only 9.1 – 9.2.2

10. Closed Session – Took place after approval of items 12 – 2.

11. Approval of the President's Employment Agreement, as submitted.

Tabled until after the closed session.

12. – 17. Approval of items 12-17, first reading of board policies.

Trustee Martinucci made a motion to approve items 12-17, the first reading of board policies.

Trustee Grazzini seconded the motion.

Ayes: Trustees, Cannata, Collazo, Grazzini, Hernandez, Martinucci, Montiel, Reitz, and Ruiz

Nays: None

Motion Carried

18. Approval of an operating transfer from the Education Fund to the Auxiliary Fund, in the amount of \$45,293.00.

Trustee Grazzini made a motion to approve an operating transfer from the Education Fund to the Auxiliary Fund, in the amount of \$45,293.00.

Trustee Reitz seconded the motion.

Ayes: Trustees, Cannata, Collazo, Grazzini, Hernandez, Martinucci, Montiel, Reitz, and Ruiz

Nays: None

Motion Carried

19. Approval of a six-month contract with CampusWorks for Interim Chief Information Officer Services, in the amount of \$171,600.00 and \$20,000.00 for travel expenses

Trustee Martinucci made a motion to approve a six-month contract with CampusWorks or Interim Chief Information Officer Services, in the amount of \$171,600.00 and \$20,000.00 for travel expenses.

Trustee Reitz seconded the motion.

Ayes: Trustees, Cannata, Collazo, Grazzini, Hernandez, Martinucci, Montiel, Reitz, and Ruiz

Nays: None

Motion Carried

20. Approval of an operating transfer from the Education Fund to the General Liability Fund, in the amount of \$300,000.00.

Trustee Reitz made a motion to approve an operating transfer from the Education Fund to the General Liability Fund, in the amount of \$300,000.00.

Trustee Martinucci seconded the motion.

Ayes: Trustees, Cannata, Collazo, Grazzini, Hernandez, Martinucci, Montiel, Reitz, and Ruiz

Nays: None

Motion Carried

21. Approval of Alliant Insurance Services, Inc. for the liability insurance for FY26, in the amount of \$407,347.00.

Trustee Grazzini made a motion to approve Alliant Insurance Services, Inc. for the liability insurance for FY26, in the amount of \$407,347.00.

Trustee Montiel seconded the motion.

Ayes: Trustees, Cannata, Collazo, Grazzini, Hernandez, Martinucci, Montiel, Reitz, and Ruiz

Nays: None

Motion Carried

22. Approval of the Separation and Settlement Agreement and Waiver and Release of all Claims between Ruben Ruiz and Morton Community College District No. 527.

Tabled until after the closed session.

Closed Session

Trustee Reitz made a motion to go into closed session at 10:01 a.m.

Trustee Montiel seconded the motion.

Ayes: Trustees, Cannata, Collazo, Grazzini, Hernandez, Martinucci, Montiel, Reitz, and Ruiz

Nays: None

Motion Carried

At this time, 10:39 a.m., Illinois Community College District number 527 will adjourn back into regular session.

22. Approval of the Separation and Settlement Agreement and Waiver and Release of all Claims between Ruben Ruiz and Morton Community College District No. 527.

Trustee Reitz made a motion to approve the Separation and Settlement Agreement and Waiver and Release of all Claims between Ruben Ruiz and Morton Community College District No. 527.

Trustee Martinucci seconded the motion.

Ayes: Trustees, Cannata, Collazo, Grazzini, Hernandez, Martinucci, Montiel, Reitz, and Ruiz

Nays: None

Motion Carried

11. Approval of the President's Employment Agreement, as submitted and amended.

Trustee Reitz made a motion to approve the President's Employment Agreement, as submitted and amended.

Trustee Collazo seconded the motion.

Ayes: Trustees, Cannata, Collazo, Grazzini, Hernandez, Martinucci, Montiel, Reitz, and Ruiz

Nays: None

Motion Carried

23. Adjournment

Chair Cannata adjourned the Regular Board Meeting at 10:41 a.m.

Ayes: Trustees, Cannata, Collazo, Grazzini, Hernandez, Martinucci, Montiel, Reitz, and Ruiz

Nays: None

Motion Carried



/s/ Anthony Martinucci,
Vice Chair



/s/ Oscar Montiel,
Acting Secretary