



MORTON COLLEGE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO.527
Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting
Wednesday, September 24, 2025

Approved

1. Call to Order

The Regular Board meeting was called to order by Board Chair Leonard Cannata at 10:01 AM on Wednesday, September 24, 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
Charles Hernandez, Trustee
Anthony Martinucci, Trustee
Oscar Montiel, Trustee
Frances F. Reitz, Trustee
Eliana Ruiz, Student Trustee

Also Present:

Dr. Keith D. McLaughlin, President
Veronice, Del Galdo Law Group, LLC

4. Citizen Comments

None

5. Reports

5.1 Student Trustee – Eliana Ruiz

Eliana provided an update on recent and upcoming student engagement activities:

Welcome Week was held to introduce students to campus resources, services, and opportunities.

Resource Fair connected students with academic and personal support services.

Involvement Week highlighted student clubs and organizations, encouraging student participation in leadership, service, and campus engagement. Growth in student organizations was noted.

Hispanic Heritage Month was celebrated in September with 11 events, including parades, cooking demonstrations, painting nights, Pilates sessions, and cultural workshops. Morton College also collaborated with local community events.

Student Feedback was presented, expressing appreciation for faculty and staff communication regarding ICE activity concerns. Students shared fears related to immigration status, neighborhood safety, and campus access. Feedback emphasized the need for ongoing transparency, reassurance, and a commitment to student safety and support. Dr. McLaughlin expressed appreciation for the remarks from the students. He reiterated the College's commitment to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all students. Dr. McLaughlin acknowledged concerns about the current climate and stated that the College, along with faculty, staff, and senior leadership, is actively exploring ways to assure student safety and well-being. He emphasized openness to ideas for practical implementation and encouraged direct feedback from students to help guide efforts in fostering a supportive campus environment.

6. President's Report

Dr. McLaughlin welcomed attendees to the September meeting and introduced guest attorney Veronica Bonilla-Lopez, who has been with the Del Galdo Law Firm for many years.

The President highlighted the focus of the report on one of the College's valued programs and its leadership team, inviting Mary Jo Buongiorno to present the Skills for Daily Living Program.

Mary Jo Buongiorno provided an overview of the Skills for Daily Living program, an enrichment program for students with mild to moderate intellectual delays. Key points included:

- **Program History:**

- First class offered in Summer 2016 as a fitness class with four students.
- Academic component added later in the summer of 2016.
- Current sessions: three-week classes, Monday–Wednesday (11–2) and Thursday–Friday (11–2), with enrollments of 24 and 17 students respectively.

- **Program Components:**

1. **Skills for Daily Class:** Includes one hour each of physical activity, lunch/socialization/computer time, and academics. Academic materials are individualized to student levels.
2. **Work Skills Experience:** Students gain practical experience working in the College library, fitness center, and volunteering at community events.
3. **Specialty Classes:** Offered based on student interest, including Zumba, line dancing, art, music appreciation, and summer mini sports camps.
4. **Panther Adventures:** Socialization activities on and off campus, including outings and campus experiences such as drumming with King Cobra Drum Line, Book of the Month Club, planetarium visits, and sporting events.
5. **Special Olympics Participation:**
 - 15 registered athletes.
 - Competitions include snowshoeing, unified soccer, bocce, and unified bags.
 - Several students won gold at area meets and competed at Illinois State competitions.
 - Coaches Ann and Joe recognized for long-term dedication and program development.
 - Upcoming Unified Bags competition scheduled for November at North Central College.
 - College fundraising events support Illinois Special Olympics, including the planned Spring "Cool School Polar Plunge" (tentatively March 24, 2026).
6. **Guardian Resources:** Workshops and social events for parents and guardians in partnership with Community Support Services, covering topics such as guardianship, SSI benefits, legal advocacy, and out-of-home living options.

- **Future Plans:**

- Develop additional classes based on student interests.

- Expand workshops for parents and guardians.
- Launch Morton College Community Volunteers program to encourage student volunteerism on and off campus.

Mary Jo expressed appreciation for the College's support over the years and invited Trustees to visit the program. Trustee Cannata confirmed the date for the Polar Plunge as March 24 and pledged a personal donation of \$1,000 to support the event.

Dr. McLaughlin and the Trustees expressed admiration for the program's impact, dedication of the staff, and commitment to lifelong learning.

Dr. McLaughlin concluded the report, highlighting the program's importance to the College's mission and the enhancement of student and family lives.

7. Consent Agenda

Trustee Martinucci made a motion to approve the consent agenda, which includes agenda items 7.1 to 7.22.2, as listed below.

Trustee Grazzini seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried

- 7.1. Approval of the Minutes of the Public Hearing – Annual Budget for FY26 and Regular Board meeting held on August 27, 2025.
- 7.2. Approval and ratification of accounts payable and payroll for July 2025 in the amount of \$3,549,838.00 and budget transfers in the amount of \$0.00.
- 7.3. Approval of the Monthly Budget Report for the fiscal year to date ending in July 2025.
- 7.4. Approval of the Treasurer's Report for July 2025.
- 7.5. Approval and ratification of accounts payable and payroll for August 2025 in the amount of \$3,528,237.00 and budget transfers in the amount \$0.00.
- 7.6. Approval of the Monthly Budget Report for the fiscal year to date ending in August 2025.
- 7.7. Approval of the Treasurer's Report for August 2025.
- 7.8. Approval of the renewal of the Treasurer's Bond for Fiscal Year 2026 for \$8,875,000.00, at a cost of \$7,609.00 from Alliant Insurance Services, Inc.
- 7.9. Approval of out-of-state travel for Dr. Keith McLaughlin to attend the ACCT 2025 Leadership Congress in New Orleans, LA, from October 22, 2025, through October 25, 2025, at approximately \$2,600.00.
- 7.10. Approval of out-of-state travel for Trustee Susan Grazzini to attend the ACCT 2025 Leadership Congress in New Orleans, LA, from October 22, 2025, through October 25, 2025, at approximately \$2,600.00.
- 7.11. Approval of a temporary 10% increase for Vanessa Montalvo to assist with the responsibilities of Panther Pathways, effective September 1, 2025, through May 14, 2026.
- 7.12. Approval of the lane change, new salary per the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) for Asiyya Ashraf, Biology, FT Faculty, effective August 18, 2025.
- 7.13. Approval of the lane change, new salary per the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) for Carolyn Markel, Adult Education, FT Faculty, effective August 18, 2025.

- 7.14. Approval of the lane change, new salary per the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) for Jennifer Schreier, Adult Education, FT Faculty, effective August 18, 2025.
- 7.15. Approval of the employment status of two non-tenure instructors for the academic year 2025-2026.
- 7.16. Approval of the Faculty overload employment report for the Fall 2025 semester, in the amount of \$429,066.12 as submitted, pending additional class cancellations and/or additions.
- 7.17. Approval of the Adjunct Faculty assignment/employment report for the Fall 2025 semester, at the total amount of \$719,215.17 as submitted, pending additional class cancellations and/or additions.
- 7.18. Approval and ratification of the FY26 Morton College student government association budget as submitted. Funding in the amount of \$60,000.00 will be provided from the comprehensive fee.
- 7.19. Approval for the replacement of outdated refrigeration units in the HVAC program with modern Copeland Trainer Units, a sole source vendor, in the amount of \$77,600.00.
- 7.20. Approval of Lo Destro Construction Company as the lowest responsible bidder for the Microbiology Lab upgrades, in the amount of \$346,500.00, as submitted, with \$200,000.00 funded by the Title III Grant.
- 7.21. Approval of the Settlement Agreement between Frank Marzullo and College District No. 527, Morton College.
- 7.22. Approval of Facility Use Permits
 - 7.22.1. AlphaBet Soup Productions, October 22 – 24, 2025, March 4-6, 2026, April 29 – May 1, 2026.
 - 7.22.2. Berwyn Park District to use the S.E. End of Campus (Soccer Area) for Soccer Games in October and November 2025, Pending Certificate of Insurance.

8. Closed Session - Canceled

9. - 17. Approval of items 9-17, the updated board policies.

Trustee Martinucci made a motion to approve items 9-17: the updated board policies.
Trustee Grazzini seconded the motion.
Ayes: Trustees, Cannata, Collazo, Grazzini, Hernandez, Martinucci, Montiel, Reitz, and Ruiz
Nays: None
Motion Carried

18. - 19. Approval of items 18-19, the Senior Cabinet contract agreement, and FY26 salary, as submitted.

Trustee Martinucci made a motion to approve items 18-19: the Senior Cabinet contract agreement and FY26 salary, as submitted.
Trustee Collazo seconded the motion.
Ayes: Trustees, Cannata, Collazo, Grazzini, Hernandez, Martinucci, Montiel, Reitz, and Ruiz
Nays: None
Motion Carried

20. Approval of the corrected FY26 salary for Administrators, as submitted.

Trustee Martinucci made a motion to approve the corrected FY26 salary for Administrators, as submitted.
Trustee Grazzini seconded the motion.
Ayes: Trustees, Cannata, Collazo, Grazzini, Hernandez, Martinucci, Montiel, Reitz, and Ruiz
Nays: None
Motion Carried

21. Approval of the FY26 salary for Classified Excluded, as submitted.

Trustee Grazzini made a motion to approve the FY26 salary for Classified Excluded, as submitted.

Trustee Reitz seconded the motion.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried

22. Adjournment

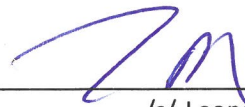
Trustee Martinucci made a motion to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting at 10:21 a.m.

Trustee Collazo seconded the motion.

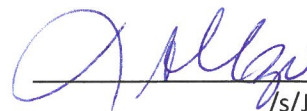
Ayes: Trustees, Cannata, Collazo, Grazzini, Hernandez, Martinucci, Montiel, Reitz, and Ruiz

Nays: None

Motion Carried



/s/ Leonard Cannata,
Board Chair



/s/ Jose Collozo
Secretary