

**Delta College  
Board of Trustees  
Dinner Meeting  
Virtually via Zoom (1-929-205-6099 Webinar ID: 885 9503 1771)  
Held virtually in accordance with Public Act 228 of 2020 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic  
February 9, 2021**

**Board Present:** R. Emrich, S. Gannon, D. Middleton, M. Nash, M. Rowley, M. Thomas

**Board Absent:** M. Benecke, A. Buckley

**Others Present:** D. Allen, A. Bair, A. Baldwin, N. Bovid, T. Brown, J. Carroll, P. Clark, A. Cramer, M. Crawmer, R. Curry, C. Curtis, S. DuFresne, N. Elder, A. Elias, D. Fairchild, J. Foco, P. Fox, M. Fuerst, J. Garn, J. Goodnow, L. Govitz, S. Harrison, D. McQuiston, K. Rische, S. Roche, E. Roth, K. Schuler, S. Shinkel, C. Thomas, C. Tucker, A. Ursuy

**Press Present:** None

Board Secretary, A. Ursuy read a meeting overview at 6:34 pm.

“Good evening,

This evening we will begin with our “dinner” informational meeting.

The Board is authorized to hold this virtual meeting with participation through the Zoom platform in compliance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act as amended (Public Act 254 of 2020).

Dr. Reva Curry, Andrea Bair, and Nathan Elder will be providing us with a STEM Explorer Project Update.

For those joining us today, we want to ensure everyone can hear the board meeting. To minimize audio feedback, we ask all virtual participants NOT to use any speakerphone options.

For those of you who plan to join us for our 7:00 p.m. Regular Board Meeting, we will use the same link for this meeting as well.

Our Board Secretary, Andrea Ursuy, will take attendance immediately after the Board Chair has called this informational meeting to order. When she calls your name, please say “here” and announce the city, township, or village; county; and state from which you are attending the meeting remotely.”

Board Chair, M. Nash called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

Board Secretary A. Ursuy took attendance. Each Trustee indicated their presence, township or city, and county in Michigan from which they were participating in this meeting.

A. Buckley – Absent  
M. Benecke – Absent  
R. Emrich – Present, Saginaw Township, Saginaw County  
S. Gannon – Joined meeting after attendance was taken  
D. Middleton – Present, Williams Township, Bay County  
M. Nash – Present, Larkin Township, Midland County  
M. Rowley – Present, Hampton Township, Bay County  
M. Thomas – Present, Saginaw Township, Saginaw County

Board Chair, M. Nash turned the meeting over to Reva Curry, Vice President of Instruction and Learning Services who then introduced Andrea Bair, Associate Professor of Geology and Nathan Elder, STEM Explorer Coordinator. They presented an updated on the STEM Explorer Project at Delta College.

N. Elder noted the main objective is to improve the STEM talent pipeline. They start with middle schoolers through one day, quick-hitting, high quality engaging activities on or near the vehicle via school visits called Surface Explorations. This has drastically changed due to the pandemic. High school students participate in project-based learning through in-depth 3 to 5 weeks projects including several school visits called Deep Dives. Finally, they worked with the community as the vehicle acts as a mobile outreach lab and museum with interactive, hands-on STEM activities for all ages.

N. Elder shared the impact in numbers since the program launched in 2016. Since the Spring of 2016 they have put on over 17,000 miles going to 60 different schools, and working with over 150 different teachers. They have reached into 14 Michigan counties with over 300 school visits as well over 30,000 students, community members, teacher and parents at the various events. The 14 counties include Ogemaw, Iosco, Arenac, Bay, Midland, Isabella, Clare, Gratiot, Saginaw, Shiawassee, Genesee, Tuscola Huron and Sanilac. Seventy-three percent of the visits are within the Great Lakes Bay Region and 64% of those are within Delta's district.

N. Elder noted the impact the COVID-19 Pandemic has had on their operations. In Winter 2020 semester they were able to complete their ongoing Deep Dive projects but then had to shift in how to reach students in a completely different environment as they were 100% hands on. They also began developing a human viral disease outbreak simulation project. During the Spring-Summer of 2020 they surveyed the needs of schools and teachers and planned for virtual work and flexible, "safe" outdoor school visits. They re-designed existing project and built new curriculum. The website was redesigned and much time was dedicated to the recruitment of teachers and schools.

In the Fall of 2020 the projects were done virtually. They also had safe outdoor school visits while continuing to develop innovative curriculum and activities. Working towards Spring of 2021 is to update and develop new middle school curriculum, plans for hitting the road as well as working with faculty and intruding new endeavors such as eSports.

N. Elder noted that five new middle school virtual projects were developed including a new Simpcalypse where students design a disease and then develop a mitigation strategy. This is in addition to the other activities that the middle students normally do. For the high school students multiple new projects in CAD, Engineering, Biology, upper level Math, and Physical Science were developed and optimized for virtual implementation.

Finally, N. Elder noted the highlights and successes from the pandemic year thus far which included:

- quickly developing new standards-based, Project-Based Learning curricula;
- the development of the Simpocalypse app with three related projects;
- increasing capacity from 2 to 6 simultaneous Deep Dive Projects;
- developing and implementation of the first middle school Deep Dive Projects; and
- partnering with five new schools.

A. Bair talked about the strong collaborations between the various Delta College individuals/departments as well as those in our communities. She noted how fortunate she is to be able to be the faculty support on this project. She also noted the challenge in transition to the “new age” of education with the pandemic. They finished the presentation with a short video showcasing students working on the various projects.

There being no further business, the dinner meeting was adjourned at 7:03 pm.

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Talisa Brown, Assistant Board Secretary

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Andrea Ursuy, Board Secretary