DELTA COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
DINNER MEETING
February 8, 2011
Delta College Main Campus Room N 7


Board Absent: K. Higgs, D. Wacksman


Press Present: B. Howell, Bay City Times

Board Vice Chair Robert Emrich called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. He called on J. Goodnow, who introduced four guests, Douglas Newcombe, Superintendent, Bay City Schools, Carlton Jenkins, Superintendent, Saginaw Schools, Craig C. Douglas, Superintendent, Carrollton Schools, and Greg Armstead, Principal, Windover High School, Midland.

D. Newcombe said that his son currently attends Delta and another son will be attending next year, that Delta has been a terrific institution and anticipates the future will be no different. He outlined ideas for helping each other, including coordinating curricula such as accounting, industrial arts, and technology leading to college credit, partnering with the Bay City Schools’ information technology program that has serviced over 2000 computers in the Bay City system, more visible recruiting of students by Delta, ironing out some dual enrollment glitches, and improving planning for the new Middle College.

D. Newcombe first learned about the middle college project just before the holiday break; he likes the concepts and would like to participate but time is very short and he is concerned about funding, impact on athletic eligibility, transportation, how students will be selected among other issues. C. Douglas and C. Jenkins expressed similar concerns. Dr. Goodnow expressed concern about assessment and student success.

G. Armstead explained that Windover high school is an alternative school enrolling about 120 students, and that the “Taste of College” is a great idea which should be continued; it gives his students more incentive to complete high school and go on to college. He said Delta work study students are great ambassadors for the college.
C. Douglas said that Delta’s leadership is solid and models regionalism, the facilities are excellent, and the instructional base is strong and high quality. Going forward, he feels the more we can collaborate, the better. Carrollton schools are focused on better preparing students, and they know that those who come to Delta will succeed here. Dr. Emrich asked whether achievements of their students are shared with the K12 community and Dr. Goodnow said that they are.

C. Jenkins said he has been here for ten months, and appreciates the outreach from Delta College that has already occurred; he noted the student interns and student service activities, and the 65 articulations with Delta curricula. A number of Saginaw schools’ staff are Delta alumni and Delta is the number one college attended by Saginaw students. He encouraged Delta to work harder on providing a bridge to all of higher education and to work with the school system to redesign the schools from pre-kindergarten to twelfth grade with a focus on developing a college going culture. Dr. Emrich asked if there are problems with access and Dr. Jenkins said that there probably are. He encouraged work on symposia and side by side professional development.

K. Houston-Philpot said she is concerned about the pace of change in education and the level of preparedness of the area workforce, asking what education will look like in 5 years and what strategic planning is occurring. J. MacKenzie said students need to be able to read, write and do math. D. Newcombe said the state needs to cut regulations that do not make sense and are from another era. C. Douglas said educators want more authority and accountability, questioning the value of testing that is time consuming, inappropriate in using the same ranking system for all levels, inaccurate, and with results that come too late to do effective remediation. He has seen the investment in education that China and India are making.

D. Newcombe said we need to keep working with students who are struggling, one student at a time, measuring results, trying something else if the approach is not working. J. Goodnow said that with the changes in requirements for high school graduation and our concerns about academic readiness, it is imperative that we encourage communication between Delta College faculty and K-12 teachers, particularly in English, mathematics, and the STEM curricula. She feels Delta’s excellent faculty might be great resources for working with the faculty in the high schools to discuss the academic skills necessary to enter our transfer level courses.

Board Chair Emrich and President Goodnow thanked everyone for coming and for their ideas.

There being no further business, the dinner meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Leslie Myles-Sanders, Board Secretary