

Delta College
Board of Trustees Special Meeting
Delta College Board Room B-151
Thursday, March 26, 2026
8:00 am

Board Present A. Baldwin, S. Gannon, B. Handley-Miller, D. Middleton, M. Nash, M. Rowley, A. Thomas, M. Wood

Board Absent A. Clark

Others Present T. Brown, P. Clark, L. Dull, J. Foco, L. Govitz, K. Schuler, A. Ursuy

Press Present D. Chalk (Midland Daily News)

Call to Order Board Chair, S. Gannon called the meeting to order at 8:07 am.

Approval of Agenda Board Chair, S. Gannon, called for the approval of the agenda. M. Wood made a motion to approve the agenda. B. Handley-Miller seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment Board Chair, S. Gannon called for public comment.

Vote to go into Closed Session Pursuant to Section 8(f) of the Open Meetings Act to Review and Consider the Content of an Application for Employment or Appointment to a Public Office if the Candidate Requests that the Application Remain Confidential B. Handley-Miller made a motion to enter into closed session to review and consider the content of an application for employment or appointment to a public office if the candidate requests that the application remain confidential pursuant to MCL 15.268(f). M. Nash seconded the motion.

The results of the roll call vote are as follows:

A. Baldwin – Absent
A. Clark – Absent
S. Gannon – Yes
B. Handley-Miller – Yes
D. Middleton – Yes
M. Nash – Yes
M. Rowley – Yes
A. Thomas – Yes
M. Wood – Yes

The motion passed with 7 in favor and 0 opposed.

The Board went into closed session at 8:09 am.

A. Baldwin joined the meeting at 8:36 am.

The closed session ended, and the open session resumed at 11:05 am.

Discussion and Approval of On-Campus Interview Schedule

Board Chair, S. Gannon, noted that the next step is to vote on the finalists who will be invited to campus to meet with faculty, staff, students and community members as well as have an interview with the Board of Trustees.

Each trustee voted for their top 5 candidates. The votes were weighted as follows: 1st vote – 5 points, 2nd vote – 4 points, 3rd vote – 3 points, 4th vote – 2 points, and 5th vote – 1 point. T. Brown shared the results of the votes.

S. Gannon noted the number of finalists is typically 3-5, however, we know that two of our candidates are in other searches at this time. She suggested that we select 5 individuals for on-campus interviews. Interviews are tentatively scheduled for the week of April 6 – 10.

(BA5673)

A. Thomas made a motion to move candidate 62 and 54 forward as finalists in the presidential search. M. Wood seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

(BA5674)

M. Nash made a motion to drop candidates 51, 10 and 36 due to their low ranking and to focus the conversation on the remaining candidates. D. Middleton seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

(BA5675)

M. Rowley made a motion to move candidate 27 forward as a finalist. D. Middleton seconded the motion.

There was a brief discussion as to possibly inviting six candidates as we already know that two of them are in other searches and may drop out. That would result in six full days of interviews.

The Board discussed the remaining candidates (9, 18, 23 and 27).

The motion passed unanimously.

A. Baldwin made a motion to move candidates 9 and 18 forward as finalists with candidate 23 as a contingent. B. Handley-Miller seconded the motion.

There was a brief discussion as to how the process for notifying the contingent candidate would work.

(BA5676)

M. Nash made a substitute motion to not move candidate 23 forward. M. Wood seconded the motion.

M. Nash stated that less than 50% of the Board supported this candidate.

M. Rowley stated this candidate was not one that was recommended by the advisory committee but was moved forward by the Board.

The substitute motion passed unanimously.

(BA5677)

M. Rowley made a motion to move candidates 9 and 18 forward as finalists. A. Thomas seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

S. Gannon stated that the candidates moving forward are 62, 54, 27, 9 and 18.

Board Chair, S. Gannon, stated that interviews are to be scheduled for the week of April 6-10. The candidates will be notified later today that they are moving on as finalists. Once interviews have been confirmed, then the names of the finalists will be released.

S. Gannon distributed a proposed interview schedule for the finalists. They will meet with various work groups. Their general presentation scheduled from 10:45 am – 12 :00 pm has a proposed topic: “What are the unique challenges and opportunities facing community colleges in the next 10 years? As our leader, how will you address them?”

There is a lunch with the Interim President, a tour of campus, dinner with the Board Chair and Vice Chair, and the day ends with a Special Board Meeting at 7 pm with the Board interviewing the candidate.

B. Handley-Miller asked if there was any flexibility in the schedule for the candidates. It was noted that candidates were aware of the timeline.

M. Nash asked about faculty availability on Friday. It was noted that Friday is a good meeting day for faculty as most are not teaching that day.

S. Gannon suggested Monday, April 13, as a contingency day if for some reason a candidate was not available the previous week.

(BA5678)

M. Nash made a motion to accept the interview schedule with proposed topic. A. Thomas seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and Interview Process and Questions

Board Chair, S. Gannon distributed the draft interview questions for the trustees to review.

M. Wood made a motion to approve the questions as presented. A. Baldwin seconded the motion.

These questions were from the last presidential search with a few updates.

There was much discussion about adding a question regarding academic curriculum within workforce and transfer degrees.

B. Handley-Miller offered a friendly amendment, adding a second part to question 6.

M. Wood and A. Baldwin both accepted the friendly amendment.

(BA5679)

M. Nash made a substitute motion to add an additional question to simply state, “What do you see as key to offering a strong academic curriculum within transfer degrees?” This makes 16 questions in total. A. Baldwin seconded the substitute motion.

This question would then become question 7 with the rest moving down on the list.

The substitute motion passed unanimously.

S. Gannon asked trustees to hold the time normally used for the Board Dinner Meeting, April 14, at 5 pm to have a special meeting for the purpose of deliberating and choosing our first-choice candidate.

**Trustee
Comments**

M. Wood thanked the Board for allowing him to be part of the committee. He apologized to the Board as he had made plans before Dr. Gavin announced his resignation. He will be gone the entire month of April.

B. Handley-Miller thanked M. Wood, S. Gannon and D. Middleton for all their work in this process. She also thanked all the faculty and staff who served on the search advisory committee. She feels we are on a good path and is excited for the rest of the process.

A. Thomas thanked everyone involved and allowing us to come out with a clear process. She is looking forward to moving forward with excellent candidates.

D. Middleton is proud of the work that has been done. The process was excellent, and trustees have been engaged. She is very happy with where we are and is thankful to everyone that got us to this point.

M. Rowley thanked everyone in the room for their work and support in the process.

M. Nash thanked the committee for all their work in their recommendation of potential top candidates. Although the Board cast a broader net it speaks to the quality of work done by the committee that the Board came to the same recommendation.

A. Baldwin is grateful for the opportunity to serve with her fellow trustees. The Board has a lot of diversity of thought but at the end of the day they come together for the institution. Our board works well together and that isn't the case for all colleges. She looks forward to the next steps.

Chair Comments

S. Gannon said it's a true privilege to work with all of you – Trustee Wood, Trustee Handley-Miller, Trustee Thomas, Trustee Middleton, Trustee Rowley, Trustee Nash and Vice Chair Baldwin. She is also thankful for the work done by the committee. She is looking forward to getting the decision made with a lot of diligence and heart. She also noted that all the trustees are truly passionate about Delta College.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Board Chair, S. Gannon adjourned the meeting at 12:45 pm.

Talisa Brown, Board Secretary Pro Tem

