

Delta College
Board of Trustees Special Meeting
Delta College Board Room B-151
Wednesday, March 11, 2026
4:00 pm

- Board Present** S. Gannon, B. Handley-Miller, D. Middleton, M. Nash, M. Rowley, M. Wood, A. Thomas
- Board Absent** A. Baldwin, A. Clark
- Others Present** T. Brown, W. Childs, P. Clark, C. DeEulis, L. Dull, J. Foco, L. Govitz, D. Harris, S. Hill, K. Schuler, A. Serrato, A. Ursuy
- Press Present** D. Chalk (Midland Daily News)
- Call to Order** Board Chair, S. Gannon called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm.
- Approval of Agenda** Board Chair, S. Gannon, called for the approval of the agenda. M. Wood made a motion to approve the agenda. D. Middleton seconded the motion.
- The motion passed unanimously.
- Public Comment** Board Chair, S. Gannon called for public comment.
- Determine Presidential Search Semifinalists** Board Chair, S. Gannon opened the meeting with an explication of the purpose and process for the meeting. She thanked D. Harris and D. Middleton for their leadership. She stated that one of the Board’s most important jobs is hiring the next president of Delta College. She emphasized the importance of applicant confidentiality and the need to not use names or information that would identify the candidates.
- D. Harris, ACCT Search Consultant, reviewed the application process.
- D. Middleton, Presidential Search Advisory Committee Chair reviewed the Presidential Search Advisory Committee’s efforts and read her letter to the Board.
- Dear Chair Gannon and fellow Trustees,
- On behalf of the Search Advisory Committee, assisted by the guidance of our Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) consultant, we present seven (7) candidates who meet the qualifications you set forth in the profile for the position of Delta College President.
- I’d like to outline our process. Our first meeting, held November 12, 2025, was focused on drafting a presidential profile. As you know, the finalized version was approved by the board on December 9, 2025, and was used for recruiting and setting the expectations of the position for candidates. Subsequent national industry ad placements and networking by our ACCT consultant Dr. G. Duncan Harris attracted 63 candidates by the deadline of February 9th.

From February 10th through February 18th, every one of the Search Advisory Committee members read every application, cover letter and CV considering the presidential profile requirement, noting strengths and weaknesses for each and submitting our evaluations to ACCT for compilation. I estimate each volunteer invested between 20 and 30 hours to accomplish this task. During this timeframe of review, we were informed by Dr. Harris that 13 candidates failed to meet minimum qualifications.

We met again on Friday, February 20th with Dr. Harris present to assist, to agree on the candidates deemed to meet the criteria as specified in the profile. At that time, we were informed that one more of remaining candidates failed to meet minimum qualifications. We were provided the compiled “scores” for the candidates, in ranked order. Following several hours of robust discussion on each of the remaining 49 candidates, we again ranked the candidates based on their strengths and weaknesses. The scores were once again compiled and shared with the Search Advisory Committee. At that point, the committee identified nine (9) candidates to present to the Board of Trustees. However, in examining the votes for the candidates, we concluded that the difference between the vote totals of the seventh- and eighth-highest scoring candidates was significant. Therefore, we agreed as a committee to submit seven (7) as our slate.

We now present these seven for your consideration, in our advisory capacity.

It is impossible to fully express my gratitude to the members of the Search Advisory Committee for contributing their time and thoughtful analysis into this process. Delta College is fortunate to have their support and contribution. The Search Advisory Committee was comprised of:

Students:

1. Jason Pringle
2. Ellen Rivet
3. Abril Serrato

Delta College Board of Trustees:

4. Arshen Baldwin, Saginaw County Trustee and Board Vice Chair
5. Michael Wood, Midland County Trustee

Delta College Employees:

6. Wendy Burns, Faculty Member at Large and Associate Professor of Biology
7. Will Carter, Acting AFSCME Facilities Management Union President and General Maintenance, Facilities Management
8. Wendy Childs, Director of Human Resources
9. Jill Delaney, Support Staff Executive Committee (SSEC) Chair and Administrative Office Professional, Arts and Letters Division
10. Laura Dull, Delta College Faculty Association (DCFA) President and Professor of History
11. JD Garn, Associate Dean, Arts and Letters Division
12. David Hopkins, Dean of Transfer Programs and Online Learning
13. Eric Merkle, Chair of Executive Committee for Administrative/Professional Staff (ECAPS) and Financial Aid Advisor, Student and Educational Services
14. Christina Szilagyi, Adjunct Faculty Association of Delta College (AFADC) President and Adjunct Instructor of History

Delta College Foundation:

15. Paul Barbeau, Chair of Delta College Foundation Board of Directors, Midland County
16. Octavia Walters Cabey, Member of Delta College Foundation Board of Directors, Midland County

Community Stakeholders:

17. Dr. Ramont Roberts, Superintendent of Saginaw Public Schools
18. Magen Samyn, President and CEO of Bay Area Chamber of Commerce
19. Chuck Sherwin, President of MyMichigan Medical Center Midland

I extend my gratitude also to Interim President Andrea Ursuy, Board Secretary Pro Tem Talisa Brown and Assistant Board Secretary Pro Tem Kay Schuler for their boundless assistance in this process. It has been a heavy lift in addition to their already heavy workloads. **Thank you.**

I also thank our marketing and printing departments for their assistance with the necessary communications. Quick turnaround was critical, and they completed their tasks in a timely and professional manner. **Thank you.**

And, of course, our gratitude to Dr. Harris, our ACCT consultant, for his guidance.

I have been honored to lead this team, and I hope you are pleased with our results.

Diane Middleton
Trustee, Bay County

Board Chair, S. Gannon, explained the purpose and process for the meeting. She emphasized the importance of applicant confidentiality at this point and the need to not use names or information that would identify the candidates.

D. Harris gave an overview of the seven candidates identified by the Presidential Search Advisory Committee who met the requirements outlined in the presidential profile. The Board then discussed those candidates.

There was a discussion about the number of candidates that should be taken forward for the video submissions. D. Harris said there was no harm in bringing forward more than just the seven as recommended by the Search Advisory Committee to ensure a robust candidate pool. He said that the “heavy lift” would be on the candidates in preparing the video for the Board to review.

The Board identified additional candidates that should be further considered. D. Harris provided an overview of these candidates.

Each trustee voted for up to 10 candidates to be selected for additional application materials – a video submission.

Board Secretary Pro Tem, T. Brown shared the results of the votes indicating the top 10 individuals receiving votes.

(BA5671)

B. Handley-Miller made a motion to move the top 10 candidates as determined by the Trustees' voting forward to submit additional application materials in the form of a video submission. M. Wood seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

**Discuss and
Approve Video
Questions**

Board Chair, S. Gannon, presented the draft questions for the video submissions.

Delta College is seeking a visionary, collaborative and inclusive leader who will prioritize student success and advance diversity, equity and inclusion, community partnerships and innovation.

In no more than 15-20 minutes, please provide your responses to the following:

1. Briefly introduce yourself and describe why you would like to lead Delta College.
2. Describe a time in the last 1-3 years when you created and implemented a new vision or innovative change on your campus. What was your process to develop, communicate, and implement strategies? How did you measure results?
3. How have you addressed the challenges of underrepresented groups in higher education and what specific initiatives have you designed and implemented? What were the results?
4. Describe your experience with shared governance and collective bargaining.

(BA5672)

D. Middleton made a motion to accept the proposed questions for the video submissions. M. Nash seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

**Trustee
Comments**

M. Wood stated it's been a long process and thanked D. Harris and D. Middleton for leading the process. They both did a great job.

B. Handley-Miller also thanked D. Harris and D. Middleton as well as everyone who served on the Search Advisory Committee. This was a lot of work that was greatly appreciated.

A. Thomas thanked everyone as well. She also noted this is her first time going through a presidential search. It is interesting to compare it to a K-12 search for a superintendent.

M. Rowley noted his thanks to everyone that was already mentioned.

M. Nash also thanked D. Harris and D. Middleton for their leadership in this search. He also thanked T. Brown for hand delivering his packet.

D. Middleton thanked the members of the Search Advisory Committee, especially the students who probably had no idea what they signed up for including reviewing CV's and application packages that were 20+ pages long. She also appreciated the work done by her fellow trustees and today's robust conversation.

Chair Comments

S. Gannon deferred to Abril Serrato, a member of the Search Advisory Committee for her thoughts. A. Serrato said it was an honor and a privilege to participate in this search. She is very

passionate and a proud duck and pioneer. She noted the importance of this work and her love for Delta College. She noted her appreciation to everyone in the room and that it truly takes a village.

S. Gannon thanked everyone for all their work.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Board Chair, S. Gannon adjourned the meeting at 6:40 pm.

Talisa Brown, Board Secretary Pro Tem