

Delta College
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
Delta College Downtown Midland Center
Tuesday, May 12, 2026
7:00 p.m.

- BOARD PRESENT** S. Gannon, B. Handley-Miller, D. Middleton, M. Nash, A. Thomas, M. Wood
- BOARD ABSENT** A. Baldwin, A. Clark, M. Rowley
- OTHERS PRESENT** R. Battinkoff, T. Brown, R. Curry, C. DeEulis, J. Foco, A. Ginter, L. Govitz, C. Hausbeck, S. Hill, D. Hopkins, T. Johnroe, K. Kiste-Toner, P. Larkowski, E. Lazzari, J. Perry, S. Raube, K. Schuler, L. Ullrich, A. Ursuy, S. VanderLaan, J. Yezak, R. Young
- PRESS PRESENT** None
- CALL TO ORDER** Board Chair Gannon called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.
- APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA** Board Chair Gannon asked for a motion to approve the agenda.
M. Wood made a motion to approve the agenda. M. Nash seconded the motion.
Motion to approve the agenda passed unanimously.
- PUBLIC COMMENT** Board Chair Gannon called for public comment.
The Board heard public comment from Liz Ullrich, Associate Professor of Political Science. She spoke on behalf of one of her students who was disappointed after interviewing a Trustee regarding protections for transgender students.
L. Ullrich encouraged Trustees to learn more through educational resources such as “Safe Space” workshops and attending events as part of June’s Pride Month.
- TREASURER’S REPORT** J. Foco said that the Treasurers Report presented is year-to-date as of April 30, 2026, for all funds. At this time, there are no significant variances to report.
He said that we are on track to meet all our budget goals for this year, and he will be ready to present the budget at the June Board Dinner Meeting.
- CONSENT AGENDA** Board Chair Gannon called for approval of the consent agenda.
B. Handley-Miller made a motion to approve the consent agenda. D. Middleton seconded the motion. The Board voted 5 in favor to approve the consent agenda resulting in:
A. Acceptance of Minutes:
1. Board Special Meeting, April 6, 2026
2. Board Special Meeting, April 7, 2026
3. Board Special Meeting, April 10, 2026
4. Board Special Meeting, April 14, 2026
5. Board Regular Meeting, April 14, 2026

M. Wood abstained from voting.

**APPROVAL OF
ADMINISTRATIVE
/PROFESSIONAL AND
SUPPORT STAFF
COMPENSATION
RECOMMENDATION
FY 2026-2027
(BA5690)**

It is the recommendation of the Administration that the Board of Trustees approve for fiscal year 2026-2027, an increase of 2.5% in the Administrative/Professional and Support Staff wage and salary schedule to be granted to individual staff in accordance with the performance management system calculation of annual increases and with the contribution to medical insurance premium remaining at 20% of the monthly illustrative rate.

M. Wood made a motion to approve the recommendation. M. Nash seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF LIVING
WALL REPLACEMENT
FROM NEDLAW
LIVING WALLS
(BA5691)**

It is the recommendation of the Administration that the Board of Trustees approve the purchase order with Nedlaw Living Walls in the amount of \$134,637.76 and authorize a total project budget of \$154,833.42 to ensure comprehensive project completion of the Living Wall Replacement project.

M. Wood made a motion to approve the recommendation. M. Nash seconded the motion.

B. Handley-Miller asked if this new replacement was going to last longer than 13 years. R. Young said the plants have a one-year warranty and the media has a five-year warranty. The proposal states that it should last 20 years with proper maintenance, and the College has a service contract with Nedlaw. R. Young explained that our living wall is tied to the HVAC system and Nedlaw is the only company that does it that way.

D. Middleton asked if the proposed price was fair. R. Young said that it is fair based on the many hours of labor.

A. Thomas asked if there was a benefit to having this type of system. R. Young responded that the plants give off oxygen.

Motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF
HOTCHKISS ROAD
REPLACEMENT
PROJECT FROM
SHAW EXCAVATING
(BA5692)**

It is the recommendation of the Administration that the Board of Trustees approve the purchase order with Shaw Excavating in the amount of \$1,265,000 and authorize a total project budget of \$1,401,500 to ensure comprehensive project completion of the Hotchkiss Drive Replacement project.

D. Middleton made a motion to approve the recommendation. B. Handley-Miller seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF
EXTERIOR**

It is the recommendation of the Administration that the Board of Trustees approve the purchase order with Sign Image in the amount of \$1,247,376.42 and authorize a total

**WAYFINDING
SIGNAGE FROM SIGN
IMAGE (BA5693)**

project budget of \$1,382,113.42 to ensure comprehensive project completion of the Exterior Wayfinding Signage project.

D. Middleton made a motion to approve the recommendation. M. Wood seconded the motion.

M. Nash inquired about the interior wayfinding projects. R. Young explained that the entire project was split into two: interior and exterior. The exterior wayfinding project is being done now to take advantage of the summer weather. The interior wayfinding materials are here and will be installed during the winter months.

B. Handley-Miller asked if the digital signs would still be at the three main entrances (Mackinaw, Delta, and Hotchkiss Roads). R. Young said that the digital signs will be moved from the main roads to the inner loop. There is a sign ordinance in effect on the main roads which restricts what we can post on the digital signs. By putting them on campus, those restrictions are removed. The stone signs will be at the three main entrances.

M. Wood requested that in the future, it is specifically noted which bids are disqualified in the information provided to the Board.

M. Nash asked if any of the materials used to install the digital signs originally could be utilized for this project. R. Young responded that the junction box and underground lines can be used, but the original infrastructure down Mackinaw Road cannot be.

Motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF
EDITORIAL REVISIONS
TO BOARD POLICIES -
10.008 - PRIVACY
RIGHTS OF STUDENTS
AND 10.010 -
STUDENT AWARDS -
ACADEMIC
ACHIEVEMENT
(BA5694)**

It is the recommendation of the administration that the Board of Trustees approve the editorial revisions of pronouns and position titles to Board Policy 10.008 - Privacy Rights of Students and Board Policy 10.010 - Student Awards - Academic Achievement and in addition allow the administration to make future editorial revisions (pronouns and position titles) as needed without additional board approval.

M. Wood made a motion to approve the recommendation. A. Thomas seconded the motion.

A. Ursuy commented on the huge undertaking it was for the committee to review all the policies and procedures for editorial changes.

Motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF NEW
CERTIFICATE OF
ACHIEVEMENT - DATA
SCIENCE (BA5695)**

It is the recommendation of the Administration that the Board of Trustees approve a new program, Data Science Certificate of Achievement effective fall semester 2026. This is proposed by the Science and Mathematics Division.

M. Wood made a motion to approve the recommendation. M. Nash seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF THE
ELIMINATION OF THE
CORRECTIONS,
SECURITY
MANAGEMENT AND
LAW ENFORCEMENT
WITH BASIC POLICE
TRAINING ASSOCIATE
DEGREES (BA5696)**

It is the recommendation of the administration that the Board of Trustees approve the elimination of the Corrections, Security Management and Law Enforcement with Basic Police Training Associate in Applied Science Degrees with the understanding that these pathways will be moved into the existing Criminal Justice Law Enforcement Associate in Applied Arts Degree.

D. Middleton made a motion to approve the recommendation. A. Thomas seconded the motion.

M. Wood commented that this is a great move and will help in funding for the College and maintaining Perkins funds for these programs.

B. Handley-Miller asked what a generalist track is. D. Hopkins responded that it is a track for those students that are unsure in which area they want to study. It gives them the ability to pivot within these programs.

Motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF THE
ELIMINATION OF
PROGRAMS AND
CERTIFICATES
(BA5697)**

It is the recommendation of the administration that the Board of Trustees approve the elimination of the following programs and certificates: Accounting Professionals Advanced Skills Certificate; Skilled Trades (Apprenticeship) - Carpenter (Building Trades) - Advanced Certificate Skilled Trades (Apprenticeship) - Machine Builder - Advanced Certificate; Skilled Trades (Apprenticeship) - Machine Repair - Advanced Certificate; Skilled Trades (Apprenticeship) - Millwright - Advanced Certificate; Skilled Trades (Apprenticeship) - Pipefitter (Industrial Maintenance) - Advanced Certificate; Skilled Trades (Apprenticeship) - Plumber-Pipefitter - Advanced Certificate; Skilled Trades (Apprenticeship) - Stationary Boiler Engineering - Advanced Certificate; Skilled Trades (Apprenticeship) - Tool-Die Maker - Advanced Certificate; Skilled Trades (Pre-Apprentice) Electrical - Advanced Certificate; Wind Turbine Technology - AAS; Data Science Advanced Certificate; Environmental Technology - Advanced Certificate; Environmental Technology - AAS; and Security Management Certificate of Achievement.

M. Wood made a motion to approve the recommendation. B. Handley-Miller seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF
PRESIDENTIAL
CONTRACT FOR DR.
MICHELLE
ALLMENDINGER
(BA5698)**

Board Chair Gannon shared that Dr. Allmendinger's contract was developed using data from existing community college contracts within the state of Michigan and data from other League colleges and pulled together by Jon Foco and our attorney, MaryJo Banasik.

Board Chair Gannon said the contract was presented to Dr. Allmendinger and she has accepted.

Board Chair Gannon asked for a motion that the Board of Trustees approve the presidential contract for Dr. Michelle Allmendinger and that her employment with the College will begin on June 29, 2026.

M. Wood made a motion to approve. B. Handley-Miller seconded the motion.

J. Foco stated that the lease agreement for the Farmhouse is new.

Motion passed unanimously.

**STUDENT SUCCESS:
Student Leadership
Academy**

An administrative report on student success featured the Student Leadership Academy, presented by Chris DeEulis, Director of BEDI and Alison Ginter, BEDI Coordinator. They highlighted the program which has been in existence for 10 years but now features individualized components for personal growth. This academic year, 34 students participated, and 40 students signed up for next year.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Enrollment Report

The spring 2026 term started May 11. As of today, 4,255 students are enrolled. We projected 21,482 contact hours for the spring term and we are at 129% of budgeted projection. We projected 4,647 contact hours for the summer term and we are at 112% of budgeted projection. The official count date for the spring semester is May 21, 2026.

Registration has started for the Fall 2026 semester. As of today, 4,592 students have registered. We projected 79,039 contact hours for the fall semester and we are at 56% of budgeted projection.

Personnel Report

The complete report of hires, promotions, and separations for the month of April can be found in the Board packets.

Information Sharing

• **Congratulations to Rachel Merkle, Student Success Technologist/Communication Coordinator**

- Recipient of the Excellence in Community-Building and Support of Peers and Colleagues – Outstanding Contributor award from Ellucian at the eLive Conference this past April.
- Rachel established a CRM Advise Collaborative Group that brings together technologists and representatives from colleges and community colleges using CRM Advise to share best practices, collaborate, and expand innovative uses of the platform.
- Through this leadership, Rachel has helped generate valuable insight into how Delta utilizes CRM Advise while continuing to position us as a leader in innovative student support practices and a trusted partner for other higher education institutions seeking guidance and collaboration.

• **Congratulations to Dr. Elsa Olvera, Director of Educational Opportunity Center and Dr. Elena Lazzari, Associate Professor of Economics**

- Recipients of the 2026 [Outstanding Institutional Representative](#) Award from the Michigan ACE Women’s Network
 - As evidenced in Delta College’s annual report, both Dr. Olvera and Professor Lazzari are being recognized for their outstanding leadership in higher education. They have successfully fostered an inclusive campus culture through several key initiatives:
 - Growing Partnerships: Establishing an ongoing collaborative partnership with Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU) that continues to expand.
 - New Chapter Development: Launching the Delta College Chapter of the MI ACE Women’s Network in the summer of 2025.
 - Collaborative Programming: Developing the joint Delta College and SVSU workshop series, “The Mindset to Mastery: Unlocking Growth and Leadership Potential.”
 - Inclusive Community Building: Hosting events such as Women’s Equality Day and "Let’s Lunch Together," which created welcoming spaces for women faculty, staff, and administrators to connect across departments and institutions.
 - Congratulations to both Dr. Elsa Olvera and Dr. Elena Lazzari for demonstrating excellence in collaborative and inclusive leadership!
 - The award will be presented to them on June 16, at the MI-ACE Annual Conference in East Lansing.
- **Congratulations to PTK Xi Delta Chapter**
 - Recipient of the following awards at the PTK Michigan Regional Conference that took place on May 1 & 2:
 - 5-star chapter plan award
 - Chapter Officer Team - 4th runner up
 - Honors In Action Theme 1 - Winner
 - Honors In Action - 1st Runner up
 - Most Distinguished Chapter - 4th runner up
 - Maggie Zimmerman, Biology Assistant Professor, received the Paragon Advisor Award - 3rd runner up
 - Lisa McNeil, Administrative Office Professional, Honors Program and Maggie received the Distinguished Chapter Advisor Team - 3rd runner up
 - Two of our student leaders received medals - Distinguished Chapter member
 - And past advisor Mark Brown, English Professor, received the Horizon Award.
- **Midland Food Distribution Update**
 - At the food distribution at Dow Diamond on April 7, we served 182 families reaching over 500 individuals.
 - This is more than double the expected number of families based on the information from our partners.
 - The Great Lakes Loons, United Way of Midland, Midland County Food Assistance Network, and the Food Band of Eastern Michigan were great partners on this event.

- The increased number of participants was based on news coverage in advance of the event from what some participants shared.
- Jon Foco, Pam Clark and I, along with Duck and Alison Ginter, attended the **MCCA Capitol Day** on April 17. We met with legislators to communicate the benefits of community colleges and to discuss Delta's Resource Center plans.
- **Thanks to Trustees for attending these events:**
 - Employee Awards Banquet – Wednesday, April 15 – Board Chair Gannon, Trustee Handley-Miller
 - Athletic Banquet – Tuesday, April 28 – Vice Chair Baldwin
 - Commencement – Friday, May 1 – Board Chair Gannon, Vice Chair Baldwin, Trustees Handley-Miller, Middleton and Rowley. Saturday, May 2 – Board Chair Gannon, Trustees Handley-Miller, Middleton and Rowley
 - 118th Police Training Academy Graduation Ceremony – Friday, May 8 – Board Chair Gannon and Trustee Wood
- **Public Media Reception**
 - Last Thursday afternoon, we had about 70 community supporters on campus to dedicate the Rapp Family studios, down in the broadcasting lobby. Andy and Donna Rapp stepped forward with a sizeable financial contribution to support the stations, and this was our way of recognizing their generosity. Thanks to Board Chair Gannon for speaking at the event.
- **Public Broadcasting Funding Update**
 - It has been a stressful time at Delta College's Public Media stations, since Congress rescinded funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting last summer. That created an immediate loss of over \$900,000 for the stations, or about one-third of their annual budget.
 - Since that time, supporters – mainly individuals from the region, the Thumb and Flint – have stepped up and given more. Right now, our fundraising is 57 percent ahead of where it was at this same time last year, which has reduced the amount of our loss by about \$370,000.
 - They have also been able to reduce some expenses. The stations' primary programming partners, PBS and NPR, lowered the fees required to carry their content. That change alone accounts for more than \$190,000 in savings. There was also a retirement, which we didn't refill in its previous form. Rather, current staff adjusted and took on additional duties.
 - The stations have a cash reserve set aside for unexpected equipment repairs. They will use those savings for any remaining gap in needed funding, so that their community service mission can continue.
- **Covered Bridge Dedication**
 - And last Friday, we had a few dozen people take a moment out of their afternoon to join us for the rededication of the Covered Bridge, which is over in the woods on the east side of campus. It was originally built in 1976 - 50 years ago - for the country's bicentennial. Our facilities team strengthened the footings and replaced some of the lumber to get it in shape for the next

half century. We were pleased to have 5 of the original construction team members on campus to join us as we unveiled some new signage at the site. Thanks to Board Chair Gannon for attending.

- Rhonda Coats, our **AtD (Achieving the Dream) Coach**, was on campus Tuesday and Wednesday, May 5 & 6. We share our best practices with her and she gives us advice on how to make them even better.
- **Next Board Meeting – Tuesday, June 9 – Main Campus**
- **Handouts**
 - El Camino event dates
 - UMOJA event dates

TRUSTEE COMMENTS

M. Wood shared that as always, he enjoys the fantastic student presentations. He appreciates talking about how we are working with local communities to meet the basic needs of our students.

M. Wood enjoyed attending the 118th Police Academy Graduation and seeing the family members. He said that one graduate was from the Upper Peninsula.

M. Wood addressed the earlier public comment by asking to please judge the Board on what they do as a collective group, rather than on what an individual does.

D. Middleton congratulated Thomas Boudrot on his retirement after working 22 years and said farewell to Jason Premo after working 15 years.

D. Middleton said she appreciates how diligent we are in sunsetting programs and streamlining our offerings.

She thought graduation was awesome and realized that it is a lot of work to have two ceremonies. It was fantastic and she looks forward to graduation in December.

D. Middleton appreciated everything she heard this evening from Alison Ginter about coaching students and the basic needs presentation at the dinner meeting. She is brokenhearted that people are in these situations and is grateful that Delta pays attention and meets the needs of the whole student.

B. Handley-Miller noted that at the Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra's recent concert, Beethoven's Ode to Joy with the Saginaw Chorale Society was dedicated to Don Carlyon. Mr. Carlyon was on their Board for 60 years.

She thought both student presentations were excellent and supported all the work that has been done.

In reply to the public comment, B. Handley-Miller said she felt bad that happened and asked that the student be invited to attend a board meeting to get a better impression.

She also suggested that L. Ullrich and her colleagues or students present information about LGBTQ+ programs, cultural awareness, and rights at a future board meeting.

B. Handley-Miller also attended commencement at Kirtland Community College. She said they put up two screens so families could see their graduates more clearly. She wondered if that was something we could do at Delta graduations.

A. Thomas appreciated the presentations this evening to understand what resources are needed and what resources we provide.

In response to the public comment, she said she didn't feel that any Trustee would act maliciously and agreed that more education is needed. She was sorry that L. Ullrich felt the need to come to this meeting.

A. Thomas said she was unable to attend graduation but was happy that we had two ceremonies to celebrate our students.

M. Nash thought the presentations were great. He appreciated what the College is doing to keep Public Broadcasting working.

M. Nash thanked L. Ullrich for approaching the Board and for sending her students to meetings. He told her that usually the Board receives a list of events that Delta attends. He also agreed with having an LGBTQ+ presentation.

CHAIR COMMENTS

Board Chair Gannon stated how proud she is of our college community and how well we work together.

She said that this was the first meeting in a long time that didn't have students attending.

Board Chair Gannon believes we always have the best intentions for our students. She thanked everyone for all they are doing.

Vote to go into Closed Session Under the Michigan Open Meetings Act Section 8(1)(h) to Consider Material Exempt from Discussion or Disclosure by State Law, Specifically an Attorney-Client Privileged Letter Under the Michigan Freedom of Information Act Section 13(1)(g)

M. Wood made a motion to enter into closed session under the Michigan Open Meetings Act Section 8(1)(h) to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state law, specifically an attorney-client privileged letter under the Michigan Freedom of Information Act Section 12(1)(g).

B. Handley-Miller seconded the motion.

The results of the roll call vote to go into closed session are as follows:

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

The Board voted unanimously (6-0) to go into closed session at 8:09pm.

The closed session ended at 9:03pm, and the Board returned to open session at that time.

**RESOLUTION TO
CENSURE (BA5699)**

Board Chair Gannon read the following resolution:

Delta College Censure
Resolution

A regular meeting of the Delta College Board of Trustees (the "Board") was held at the Delta College Midland Center on May 12, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Stacey Gannon.

Present: Stacey Gannon, Barb Handley-Miller, Diane Middleton, Mike Nash, Alexis Thomas, Michael Wood

Absent: Arshen Baldwin, Alex Clark, Mike Rowley

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member Diane Middleton and supported by Member Barb Handley-Miller:

Whereas:

1. Board Trustee Alexander S. Clark III was absent from College Presidential Search Board meetings, including on the following dates: October 7, 2025; November 25, 2025; March 11, 2026; March 26, 2026; April 6, 2026; April 7, 2026; and April 10, 2026.
2. Trustee Clark was absent from the April 14, 2026, Board meeting at which the Board selected its incoming College President.
3. According to the College's BoardBook representative, Trustee Clark has not logged into BoardBook since November 2024 to review Board meeting packets before attending Board meetings.
4. It has also come to the College's attention that Trustee Clark has lacked engagement with other Trustees.
5. Trustee Clark has been unresponsive to scheduling communications from the College Board Chair and the College President's Office, with communications ranging from September 22, 2025, to April 22, 2026.
6. During today's Board meeting, Trustee Clark was provided an opportunity to respond to the above observations.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved That:

1. The Board finds that to the extent Trustee Clark engaged in the conduct described above, the conduct is not appropriate.
2. The Board urges Trustee Clark to attend Board meetings, to engage with other Trustees, to attend College commencements, and to work collaboratively with other Trustees and the College President's Office in scheduling Board events such as special Board meetings.
3. To the extent Trustee Clark does not believe he can fulfill his duties, he may submit a voluntary written resignation of public office to the Board.
4. All resolutions and parts of resolutions that conflict with any provision of this resolution are rescinded.

Ayes: Stacey Gannon, Barb Handley-Miller, Diane Middleton, Mike Nash, Alexis Thomas, Michael Wood.

Nays: None

Absent: Arshen Baldwin, Alex Clark, Mike Rowley

Motion Passed/Failed: Passed

Talisa Brown, Board Secretary Pro Tem

The undersigned, duly qualified and acting Board Secretary Pro Tem, certifies that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by said Board at a regular meeting held on May 12, 2026, the original of which is part of the Board's minutes. The undersigned further certifies that notice of the meeting was given to the public pursuant to the provisions of the "Open Meetings Act" (Act 267, PA 1976, as amended).

Talisa Brown, Board Secretary Pro Tem

D. Middleton made a motion to approve a censure resolution regarding the inappropriate conduct of A. Clark who has been absent from board meetings, has not logged into BoardBook, and lacks engagement with fellow Trustees and College staff. B. Handley-Miller seconded the motion.

D. Middleton said that she had the honor of chairing the Presidential Search Advisory Committee made up of 20 members including faculty, administrators, volunteers, and students. On average, each member put in 50 hours of work into the process. They should be respected for their work by every member of this board and the fact that Trustee Clark didn't do anything, he didn't respect them.

The Board voted six (6) in favor to adopt the resolution.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Board Chair Gannon adjourned the meeting at 9:13pm.

Kay Schuler, Assistant Board Secretary Pro Tem

Talisa Brown, Board Secretary Pro Tem