

Delta College
Board of Trustees
Special Meeting – Vacancy Committee
Virtually via Zoom (1-929-205-6099 Webinar ID 840 5634 2313)
Held virtually in accordance with Public Act 254 of 2020 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic
Wednesday, January 27, 2021
6:00 pm

BOARD PRESENT M. Benecke, A. Buckley, R. Emrich, S. Gannon, D. Middleton, M. Thomas

OTHERS PRESENT T. Brown, P. Clark, R. Curry, C. Curtis, S. DuFresne, A. Elias, D. Giuliani, J. Goodnow, L. Govitz, K. Rishe, E. Roth, K. Schuler, A. Ursuy

PRESS PRESENT None

CALL TO ORDER Committee Chair, R. Emrich asked Board Secretary, A. Ursuy to read the meeting overview at 6:02 pm.

“Good evening,

I would like to take a minute to explain how tonight’s meeting will run.

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).

The Zoom platform allows participants to participate virtually via phone or computer and ensures that the public can participate in this meeting.

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

All participants are currently muted to prevent any background noise or feedback. Board members will be unmuted to allow full participation during the meeting when recognized. *For clarity, please state your name prior to speaking.*

- If you are joining via phone and wish to be recognized, please press *9.
- If you are joining via the video option on your computer, please press the “raise hand” option.

Please note that all votes will be taken via roll call by our Assistant Board Secretary, Talisa Brown.

In addition, “the amendments (to the Open Meetings Act that went into effect on October 16, 2020) impose a new requirement for any member of the public body participating remotely to publicly announce, at the outset of the meeting, that he or she is participating remotely. If the announcing member's remote participation is for any reason other than military duty, the member must announce his or her physical

location "by stating the county, city, township, or village and state from which he or she is attending the meeting remotely." The member's public announcement must be included in the meeting minutes."

Therefore, our Assistant Board Secretary, Talisa Brown, will take attendance immediately after the Committee Chair has called the 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.

If members of the public wish to address the Members of the Vacancy Committee, you may do so during the public comment portion of the meeting, which is on our agenda and will be announced by the Committee Chair. At that time, those wishing to address the Board should indicate their desire to speak by pressing *9 (star-9) or the "raise hand" option.

Notes on rules for public comment, please press *9 or the "raise hand" option to be recognized. When you are acknowledged, we ask that you state your name and you may state your county of residence. As outlined in the Board of Trustees Bylaws, please limit your comments to five minutes.

Committee Chair, R. Emrich called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

Assistant Board Secretary T. Brown took attendance. Each Trustee indicated their presence, township or city, and county of residence in Michigan from which they were participating in this meeting.

- M. Benecke – Present, Frankenlust Township, Bay County
- A. Buckley – Present, City of Midland, Midland County
- R. Emrich – Present, Saginaw Township, Saginaw County
- S. Gannon – Present, Jerome Township, Midland County
- D. Middleton – Present, Williams Township, Bay County
- M. Thomas – Present, Saginaw Township, Saginaw County

APPROVAL OF AGENDA Committee Chair, R. Emrich called for the approval of the agenda. M. Benecke made a motion to approve the agenda. M. Thomas seconded the motion.

The results of the roll call vote are as follows:

- M. Benecke – Yes
- A. Buckley – Yes
- R. Emrich – Yes
- M. Thomas – Yes

Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT R. Emrich called for public comment.

FINALIZE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS R. Emrich noted that the committee would review the interview questions. He also noted that trustees who are not members of the committee could provide input.

M. Benecke made a motion to strike question 6.b. "What is your understanding of a trustee's role in matters involving: b. Handling media questions from reporters?" M. Thomas seconded the motion.

There was discussion as to the importance of this question and whether or not a potential candidate would know how to properly answer this question. It was noted that the Delta College Board of Trustees Operating Parameters talk about the Board acting as a unit with one voice. It was also suggested to include a scenario.

The results of the roll call vote are as follows:

M. Benecke – Yes
A. Buckley – Yes
R. Emrich – No
M. Thomas – Yes

Motion passed.

M. Thomas made a motion to table question 6, "What is your understanding of a Trustee's role in matters involving: a. Spending fund (budgeting, bids, bills, negotiations, etc.)?" in an effort to rewrite it. M. Benecke seconded the motion.

The results of the roll call vote are as follows:

M. Benecke – Yes
A. Buckley – Yes
R. Emrich – Yes
M. Thomas – Yes

Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Goodnow suggested an additional question be added. "As a potential candidate to be selected by the Board, how would you support the president? Could you give us some examples?"

M. Benecke made the motion to add the proposed question. M. Thomas seconded the motion.

The results of the roll call vote are as follows:

M. Benecke – Yes
A. Buckley – Yes
R. Emrich – Yes
M. Thomas – Yes

Motion passed unanimously.

M. Thomas made a motion to add the following question, “What do you see as the priorities for Delta College? For the Board?” M. Benecke seconded the motion.

The results of the roll call vote are as follows:

- M. Benecke – Yes
- A. Buckley – Yes
- R. Emrich – Yes
- M. Thomas – Yes

Motion passed unanimously.

The committee then returned to question 6. A. Ursuy shared a possible replacement question. “What is your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a community college trustee? Scenario: The Board has just made the decision to discontinue a program at the College. You are not in full agreement with the decision and voted against the action. Following the meeting, a member of the media approaches you asking several questions regarding the action. How would you handle this media inquiry?”

M. Benecke made a motion to adopt this proposed question as a replacement for question 6. M. Thomas seconded the motion.

The results of the roll call vote are as follows:

- M. Benecke – Yes
- A. Buckley – Yes
- R. Emrich – Yes
- M. Thomas – Yes

Motion passed unanimously.

**SELECTION OF
APPLICANTS FOR
VIRTUAL INTERVIEWS**

M. Thomas made a motion to interview all six candidates. M. Benecke seconded the motion.

The results of the roll call vote are as follows:

- M. Benecke – Yes
- A. Buckley – Yes
- R. Emrich – Yes
- M. Thomas – Yes

Motion passed unanimously.

The interviews will take place next week, Tuesday, February 2 at 6 pm and Wednesday, February 3 at 6 pm with three candidates being interviewed at each meeting.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS

M. Benecke said she is impressed with the slate of interested candidates for this vacancy and looks forward to the process.

A. Buckley concurred with M. Benecke and noted that they will have their work cut out for them in terms of choosing amongst such a well-qualified group.

S. Gannon thanked the four committee members for serving on this very important committee. She stressed the importance in taking our time and selecting the right candidate. She also expressed her enthusiasm for the number of individuals who came forward. Finally, she applauded the committee for deciding to interview all the candidates giving each of them the opportunity to express their interest.

D. Middleton expressed her gratitude for the committee's work and their expertise in serving on this committee. She noted the amount of work and time that is needed for this. She also expressed appreciation for Dr. Emrich's wise counsel and leadership.

M. Thomas noted her appreciation for how the committee proceeded through the process tonight. She also noted the great list of candidates and how she looks forward to making the Board whole.

CHAIR COMMENTS

R. Emrich noted that he has been through this process several times. He also noted that there is a good slate of candidates. Using the process that we have in place, we have gotten some outstanding candidates as well as through the election process. He also thanked everyone for their comments, guidance and wisdom tonight.

R. Emrich noted that the committee will, after the conclusion of all of the interviews, nominate one candidate to the full Board for approval.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, R. Emrich adjourned the meeting at 6:56 pm.

Talisa Brown, Assistant Board Secretary