



Newaygo County Area **PROMISE ZONE**

Ensuring Educational Opportunities for a Promising Tomorrow

Newaygo County Area Promise Zone Authority
4747 W. 48th Street
Fremont, MI 49412

Tuesday, August 8, 2017

Regular Meeting Minutes

Present: Steve Witter, Dawn Anderson, Cathy Obits (ex-officio), Carla Roberts (ex-officio), Dr. Lori Tubbergen Clark, Mark Guzniczak, Woody Bowman, Jack Hendon, Holly Moon (virtually)

Absent: Nate Sparks, Tom Boerger, Rebecca Tuuk

Visitors: Corinne Toth, Amy Moore, Todd Jacobs, Dan Rinzema-Sybenga, Melissa Miller, Ashley ??, Jodi Zerlaut, Kelly Potes

Chairperson Clark called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

16-45 – Motion by Steve Witter, supported by Jack Hendon to approve the agenda for today's meeting. Ayes—7 (Witter, Anderson, Tubbergen Clark, Guzniczak, Bowman, Hendon, Moon); Nays—0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

16-46 – Motion by Jack Hendon, supported by Mark Guzniczak to approve the NCAPZ minutes from the special meeting held on May 9, 2017. The date for the next quarterly meeting was corrected to November 14, 2017. Ayes—7 (Witter, Anderson, Tubbergen Clark, Guzniczak, Bowman, Hendon, Moon); Nays—0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kelly Potes, CEO of Choice One Bank, presented the Board with a check in the amount of \$25,000. It was also noted that employees are using their casual Friday donations to support the Promise Zone and will work to attract interest from clients and customers.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Report from the Operations Team from Jack Hendon—

DISCUSSION AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

The Operations Committee met and talked about a variety of issues:

- The process to fill vacant board seats – The committee is recommending that all board members provide names (send to Mr. Hendon) to begin the interview process and bring a final recommendation to full board. It would be good for our next candidate to be from the Hesperia area due to Deanna Joppich's resignation. Criteria will be provided to board member.
- Student certifications – The committee also talked about students who have certificates of completion, but not a high school diploma. Each situation is unique so the recommendation is to handle these situations through the appeals process.
- Software to be used to manage information – As we add more classes each year, Excel spreadsheets will become cumbersome. Efficiencies will be gained by using a better software platform. We will be setting up a team to analyze various software platforms. The hope is to come back with some estimated costs at the November meeting.
- Discussed application form for improvements.
- Discussed avenues to communicate with home school families; communicating the need to register with the State or with us. (Mr. Witter will spearhead this process.)
- The appeals process has just finished; we had 17 appeals. We are working towards written procedures on the appeals process and some guidelines for what was/wasn't approved (future guidance).
- Talked about the TIP certification process. If a student has 24 months where their family receives Medicaid (anytime from birth through 12th grade), they automatically are eligible for a free associates degree through the TIP program. We will be reaching out to the Department of Health and Human Services to help track these individual and encourage them to apply for the TIP certificate. We need to determine who will do this and how to pay for it. This year Melissa Miller's team spent a lot of time tracking down students who had not yet certified.

- The committee talked about the operations budget, tracking what we will need to budget for next year. It is anticipated we will need a .25 FTE person and will need to cover costs of new software.
- A survey was sent out last week about the possibilities of changing the minimum GPA from 2.5 to 3. Overwhelming, the majority wanted to keep the minimum at 2.5.
- Additionally, the survey asked members whether or not we should keep both Baker and MCC as the two institutions. The majority of responses were in favor of eliminating Baker since they will no longer have a physical presence in Newaygo County.

**DISCUSSION AND
INFORMATIONAL ITEMS
(continued)**

Discussion: The board discussed the pros/cons of eliminating Baker and had further discussion on opening up to other colleges. Overall the operations committee felt we should limit the Promise Zone to MCC as the institution we support. This will keep MCC in the County, given transportation is a critical piece for students in Newaygo County. We will continue to support Baker for those who will be attending this year. Ms. Roberts asked if there is any possibility to open up the PZ to other programs, not just MCC. Lori noted this may leave things a little bit too open, but we could have some program-specific options like MAT².

Mr. Jacobs noted that 2.5 is not sustainable in terms of what we initially determined would be needed to cover costs. We have 139 students at this point, but are still waiting for some students to come through with information so that number could be lower. There are advantages to raising the GPA because it makes students work harder in high school to be PZ eligible, but we don't want to eliminate funding for students who can't reach that mark. According to our working spreadsheet, if we changed the GPA to 3.0 we would eliminate 34 students. Mr. Witter noted we could also lose some of the selling point with donors if we raised the GPA and made college out of reach for those 2.5 GPA students.

Ms. Moon noted that after this first year, we may not get all Fremont kids apply, as they were directed by their counselor this year. All FHS seniors were directed to apply as an alternative, even if they didn't plan on attending Baker or MCC which really skewed our numbers.

Mr. Witter noted that if districts are saying we don't need the Early College Program because we have the Promise Zone, would they possibly change their grading structure to make sure students reach the higher threshold? Dr. Clark noted that grades are subjective already, a B in one district might not be a B in another, some districts have weighted grades, some do not. Mr. Guzniczak also noted that donors have been given the criteria and now we might change it, what would be the impact?

16-47 – Woody Bowman made a motion, supported by Mark Guzniczak to remove action item c, approve the Promise Zone scholarship eligibility criteria for the Class of 2018. We will look at data after September 9 and determine if a special meeting is needed to amend criteria. Ayes—7 (Witter, Anderson, Tubbergen Clark, Guzniczak, Bowman, Hendon, Moon); Nays—0. Motion carried.

**MOTION TO TABLE
AMENDING
ELIGIBILITY
CRITERIA FOR 2018**

Ms. Obits asked for clarification on the MCAN operations grant. Dr. Clark noted it was due July 31. We applied for the grant, requesting \$3,000 for software and \$7,000 for staffing. The total could not exceed \$10,000. This is a matching grant.

**DISCUSSION AND
INFORMATIONAL ITEMS
(continued)**

Marketing Committee Report from Dawn Anderson—

- The Marketing Committee met with County realtors and Fremont Chamber Ambassadors Groups. They were delighted to receive sample signs and electronic files with artwork for reproduction (for advertising). Many school districts and MCC have also asked for posters and display materials.
- We have been sharing with students that we will do whatever we need to do to help them be successful.
- Holly Moon will serve as our liaison for press releases.
- It is awesome to see the presence of MCC administration at student meetings.

Steve Witter reported for the Fundraising Committee—

- We have a few committee members who are not a part of the full Promise Zone.
- We greatly appreciate the relationships that made some of our big donations possible. We implore board members that as you have relationships, we welcome your ideas.
- To date \$817,000 has been given or pledged. \$440,000 is available to be used in year one. About \$100,000 has been given or identified for endowment. If we are going to be serving more students than anticipated, we will need more dollars, as Mr. Jacobs noted.
- The goal of committee is to meet once per month.
- One issue we are facing is donor recognition. We need to decide, at the committee level, exactly what we will do. We appreciate all donors, but need to determine what to do for significant donors. Many individuals don't want recognition, but corporate donors might. We continue to meet with many groups and individuals.
- Dr. Clark noted that some superintendents wanted to wait for the start of the school year to distribute payroll deduction forms. We are ready to provide the forms to them at our meeting next week. Opening week activities will take place the week of August 21, if you are interested in visiting districts at their staff meetings, this would be the prime time to present information to our local public school employees.

Promise success initiative team report—

Dr. Clark noted one initiative we are working on is when students are faltering and not making academic progress. When this occurs, the care support team will send a note to the student, but if the student does not reply, there is not a reach back. We are working on a release form to allow the PZ board to be informed so that we can reach out to students as well.

All students were given a lifeline, saying that if you don't know how to get to MCC resources, we can circle back with MCC staff to help these students reach the information they need. We have some community members who have volunteered to tutor students if needed. This is a great way to engage community members.

We have some very talented people working on letters to various sectors, i.e. elementary students, to get the thought process going, integrating the Promise Zone opportunity. Ms. Tuuk wrote a poem that was shared with 200 College for Kids summer camp students.

College and Career Night Out—

This is an event hosted by the College Access Network. Do we want a presence? Historically the FACF has hosted this event. The date is September 28 and this is the launch event for Michigan College Month. Over 40 post-secondary reps talk with parents/students about their institution. Several community organizations find this event to be a useful way to get their information out as well, i.e., Michigan Works!, Telemon, Early College, etc. This might be a good venue for the PZ to have a presence as well. It is from 5:30-7:30 at Fremont High School. Ms. Moon, Mr. Guzniczak and Dr. Clark will attend on behalf of the PZ.

White Cloud Adolescent Health Fair—

This is a school-based health center at White Cloud Public Schools and provides services to students in White Cloud. The date of the fair is August 31 from 12:30-3:00 p.m. High School students will be in attendance from 12:30-1:45 and middle school students from 1:50-3:00. The goal if the fair is to share practical health information, increase health awareness, teach and motivate positive changes and good habits. Mr. Bowman will represent the PZ, Ms. Moon will check her calendar.

16-48 – Motion by Woody Bowman, supported by Jack Hendon to accept the resignation of Deanna Joppich as a Promise Zone Board Member. Ayes—7 (Witter, Anderson, Tubbergen Clark, Guzniczak, Bowman, Hendon, Moon); Nays—0. Motion carried.

**ACCEPT THE
RESIGNATION OF
DEANNA JOPPICH**

16-49 – Motion by Mark Guzniczak, supported by Jack Hendon to approve amendments to Bylaws to include additional language to clarify the appointment process for new members and the expiration of the chairperson's term. Ayes—7 (Witter, Anderson, Tubbergen Clark, Guzniczak, Bowman, Hendon, Moon); Nays—0. Motion carried.

**APPROVE BYLAW
AMENDMENTS**

Information from Board members—

**INFORMATION FROM
THE BOARD**

Mr. Guzniczak noted that Sable homes has purchased a development in Newaygo. One reason why they made this decision is because of the Promise Zone. The development is for 40 starter homes.

Dr. Clark shared a thank you note from a student who is receiving the PZ scholarship and a thank you note from one of our local high schools for participating in their honors night.

Dr. Clark also noted we have one more form that we will be requesting students to sign. The state association works with CEPI so instead of us grabbing data from CEPI, putting it in a report to sending it back to the Department of Treasury, we can have CEPI share this information directly with Treasury. We need students to sign at this time so we can begin this process this year. We will incorporate this form into our initial intake process in future years.

16-50 – Motion by Woody Bowman, supported by Jack Hendon to adjourn the Newaygo County Area Promise Zone Authority regular meeting at 12:45 p.m. Ayes—7 (Witter, Anderson, Tubbergen Clark, Guzniczak, Bowman, Hendon, Moon); Nays—0. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT



Dr. Lori Tubbergen Clark, Chairperson