



**Newaygo County Area Promise Zone  
Authority Board Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 11:30 AM  
Held Virtually Due to the COVID-19 Closure**

Present: Lori Tubbergen Clark (chairperson), Dawn Anderson, Holly Moon, Cathy Obits, Carla Roberts, Tim Rossler (arrived at 11:50 am), Scott Rumsey, Steve Witter, Don VanSingel

Absent: Jack Hendon, Scott Swinehart

Visitors: Chery Flannery, Melissa Miller, Jody Zerlaut, Emily Truax (Recorder)

Chairperson Dr. Lori Tubbergen Clark called the meeting to order at 11:34 a.m.

**Approval of the Agenda:**

Motion by Moon, supported by VanSingel, to approve the revised meeting agenda. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Tubbergen Clark, Moon, Anderson, Rumsey, Tuuk, VanSingel, Witter; Nays – none. Motion unanimously carried.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

Motion by Tuuk, supported by Moon, to approve the February 11, 2020 meeting minutes with requested revisions. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Anderson, Rumsey, Tuuk, VanSingel, Witter, Tubbergen Clark, Moon; Nays - none. Motion unanimously carried.

**Public Participation:**

Chairperson Tubbergen Clark opened the floor for public participation. There were no requests.

**Dr. Witter, Chair of the Finance Subcommittee provided the following report:**

- Michelle Dubois accepted the Fundraiser position. She was described as an energetic person who thinks outside of the box.
- There is a move to shift our events to be held virtually due to COVID-19. This included the Nestle-Gerber fundraiser.

**Dr. Lori Tubbergen Clark presented the following report on behalf of the Operations Subcommittee:**

- Dr. Witter and Mr. Hendon made an in-person request at MCC's Board retreat asking for in-county tuition rates for all Newaygo County Promise Zone students. The request would amount to approximately \$200,000 less in tuition payments each year. MCC's board responded that they could only provide a total of \$30,000 in support, allocating \$10,000 for each of the next three years.
- Due to an increased population of students who do not qualify for financial aid, and a larger number of students attending MCC, the board must make some decisions to financially sustain the Promise. The question was raised if we should increase revenue or narrow the pipeline. Discussion ensued and all agreed that the following items will be considered:
  1. How much revenue can Mrs. Dubois raise as our fundraiser with the board's support?
  2. The board will look at options to narrow the pipeline. There was consensus that increasing the GPA was not an agreeable option, and any eligibility changes will need to be voted on at the August meeting for the 2021 cohort.
  3. The board will explore other options for partners who might be able to give us an in-district rate.
  4. Approach Chuck Wilber and others in the MPZA to modify the Promise to be a needs-based program with the help of our legislatures.

**Action Items:**

Tuition Payments – Motion by Rossler, supported by Witter, to approve winter tuition payment to MCC in the amount of \$245,418.40 and the Baker College Spring tuition payment totaling \$588.00. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Moon, Anderson, Rossler, Rumsey, Tuuk, VanSingel, Witter, Tubbergen Clark; Nays – None. Motion unanimously carried.

Early College Completers – Motion by Witter, supported by Rossler, to approve payment in the amount of \$12,600 for the six Early College completers. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Rossler, Rumsey, Tuuk, Witter, Tubbergen Clark, Moon, Anderson; Nays – None. Motion unanimously carried.



Fundraising Coordinator – Motion by Rossler, supported by VanSingel, to approve the hiring of Michelle DuBois as Fundraising Coordinator. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Moon, Anderson, Rossler, Rumsey, Tuuk, VanSingel, Witter, Tubbergen Clark; Nays – None. Motion unanimously carried.

Student Advancement Assistant/Success Coach – Motion by Moon, supported by Tuuk, to approve the hiring of Loretta Towne as a Student Advancement Assistant/Success Coach. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Rossler, Rumsey, Tuuk, VanSingel, Witter, Tubbergen Clark, Moon, Anderson; Nays – None. Motion unanimously carried.

**Information from Promise Zone Board Members:**

The Operations Subcommittee will continue to search for someone to fill the board seat left by Tom Boerger and hopes to have a replacement on the August meeting agenda.

**Adjournment:**

Motion by Witter, supported by Moon, to adjourn. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Rossler, Rumsey, Tuuk, VanSingel, Witter, Tubbergen Clark, Moon, Anderson; Nays - none. Motion unanimously carried.

Meeting adjourned at 12:31 a.m.

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Dr. Lori Tubbergen Clark, Chairperson