



**Newaygo County Area Promise Zone
Authority Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 12, 2019
NC RESA Educational Services Center Board Room**

Present: Lori Tubbergen Clark (chairperson), Tom Boerger, Jack Hendon, Holly Moon, Carla Roberts, Tim Rossler, Scott Rumsey, Scott Swinehart, Don VanSingel

Absent: Dawn Anderson, Cathy Obits, Steve Witter

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

Chairperson Dr. Lori Tubbergen Clark called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion by Hendon, supported by Boerger, to approve the agenda. Ayes – 9, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Swinehart, supported by Tuuk, to approve the August 20, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. Ayes – 9, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

Public Participation:

Melissa Miller introduced Leslie Dahlquist, the new Student Advancement Assistant. Mrs. Dahlquist thanked the board for the opportunity to serve the Promise Zone.

Scott Swinehart, member of the Fundraising Subcommittee presented the following report:

- Almost 1.5 million dollars in gifts and pledges have been received. Of that \$66,000 are placed in endowment funds.
- All but two of the donors have honored their pledges.
- The investment to the Michigan Promise Zone Association has been of great value and they are working to coordinate the annual donor appeal letter and mailing. Board members were asked to write personal notes to their contacts given to Steve Witter and were given postcards to return by November 20th.
- A donor agreed to match all gifts from the Promise Zone Board Members and the WeCAN Executive Committee will be matched up to \$5,000 if donated before December 3, which is Giving Tuesday. Checks can be mailed to 4747 W. 48th Street, Fremont, MI 49412, or donations can be given online through the www.promise.zone website.

Mrs. Holly Moon, Co-chair of the Marketing Subcommittee, presented the following report:

- College and Career Night Out was well attended and worth the time investment. Tom Boerger and Don VanSingel attended that event and estimated that roughly 70% of the students they spoke to knew of the Promise Zone, but many of them had questions about the apprenticeship program. Lori Tubbergen Clark responded that apprenticeships will be offered on an individual basis since several factors come into play.
- The joint Promise Zone & WeCAN Communications and Marketing Subcommittee met in September and will follow the initial marketing plan to work with grades 3, 7 and 11. Newaygo Public Schools will pilot this in the 2nd semester in partnership with Leslie Smith, NC RESA Literacy Coach.
- TrueNorth staff developed a questionnaire to help with determine the co-branding. More information will come when the committee reconvenes in December.
- Mrs. Moon asked for clarification on the process for expenditures. Lori Tubbergen Clark responded that the board is required to approve all expenditures, and invoices should be submitted to Melissa Miller who will process them with H & S.

Mrs. Rebecca Tuuk, Chair of the Promise Success Initiative Subcommittee, presented the following report:

The Gerber Foundation approved the grant to provide gift cards as an incentive for Promise Scholars who attend the posse group meetings. Posse groups from both Newaygo and Grant have met. Students were provided an opportunity to discuss their barriers, and network with each other. Lori Tubbergen Clark shared that listening to students share their stories at the posse meetings reaffirms the Promise Zone's purpose.



Mr. Jack Hendon, Chair of the Operations Subcommittee, presented the following report:

Mr. Hendon reviewed the October financial statement which shows a balance of \$340,666. An actual vs. budget sheet was reviewed which indicated that the NCAPZ is projected to have a 43.39% decrease in fund balance by December 31, 2019. Mr. Boerger voiced his concern that it's unrealistic to have an indefinite fundraising campaign. Mr. Hendon suggested that the Operations Subcommittee review the Actuarial Analysis along with the 10-year projection to establish a better idea of when the Promise will be self-sustaining.

Action Items:

Payment of MCC/Baker Fall 2019 Semester Tuition – Motion by Boerger, supported by Tuuk, to approve payment of \$274,707 to MCC and Baker for the Fall 2019 semester. Ayes – 9, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

Information from Promise Zone Board Members:

Lori Tubbergen Clark referred to the Fall 19 tuition invoice and noted that most of the tuition bills have been full-tuition payments which suggests that a different demographic of students are attending than what was originally thought. The statute specifically gives parameters that eligibility cannot be need-based.

Don VanSingel received a note from Senator Bumstead's office commending the NCAPZ for lowering the GPA for students who are entering a trade program (or apprenticeship). Carla Roberts suggested that marketing and communications flip the focus from a 2 – year degree to place an emphasis on apprenticeship programs, therefore attracting more students who financially need the scholarship.

Motion by Boerger, supported by Swinehart, to adjourn. Ayes – 9, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

Meeting adjourned at 12:25 pm.

Dr. Lori Tubbergen Clark, Chairperson