



Newaygo County Area Promise Zone Authority Board Meeting
Tuesday, May 11, 2021
Meeting Held Virtually

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Present: Lori Tubbergen Clark (chairperson), Jack Hendon, Dawn Anderson, Kathy Pope, Scott Rumsey, Scott Swinehart, Don VanSingel (left at 12:13pm), Becky Tuuk, Dick Dunning (arrived at 11:39 am), Cathy Obits, Holly Moon, Pat Brown

Absent: Tim Rossler

Visitors: Melissa Miller, Cheryl Flannery, Emily Truax, Loretta Towne (Recorder)

Chairperson Dr. Lori Tubbergen Clark called the meeting to order at 11:32 a.m.

Mr. Patrick Brown took the Oath of Office.

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion by Hendon, supported by Tuuk, to approve the agenda as presented. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Anderson, Swinehart, Rumsey, Tuuk, VanSingel, Brown, Tubbergen Clark, Hendon, Moon; Nays – None. Motion unanimously carried.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Moon, supported by Swinehart to approve the February 9, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes as amended. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Hendon, Moon, Anderson, Swinehart, Rumsey, Tuuk, VanSingel, Brown, Tubbergen Clark; Nays – None. Motion, as amended, unanimously carried.

Public Participation:

Dr. Tubbergen Clark opened the floor for public comments. There were none.

Dr. Tubbergen Clark shared a historical overview of the Promise Zone and the WE CAN! college access network:

- 2010: College access planning conversations began with community stakeholders.
- 2011: WE CAN! launched with three College Advisers.
- 2015: WE CAN! secured five full-time College Advisers for Newaygo County, Mrs. Melissa Miller presented at the White House College Opportunity Summit on our College Adviser model, legislative work continued with Dr. Tubbergen Clark and Senator Hansen to securing a Promise Zone for Newaygo County.
- 2016: Governor Snyder signed the Promise Zone bill into law allowing Newaygo County to be the 10th Promise Zone, fundraising efforts began to raise \$1.5 million.
- 2017: In collaboration with the fundraising team and the Fremont Area Community Foundation, the fundraising goal was met, and the first cohort of students began as Promise Scholars in the Fall of 2017.
- 2018: WE CAN! and the Promise Zone initiated conversations around joint forces and fund development because both groups were doing similar work, created joint subcommittees.
- February 2019: Promise Zone approved the pilot to merge WE CAN! and Promise Zone operations.
- August 2019: Promise Zone approved the MOU with NC RESA for the Executive on Loan to the Promise Zone and launched Success Groups based on research study from Hope College Center for Leadership.
- 2020: Hired Student Success Services Assistant/Success Coach and Promise Zone Fundraiser.

Ms. Obits presented the following report on behalf of the Operations Subcommittee:

- Cash flow projections for 2021-2023 were shared.
- A drafted integrated budget for WE CAN!, the Promise Zone and Early College was shared.
- To help make the Early College Program cost neutral for local school districts and to support continued enrollment in the Early College Program, the Newaygo County Area Promise Zone Authority has agreed to pay up to \$2,100 per Early College thirteenth year student. This partnership allows the Promise Zone to count these students as completers. Local high schools will submit invoices directly to NC RESA who will in turn send invoices to the Newaygo County Area Promise Zone for payment. Local school districts will receive funds directly from the Newaygo County Area Promise Zone.

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- Conversations are happening with MSU for our billing/payment process. The Promise Zone staff have found that Promise Scholars attending MSU under the consortium agreement are being dropped from classes or locked out of their accounts due to not having tuition payment up front. Our current process is to provide scholarship funds after the semester is completed to ensure students meet AYP, however that process may need to change. An update will be given in August.
- There will be a two minor changes to our website. First, in regard to applying for other scholarships (FACF and The Gerber Foundation), the word “required” will be changed to “highly recommended”. Secondly, the language around taking summer courses will be clarified, only students who have not taken at least one semester of college classes will need to file an appeal.
- Historical Promise Zone application data was shared. Currently, 127 applications have been received for the 2021-2022 school year.
- The subcommittee continues to seek applications for a Success Coach.
- The 2020 Audit is being finalized.

Mrs. Moon presented the following report on behalf of the Fundraising Subcommittee:

- Mr. Paul Dudek and Mrs. Holly Moon co-chair this subcommittee, Mr. Dudek represents WE CAN! and Mrs. Moon represents the Promise Zone.
- The subcommittee is looking forward to creating a more structured collaboration between WE CAN! and the Promise Zone; the subcommittee will be moving forward with strategic planning.
- For this fiscal year (July 1, 2020 to date), \$56,787.50 has been raised.

Mrs. Tuuk presented the following report on behalf of the Promise Success Initiative Subcommittee:

- Success Groups are wrapping up for the 2020-2021 school year.
- The subcommittee will meet later this week to discuss and plan for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Mr. Pat Brown was welcomed to the Promise Success subcommittee.

Mrs. Miller presented the following report on behalf of the Marketing and Communications Subcommittee:

- The communications plan for grades 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 was put on pause due to COVID. The plan is ready with the hopes to launch during the 2021-2022 school year.
- The Promise Zone’s new Facebook page has been launched; board members were encouraged to share this new page.

Action Items:

Early College Completers: Motion by Hendon, supported by Moon, to approve payment in the amount up to \$21,000 for ten Early College completers. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Moon, Anderson, Swinehart, Rumsey, Tuuk, VanSingel, Dunning, Brown, Tubbergen Clark, Hendon; Nays – None. Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. VanSingel left the meeting.

MCC Tuition Payment: Motion by Anderson, supported by Tuuk, to approve winter tuition from MCC totaling \$172,073.35. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Swinehart, Rumsey, Tuuk, VanSingel (by proxy vote), Dunning, Brown, Tubbergen Clark, Hendon, Moon, Anderson; Nays – None. Motion unanimously carried.

MSU Tuition Payment: Motion by Moon, supported by Rumsey, to approve spring tuition from MSU totaling \$5,751.00. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Rumsey, Tuuk, VanSingel (by proxy vote), Dunning, Brown, Tubbergen Clark, Hendon, Moon, Anderson, Swinehart; Nays – None. Motion unanimously carried.

Information from Promise Zone Board Members:

Dick Dunning asked about the pending legislation to provide two free years of community college and what that might mean for our Promise Zone. Dr. Tubbergen Clark shared that if the legislation is approved, the Board would need discussion and to make important decisions, but our focus would remain on supporting our students to achieve post-secondary credentials.

Jack Hendon asked if there has been any headway made from the signed resolution advocating for an expansion of the Michigan Reconnect and Futures for Frontliners programs. Dr. Tubbergen Clark shared that nothing has been heard at this time. Holly Moon will bring this topic with her next week during Advocacy Week.

Adjournment:

Motion by Tuuk, supported by Swinehart, to adjourn. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – VanSingel (by proxy vote), Dunning, Brown, Tubbergen Clark, Hendon, Moon, Anderson, Swinehart, Rumsey, Tuuk; Nays – None. Motion unanimously carried.

Meeting adjourned at 12:19 pm.

Dr. Lori Tubbergen Clark, Chairperson