



**Newaygo County Area Promise Zone Authority Board Meeting**  
Tuesday, February 8, 2022  
NC RESA Educational Services Center Board Room

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Present:** Blake Prewitt (chairperson), Scott Rumsey, Holly Moon, Becky Tuuk, Dawn Anderson, Dick Dunning, Scott Swinehart, Pat Brown, Kathy Pope, Jack Hendon (call in, non-voting)

**Absent:** Tim Rossler, Don VanSingel

**Visitors:** Melissa Miller, Loretta Towne (recorder)

Chairperson Blake Prewitt called the meeting to order at 11:33 a.m.

**Approval of the Agenda:**

Motion by Swinehart, supported by Moon, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes – 8, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

Motion by Moon, supported by Tuuk, to approve the November 16, 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes and Regular Meeting Minutes. Ayes – 8, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

**Public Participation:**

Prewitt opened the floor for public comments. There were none.

**Mr. Rumsey presented the following report on behalf of the Operations Subcommittee:**

- The Cash Flow Report was shared with the actual vs. budget through December 31, 2021. Our State Education Tax (SET) came in over budget putting our revenue up and expenditures were down due to less tuition. Our fund balance as of December 31, 2021, was \$332,828. Our account is held at ChoiceOne Bank and we are receiving money market rates.
- The Promise Scholarship application for the 2022-2023 school year opened on January 3. Through February 6, we have received 117 applications, at this time last year we had received 50 applications. Last year we received a total of 130 applications. Students have until March 1 to apply and avoid late fees.
- Mrs. Moon helped to open discussion around preparing a potential gift policy for receiving donations. During a Fundraising Committee meeting, the question was posed, "would we accept a donation from a marijuana dispensary or other similar business?" Mrs. Moon also shared the policies of some local organizations (health care, foundations, faith-based). Discussion points shared by the group included if the business is legal then we should accept the gift, how would it look in public opinion, marijuana is legal in Michigan but not federally, there is nothing in our Promise Zone statute around this. It was determined that the Operations Subcommittee would continue researching this and bring a potential policy to the May meeting.

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

- The Fundraising Subcommittee continues to meet and has come up with four focus areas they plan to move forward with, the areas are:
  - Sponsor A Scholar
  - Round-Up Initiatives
  - Coin Wars/Competitions
  - Quarterly Articles or Letters to the Editor
- Fundraising for the year has been going well. Last week, a gift of \$25,000 was received from Gerber Life Insurance.
- We received \$725 on Giving Tuesday, the year-end appeal mailing has received \$16,645 and unsolicited gifts total \$84,250. The annual fundraising goal is \$50,000 and will be discussed and adjusted as needed by the committee each year.

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

- A study session event was held for four days in December and had 44 students sign-in. Items were given to students such as highlighters, notebooks, planners, and food. This event also allowed the Success Coach to connect with students and she is now working on making deeper connections with these students.
- Last week the Success Coach mailed handwritten notecards to all the Promise Scholars that made the President's and Dean's lists for the Fall 2021 semester.
- Success Groups are still meeting, Grant is the only group with students at this time, however the Subcommittee will be convening soon to reevaluate.

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

- Facebook has had regular posts since August. Thank you to our College Adviser, Olivia, for making and posting content.
- Our Success Coach is looking into creating an Instagram account to better engage with students.
- We continue to look for Board Members to help with presenting on the Promise Zone to schools and the community. If interested, please contact Mrs. Miller.

**Action Items:**

No action items were presented.

**Information from Promise Zone Board Members:**


Mrs. Tuuk inquired about our College Advisers and how many we have this year. Mrs. Miller shared that we started the school year with two College Advisers, one at Fremont and one at Grant. In January we added one to Hesperia. Students without College Advisers are being supported by countywide initiatives as well as their local counselors.

Mrs. Moon shared a friendly reminder that all Board Members are fundraisers and that if anyone would like to approach a potential donor, please do not hesitate to reach out for support from the Fundraising Committee.

**Adjournment:**

Motion by Tuuk, supported by Anderson, to adjourn. Ayes – 8, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

Meeting adjourned at 12:18 p.m.

  
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Blake Prewitt, Chairperson