



Newaygo County Area Promise Zone Authority Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, May 10, 2022

NC RESA Educational Services Center Board Room

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Present: Blake Prewitt (chairperson), Scott Rumsey, Becky Tuuk, Don VanSingel, Scott Swinehart, Kathy Pope, Tim Rossler, Holly Moon, Dawn Anderson, Pat Brown

Absent: Dick Dunning, Jack Hendon

Visitors: Cheryl Flannery, Melissa Miller, Loretta Towne (recorder)

Chairperson Blake Prewitt called the meeting to order at 11:31 a.m.

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion by Swinehart, supported by Rossler, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes – 9, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Moon, supported by Anderson, to approve the February 8, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes. Ayes – 9, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

Public Participation:

Mr. Prewitt opened the floor for public comments.

Mrs. Miller welcomed Cheryl Flannery from Muskegon Community College.

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

- Our approved budget included an estimate for the 0.3 FTE for fundraising support, we would like to adjust the budget to reflect a more accurate number and modify the amount to be \$26,113.79.
- Mrs. Miller is our current designated voting member for the Michigan Promise Zone Association (MPZA). We would like to select an alternate voting member in the instance that Mrs. Miller is unable to attend the quarterly meetings. Meetings are held in Lansing with the March meeting being held virtually. Mr. Rumsey volunteered to serve as our alternate voting member.
- From previous discussion at our February meeting, the Operations Subcommittee has further discussed the creation of a Gift Acceptance Policy. The draft policy was reviewed. Mr. VanSingel suggested the addition of "Board of Directors" to the last paragraph. Mrs. Miller suggested the consultation from Michigan Promise Zones Association Executive Director.
- 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 completer. This partnership allows the Promise Zone to count these students as completers. The numbers were reviewed for the 2022 Cohort. Mr. Prewitt shared that the Career Tech Center is adding a pathway with an Early Middle College program for 13th year students. Mr. VanSingel wondered why only two districts are participating. It was shared that participation varies from year to year, but the program is offered to all districts. Mrs. Pope inquired as to when the Promise Zone began paying for these students; payments began in 2018.
- Our tuition rate at MCC will increase for next school year. Our rate will be \$195.00 per contact hour which is a 2.63% increase from the current year rate of \$190.00. Per our MOU with MCC this rate is subject to an annual increase not to exceed 3%.
- Current financial statement as of March 31, 2022 was reviewed. There was not much activity in our first quarter. Our MPZA dues of \$2,000 have been submitted but will be reflected in the next quarter along with our winter/spring tuition payments.

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

- Fundraising year-to-date is \$62,691. This includes \$51,030 in unsolicited gifts, \$1,470 from the 2021 Year End Appeal, \$5,475 from FAFG gifts and \$4,716 from payroll deduction. Mrs. Moon continues to work with Gerber Life Insurance to hopefully make their gift an annual occurrence and Mrs. Miller is working with Gerber Nestle for the same.
- As shared previously, the Fundraising Subcommittee came up with four focus areas to work upon:
 - Sponsor A Scholar – Mrs. Moon and Mr. VanSingel
 - Round-Up Initiatives – Mrs. Tuuk and Mr. VanSingel
 - Coin Wars/Competitions – Mr. Dudek
 - Quarterly Articles or Letters to the Editor – Mr. Prewitt

Mrs. Tuuk has connected with some local businesses about round-up/coin jars. The larger companies that have business offices outside of Newaygo County or Michigan are unable to participate (Ace, TSC, Meijer). Shop-N-Save did say yes however we will have to reapproach with the SpartanNash purchase. Still planning to connect with Wesco. Mr. Prewitt suggested high traffic summer places such as ice cream shops and canoe/tubing rentals. In addition, Mr. Swinehart suggested connection with the Newaygo County Agriculture Fair. Mrs. Moon has connected with the West Michigan Realtors Association and will look at the retired teachers association. Mr. Swinehart also suggested that we begin including ways to give on our fundraising communications, such as stock gifts, estate gifts and IRA distributions; he is willing to help our donors in making those types of gifts. Mrs. Pope suggested the Promise Zone set-up a way to accept these types of gifts into the operations account at ChoiceOne. It was also mentioned that the Promise Zone is **not** a 501(c)(3) organization but instead at 170(c)(1) organization meaning we are a governmental agency but tax exempt. In closing, Mrs. Moon welcomed all Board Members to be fundraisers, it is not just for the fundraising subcommittee alone.

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

- A “Snack & Study” event was held for students to stop in and have a place to study or relax during their finals, students could also grab supplies and food. There was an in-person and curbside pick-up option. The event was held on two separate days and had 50 students sign-in.
- The Promise Success Initiatives Subcommittee will reconvene soon to evaluate plans and activities for next school year and moving forward.
- Mrs. Miller shared that our Success Coach, Chelsea Reynhout, is working on a continuum of support for our students. Chelsea is also attending Decision Day events at our local districts to meet and connect with students.

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

- Mr. Prewitt shared that last month at the NC RESA “I Care” Awards, Mrs. Moon was recognized as the Newaygo County RESA “I Care” award recipient for her work with and support of the Promise Zone. The “I Care” awards are presented every year to volunteers who make an outstanding contribution to the schools in their community. In addition, the Exemplary Partner Award was given to Gerber Life Insurance for their generous donation to the Promise Zone. The Exemplary Partner Award is given each year to a deserving partner from Newaygo County who goes the extra mile for our students.
- Mrs. Miller shared that in late April she attended the College Access Advocacy Day in Lansing on behalf of WE CAN! and the Promise Zone. She was able to meet with Representative Scott VanSingel who has been a great support of career and college access in Newaygo County.

Action Items:

Early College Newaygo County Completers: Motion by VanSingel, supported by Tuuk, to approve payment up to \$8,400 for four Early College completers. Ayes – 9, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

MCC Tuition Payment: Motion by Brown, supported by Moon, to approve winter tuition from MCC totaling \$150,930.65. Ayes – 9, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

MSU Tuition Payment: Motion by Rossler, supported by Tuuk, to approve spring tuition from MSU totaling \$1,299.00. Ayes – 9, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

Modified Budget: Motion by VanSingel, supported by Brown, to approve the modified budget of \$26,113.70 for the 0.3 FTE for fundraising support. Ayes – 9, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

Gift Acceptance Policy: Motion by Anderson, supported by Brown, to approve the Gift Acceptance Policy with the addition of “Board of Directors” to the last paragraph and consultation from Michigan Promise Zones Association Executive Director. Ayes – 9, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

Information from Promise Zone Board Members:

Mr. Prewitt shared that our Scholarship application will remain open until June 10 with a late fee, to date we have received 209 applications, students will be notified by email of their determination and award no later than June 30 and must accept their Scholarship between June 30 and July 14 to avoid a late fee.

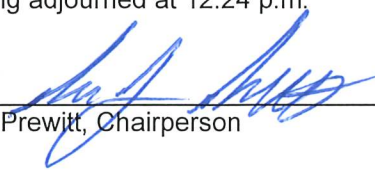
Mrs. Tuuk shared that she spoke with a student from Grant that is in the Early College program, and the student shared their appreciation and excitement to be in the program.

Mr. Rossler shared that he received the Michigan County Lines magazine and saw that Great Lakes Energy has some grant opportunities, not from The People Fund. Mr. Rossler is going to explore the grant opportunity further for the Promise Zone.

Adjournment:

Motion by Rumsey, supported by Tuuk, to adjourn. Ayes – 9, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

Meeting adjourned at 12:24 p.m.



Blake Prewitt, Chairperson