



Newaygo County Area Promise Zone Authority Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, August 9, 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, Pat Brown, Dick Dunning, Jack Hendon

Absent: Dawn Anderson

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

Chairperson Blake Prewitt called the meeting to order at 11:34 a.m.

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion by Swinehart, supported by Rossler, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes – 10, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Moon, supported by Rumsey, to approve the May 10, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. Ayes – 10, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

Public Participation:

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

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

- Cash flow report was reviewed.
- Operations Subcommittee will meet this Friday (8/12) to discuss financial goals.
- Mr. Hendon shared about the 2021 audit. We have received an unqualified opinion, the highest you can receive. There were no issues reported, it was a clean audit and shows good financial position.
- Appeals Subcommittee will be directly following this board meeting. There are 11 appeals to be reviewed for the Fall 2022 semester. The Appeals Subcommittee is made up of the chairs from each subcommittee and the Board Chairperson.
- Promise Scholars for Fall 2022
 - 212 submitted a 2022 application
 - 138 were eligible for the associate degree scholarship
 - 54 were eligible for the apprenticeship scholarship
 - 56 have accepted their award for the associate degree scholarship (plus 2 deferred until 2023/2024)
 - 47 scholars have submitted renewal applications
- Mr. Prewitt shared that we are working to strengthen our apprenticeship program with support from staff, Melissa Miller and Bernard Brown. We are looking at what is needed from the Promise Zone to further support apprenticeships.
- Mr. Prewitt shared that NCRESA is in the process of hiring two College and Career Advisers, these positions will help support our districts that do not currently have College Advisers. The MSUCAC program has had a low recruitment pool and these additional staff will help support our students. One Adviser will be at White Cloud High School and the other will split their time between Newaygo and Grant. The cost of the positions is being split between NCRESA and the districts.

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

- Fundraising year-to-date is \$69,733. This includes \$52,030 in unsolicited gifts, \$1,470 from the 2021 Year End Appeal, \$6,160 from FAFG gifts \$8,473 from payroll deductions and \$1,600 from our first Sponsor-A-Scholar gift.
- Payroll deduction forms will be given to each district as well as NCRESA staff for giving during the 2022-2023 school year.
- Mrs. Moon is working on some new potentially larger donor connections.
- The draft Sponsor-A-Scholar brochure was handed out and reviewed. Thank you to the subcommittee members for their work in reviewing and editing this. It is still a draft, will add a revision date, a QR code for online donations and student quotes/pictures. The brochure will also be added to the Year-End Appeal mailing. Mrs. Moon is seeking support from fellow board members to put the brochures around the county at local businesses. It was noted that donations to Sponsor-A-Scholar are not for a specific Scholars but a general donation to support tuition. Printing of the brochures will be done at the Hi-Lites and brochure holders will need to be purchased, it was proposed to print 1,000 brochures and get 50 holders to begin. It was suggested to see if the Hi-Lites might offer a discount or donation on the printing costs, Mrs. Moon will connect with them.

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

- The Mandatory Orientation session for new Promise Scholars was held on August 3. The format was changed from years past to better connect with students and share the continuum of care available to them. There was a student session where Scholars connected with other Scholars and staff. Scholars scheduled their first one-on-one meeting with Chelsea. There was also a parent/family session. Thank you to our partners at MCC for being there.

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

- The Promise Zone had a table at the National Baby Food Festival Kid's Expo and gave out information about the Promise Zone to over 240 attendees.
- Promise Zone flyers are being given out at the TrueNorth Tools for School event being held today.

Action Items:

MCC Tuition Payment: Motion by Dunning, supported by Moon, to approve summer tuition from MCC totaling \$17,093.25. Ayes – 10, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

2021 Audit: Motion by Rossler, supported by Rumsey, to approve the 2021 Newaygo County Area Promise Zone audit. Ayes – 10, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

2022 Audit Firm: Motion by Hendon, supported by Dunning, to approve Gabridge & Co. as the firm for the 2022 Newaygo County Area Promise Zone audit. Ayes – 10, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

Sponsor-A-Scholar Campaign Expenses: Motion by VanSingel, supported by Rossler, to approve Sponsor-A-Scholar campaign expenses up to \$1,000. Ayes – 10, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

Information from Promise Zone Board Members:

Mrs. Moon gave a friendly reminder that fundraising is not just for the fundraising subcommittee but all board members.

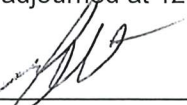
Mr. Swinehart shared that he really likes the Sponsor-A-Scholar brochures and feels they should be printed as soon as possible, now is a good time for financial planners to share this information. He also challenged each board member to Sponsor-A-Scholar themselves.

Mr. Dunning inquired about using billboards to promote the Promise Zone. He shared that placement can be hard to come by and costs vary based on location, but we could potentially ask a local business to donate a few months of their space. Businesses mentioned were Newaygo Insurance Agency (Mr. Dan Johnson) and The White Agency (Mr. Jason Dekuiper). Mrs. Moon said she could connect with Mr. Johnson and Mr. Hendon could connect with Mr. Dekuiper. Mrs. Pope shared that, if possible, we should use pictures of our actual Scholars on the billboards and not stock photos. Mr. Prewitt also mentioned a way to promote could be having permanent signs placed at each high school, he can discuss with the district superintendents.

Adjournment:

Motion by Swinehart, supported by Moon, to adjourn. Ayes – 10, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

Meeting adjourned at 12:28 p.m.



Blake Prewitt, Chairperson