



Newaygo County Area Promise Zone Authority Board of Directors Annual Meeting

Tuesday, November 22, 2022

NC RESA Educational Services Center Board Room

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

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

Absent: Tim Rossler, Don VanSingel,

Visitors: Melissa Miller, Chelsea Reynhout, Jody Zerlaut, Loretta Towne (recorder)

Chairperson Blake Prewitt called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

Approval of the Agenda:

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

Public Participation:

Blake Prewitt welcomed Jody Zerlaut from Muskegon Community College.

The Year in Review:

Melissa Miller shared the Year in Review data sheet. The sheet gives a historical snapshot of numbers on applications, eligibility, accepted and enrolled students along with average GPA's and tuition payments per school year. We are currently working with the MPZA and NSC for more detailed data on our students.

Bylaws Revision:

Motion by Rumsey, supported by Tuuk, to approve edits to the Bylaws, Article VII, Section 1 to now read "The Board of Directors shall nominate and elect a Treasurer and Secretary of the Board on an annual basis without limitation on each term. Service will run from January 1 through December 31." Ayes – 9, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

Election of Officers:

Motion by Moon, supported by Swinehart, to approve the continuation of Jack Hendon as the Treasurer for the 2023 fiscal year. Ayes – 9, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Hendon, supported by Tuuk, to approve the continuation of Holly Moon as Secretary for the 2023 fiscal year. Ayes – 9, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

Appointment of Subcommittee Chairpersons:

Motion by Swinehart, supported by Hendon, to approve the following subcommittee chairpersons:

Operations – Scott Rumsey

Fundraising – Holly Moon

Promise Success – Becky Tuuk

Marketing and Communications – Melissa Miller as Interim

Ayes – 9, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

Annual Meeting Schedule: Motion by Rumsey, supported by Moon, to approve a resolution adopting the regular meeting schedule for the 2023 fiscal year. Ayes – 9, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

Investment of Surplus Funds: Motion by Swinehart, supported by Brown, to approve a resolution authorizing the investment of surplus funds. Ayes – 9, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

Jack Hendon shared that he would like to explore options for better returns (interest rates). Scott Swinehart offered that he would be willing to help with exploring options as well.

Authorized Signatories: Motion by Dunning, supported by Tuuk, to approve the Treasurer and Secretary as authorized signatories for check and purchase orders for the 2023 fiscal year. Ayes – 9, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

Financial Institution: Motion by Moon, supported by Rumsey, to designate ChoiceOne Bank as the financial institution for the 2023 fiscal year. Jack Hendon abstained due to conflict of interest. Ayes – 8, Nays – 0, Abstention – 1. Motion carried.

Publications of Record: Motion by Tuuk, supported by Dunning, to approve the Times Indicator and Near North Now as publications of record for the 2023 fiscal year. Ayes – 9, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

2022 Fiscal Budget:

Jack Hendon presented the proposed 2023 budget which included \$1,152,500 in revenues and expenditures were designated at \$516,650. This is including a projected increase in SET funds and projected increase in tuition. There has been a small cushion added to most line items. A fund balance of \$1,704,748 was projected for 2023. Overall, we are in good financial standing.

Dick Dunning asked about our growing balance and plans moving forward. Could we potentially add more students by lowering the GPA requirement? This is a topic the Board can discuss.

Blake Prewitt shared that we must be aware of our funding streams and know they are not guaranteed, sources such as our SET, in-kind donations, and funds available and grants from the Fremont Area Community Foundation. Lowering the GPA requirement to 2.5 will require more than just tuition, these students will need support, perhaps more support, and that will require other expenses, possibly another Success Coach and more.

Scott Swinehart agreed with Blake and suggested we wait another year before making any changes. Lowering the GPA requirement will not just be increased tuition costs.

There was agreement that it would be great to accept more students, but we also want students to be successful and that we need to be able to support them.

Dick Dunning asked about aligning with the Fremont Area Community Foundation's goal of helping to bring students up and get families out of poverty and increasing post-secondary credentials. In response, Blake Prewitt shared that our Early College program is a great way to help support lower GPA students, the program is already in place and offers wonderful support services to those students.

Blake Prewitt also mentioned that students need help to be more ready for post-secondary opportunities and that starts at the local high schools.

Becky Tuuk mentioned that some of our 2.5 GPA students could be connected to the trades or apprenticeships. Blake Prewitt offered that for trades or apprenticeships it is usually not a financial issue (as the trade or apprenticeship programs pay for everything) but helping make the proper connections. We are working on that process with Melissa Miller and the Career Tech Center.

Jack Hendon asked about where the 2.5-2.9 GPA students are going, what are they doing after high school? He suggested that the Board needs to look at this group and how the Promise Zone can help support them.

Blake Prewitt again shared that supporting more students, regardless of the GPA requirement, requires more resources and not just tuition.

For the sake of time, Scott Swinehart suggested that the Operations Committee look at our GPA requirements, gather data needed and ways in which we can best support more students along with suggested thresholds and dollar amounts to be presented and further discussed at our next quarterly meeting.

Motion by Moon, supported by Brown, to approve the 2023 fiscal year budget. Ayes – 9, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

Membership to the Michigan Promise Zones Association: Motion by Swinehart, supported by Hendon, to approve the membership dues to the Michigan Promise Zone Association for the 2023 fiscal year in the increased amount of \$4,000. Ayes – 9, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

Non-Profit Liability Insurance Renewal: Motion by Moon, supported by Swinehart, to approve (retroactively) the renewal of Non-Profit Management Liability Insurance from The Huttenlocher Group at an expense of \$743.00 effective until November of 2023. Ayes – 9, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

Application/Renewal Timeline: Motion by Rumsey, supported by Tuuk, to approve the application/renewal timelines for the 2023-2024 school year. Ayes – 9, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.



Blake Prewitt, Chairperson