



Newaygo County Area Promise Zone Authority Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, August 8, 2023

NC RESA Educational Services Center Board Room

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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

Absent: Scott Rumsey

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

Chairperson Blake Prewitt called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

Approval of the Agenda:

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

Motion unanimously carried.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Moon, supported by Dunning, to approve the May 9, 2023, Meeting Minutes with the correction of changing fair to unqualified regarding the opinion we have received on our 2022 audit. Ayes – 10, Nays – 0.

Motion unanimously carried.

Public Participation:

On behalf of Brandon Ayers with the Let's Glow Newaygo County event held on June 17 at Luce Mill Farm, Scott Swinehart presented a check to the Promise Zone for \$2,266.63 and shared appreciation to Brandon and all the event sponsors and coordinators for hosting a great event and selecting the Promise Zone as a beneficiary.

Jack Hendon presented the following report on behalf of the Operations Subcommittee:

- The financial statement ending June 30, was shared and reviewed. Towards the end of the year, we will be looking at investing in CDs. The second quarter is comparable to last year, although we have not paid the winter semester tuition yet. Our SET this fall will be close to \$1 million.
- Kathy shared that as of June 30, our Fremont Area Community Foundation endowment fund net assets were around \$344,000 and our endowment operation fund net assets were around \$433,000.
- The 2022 audit report was reviewed at our last meeting; however, we will need to formally approve it later in this meeting along with our 2023 audit firm.
- A proposed budget amendment was discussed for staff professional development. PromiseNet is a conference being held in Detroit for all Promise Zones in the nation. This conference will be a wonderful professional development opportunity for our staff and hopefully a couple of board members.
- Lowering the GPA requirement to 2.5, beginning with the Class of 2024, was discussed. Our new actuarial shows we would be financially able to support this change, the Operations Subcommittee recommends this.
- Katie Mater was introduced as the new Success Coach.
- Promise Scholars for Fall 2023 numbers were shared:
 - 164 submitted a 2023 application.
 - 104 were eligible for the associate degree scholarship.
 - 48 were eligible for the apprenticeship scholarship.

- 41 have accepted their award for the associate degree scholarship (including 2 deferred until 2024/2025).
- 55 scholars have submitted renewal applications.
- Appeal Requests
 - 10 appeals received for Fall 2023 semester.

Holly Moon presented the following report on behalf of the Fundraising Subcommittee:

- This has been an exciting quarter. Thank you to Dick for working with the County of Newaygo to secure a \$250,000 gift to our endowment fund at the Fremont Area Community Foundation.
- Year to date we have raised \$285,160, including \$3,700 for Sponsor-A-Scholar and \$500 from the Retired Teachers Association.
- We are still hopeful for a gift from Nestle/Gerber, conversations continue.
- Last week, there was a meeting with the Adama family, and we were able to introduce them to Katie.
- Thank you to the Let's Glow Newaygo County event for selecting us as a beneficiary.
- Potential designs were shared for pull up banner signs to be used for donor recognition/thank you and promotion. Board members were asked to review and vote on the designs. Kathy suggested also looking into a smaller tabletop size version.
- Scott asked if/when do we scale back on our fundraising efforts if our SET continues to cover costs. Blake shared that in a couple of years we will see the impact of lowering the GPA requirement and success coaching costs, we will want to wait to see those impacts. Don expressed that if we had the funds he would like to see us support more students and keep fundraising. Holly said that with more funds we can expand support for more technical/trade students. Jack mentioned that with our SET projections there should be great opportunities to grow the Promise Zone program in the near future.

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

- Katie Mater was introduced as the new Success Coach, and she shared a little about herself and her excitement to join our team and to serve our Promise Scholars.
- Katie's focus will be supporting our new/incoming Scholars and Chelsea will be focusing on supporting our returning Scholars.
- Chelsea has already been connecting with our returning Scholars and by the start of the school year will have met with 40% of the returning students. She has also recently attended cognitive coaching training and FAFSA training this summer.
- On August 14, we will hold our mandatory orientation for new/incoming Scholars.

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

- Our social media activity continues on Facebook and Instagram. Students have shared their interest in engaging with us on Instagram.
- Loretta and Chelsea were present at the National Baby Food Festival's Kid's Expo on July 19.
- Holly and Katie will be at TrueNorth's Tools for School distribution event on August 15.
- College and Career Night Out will take place at Fremont High School on September 26.
- We will be adding the Promise Zone logo to the NCRESA sign on 48th Street, will be installed soon.
- Dick shared that he might have a possible lead on a new billboard option, however we would have to go through the legal process of getting the site approved.

Action Items:

MCC Winter Tuition: Motion by Hendon, supported by Brown, to approve payment for the amended MCC Winter semester tuition in the amount of \$214,719.59. Ayes – 10, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

MCC Summer Tuition: Motion by Rossler, supported by Moon, to approve payment of \$27,331.05 for the MCC Summer semester tuition. Ayes – 10, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

2022 Audit: Motion by Tuuk, supported by Rossler, to approve the 2022 Newaygo County Area Promise Zone audit. Ayes – 10, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

2023 Audit Firm: Motion by VanSingel, supported by Hendon, to approve Gabridge & Co. as the audit firm for the 2023 Newaygo County Area Promise Zone audit. Ayes – 10, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

Budget Modification: Motion by Moon, supported by Brown, to approve the modified budget for staff professional development to \$5,400 (including \$1,500 for travel and \$3,900 for conference fees). Ayes – 10, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

GPA Eligibility Requirement: Motion by VanSingel, supported by Brown, to approve changing the scholarship GPA eligibility requirement to 2.5, beginning with the Class of 2024. Ayes – 10, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

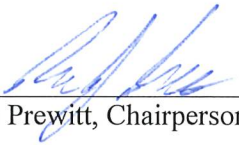
Information from Promise Zone Board Members:

There were no comments.

Adjournment:

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

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.



Blake Prewitt, Chairperson