



Newaygo County Area Promise Zone Authority Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, May 7, 2024
NC RESA Educational Services Center Board Room

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Present: Blake Prewitt (chairperson), Scott Rumsey, Holly Moon, Don VanSingel, Pat Brown, Dick Dunning, Scott Swinehart, Kathy Pope, Becky Tuuk (arrived at 11:39am)

Absent: Jarred Hibma, Tim Rossler

Visitors: Melissa Miller, Chelsea Reynhout, Loretta Towne (recorder), Luci Moore, Michele Schlafer, Jim Hollingsworth, Tina Whitney

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

There was a moment of silence observed in memory of Dawn Anderson and Jessie Petry.

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion by Moon, supported by Brown, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes – 7, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Swinehart, supported by Moon, to approve the February 6, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. Ayes – 7, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

Public Participation:

Blake welcomed our guests from Gerber Life Insurance. In attendance was Luci Moore (Vice President of Operations), Michele Schlafer (Vice President of Independent Distribution), Jim Hollingsworth (Vice President of Information Technology), and Tina Whitney (Vice President of Human Resources). Luci shared a few words on how Gerber Life Insurance appreciates their partnership with the Promise Zone, the talent we help bring to the community, and the support we provide students in Newaygo County. Luci then presented the Promise Zone with a check for \$25,000. Gerber Life Insurance is happy to continue their support of the Promise Zone.

Becky Tuuk joined the meeting at 11:39 a.m.

Scott Rumsey presented the following report on behalf of the Operations Subcommittee:

- The financial statement through March 31, 2024, was reviewed. Our first three months have shown good earnings. Certificates of Deposits have been made and are showing good interest earnings with maturity in 6 months and 12 months. Our fund balance as of March 31, 2024, was \$1,920,134, this balance does not include our FAFS funds.
- Kathy shared that as of March 31, 2024, our FAFS endowed fund has \$391,625 with available spending of \$13,600. Our FAFS non-endowed fund has \$435,300 with 100% available spending.
- The 2023 audit report was reviewed, and we have presently fairly.
- The proposed payment for four Early College completers was reviewed. This is a great investment in students. Three of this year's four students are CTC students. Next year, we will see an increase in completers and first year students.
- The proposed reimbursements to Melissa for memorial flowers were reviewed.
- Loretta and Chelsea will be transitioning away from their positions at NCRESA. We thank both for their service and support. This will offer a change in staffing structure. We will hire a full-time Coach for the Promise Zone and Early College and a part-time administrative assistant.

- Blake shared that he and Melissa have been in conversations with Ferris State University. They are looking at a mid-dollar scholarship with \$5,000 towards the cost of attendance. This will be program specific in the areas where we already have strong relationships. This would not begin until the Fall 2025 semester at the earliest. More to come at the August Board Meeting.
- Melissa shared that we are still waiting for the two Senate Bills to be passed. One bill will help with Promise Zone dollar structure, the other will clarify how SET funds can be used for college access and success strategies.
- There were four student appeals received for the summer, currently being reviewed by the Subcommittee.
- The 2024 application remains open online with a \$50 late fee through June 3, 2024. So far this year we have received 190 applications, last year at this time we received 158 applications. Our renewal application will open online on June 3.

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

- Our 2023 fundraising total so far this year is \$6,175 and includes \$210 from the 2023 Year End Appeal, \$1,485 to FACF (most in memory of Tim MacDonald), \$4,480 from other various donors. We recently received a gift of \$480 from proceeds from the 2024 Grad Fair. Holly will call to personally thank them and gather more information about the event.
- Holly has been working on corporate asks, as we saw come to fruition with the check presentation from Gerber Life Insurance. Holly and Kathy have also submitted an ask to Gerber Federal Credit Union. It has gone through their Community Dividend Committee and will be voted upon by the Board at their next meeting. Our donor from Newaygo will also be approached about recommitting his support.
- We currently have two pull-up banner signs for donor recognition. One was just given to Gerber Life Insurance and Holly will take the other to the County offices. More to be printed/designed once we have higher resolution photos of our Promise Scholars to use.
- Holly will reconvene the Fundraising and Marketing Subcommittee soon and would like to start focusing on how to get into estate plans.

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

- Cards have been sent to all our Fall 2023 academic honors Promise Scholars from their Success Coaches.
- During the winter semester, our Success Coaches had a presence at MCC every other week to connect with students.
- During finals week, our Success Coaches provided support and encouragement to our students at MCC the week before finals and at NCRESA the week of finals.
- Success Coaches have presented to potential Promise Scholars at White Cloud, Grant, and Fremont. This has been a time for the high school College Adviser or Career Specialists to introduce and “hand-off” students to the Coaches.

Action Items:

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

MCC Winter Tuition: Motion by Brown, supported by Moon, to approve the winter tuition from MCC totaling \$152,257.40. Ayes – 8, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

Reimbursement to Melissa Miller: Motion by Rumsey, supported by Swinehart, to reimburse Melissa Miller for memorial flowers for Jessie Petry in the amount of \$61.48. Ayes – 8, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

Reimbursement to Melissa Miller: Motion by Brown, supported by Tuuk, to reimburse Melissa Miller for memorial flowers for Dawn Anderson in the amount of \$91.11. Ayes – 8, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

2023 Audit Payment: Motion by VanSingel, supported Rumsey, to approve payment in the amount of \$8,200 to Gabridge & Co. for the 2023 audit. Ayes – 8, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

2023 Audit: Motion by Moon, supported by Tuuk, to approve the 2023 Newaygo County Area Promise Zone audit. Ayes – 8, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

2024 Audit Firm: Motion by Swinehart, supported by Dunning, to approve Gabridge & Co. as the audit firm for the 2024 Newaygo County Area Promise Zone audit. Ayes – 8, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

Staffing Needs: Motion by Brown, supported by VanSingel, to approve up to \$30,000 for staffing needs. Ayes – 8, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

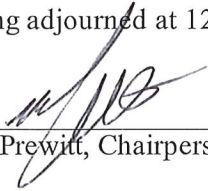
Information from Promise Zone Board Members:

Holly shared that she presented on the Promise Zone at White Cloud High School and Katie Mater joined her.

Adjournment:

Motion by Swinehart, supported by Brown, to adjourn. Ayes – 8, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

Meeting adjourned at 12:47 p.m.



Blake Prewitt, Chairperson