



Newaygo County Area Promise Zone Authority Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, November 19, 2024
NC RESA Educational Services Center Board Room

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Present: Blake Prewitt (chairperson), Becky Tuuk, Scott Rumsey, Holly Moon, Jarred Hibma, Pat Brown, Dick Dunning, Kathy Pope (ex-officio), Scott Swinehart

Absent: Tim Rossler, Don VanSingel

Visitors: Melissa Miller, Katie Mater, Suzanne Bierlein (recorder), Ty Spickerman, Teresa Fetterley, Corinne Toth, Jeanine Ward-Roof, Jody Zerlaut

Chairperson Blake Prewitt called the meeting to order at 11:43 a.m.

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion by Hibma, supported by Tuuk, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes – 8, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Moon, supported by Dunning, to approve the August 6, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. Ayes – 8, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

Public Participation:

Blake Prewitt welcomed our guests, Jeanine Ward-Roof, Vice President for Student Affairs at Ferris State University, and Teresa Fetterley, the newly elected board member for 2025.

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

- The financial statement as of October 31, 2024 was reviewed. Hibma reported revenues of approximately 1.5 million, after expenses and not including the fall 2024 tuition, the financial statement shows a fund balance of 3.3 million. Further discussion took place related to the upcoming action items of purchasing one 6-month and one 12-month CD, and if ChoiceOne Bank is offering the best interest earning rates. It was agreed the Operations Committee have been empowered to make the decisions, based on their findings in terms of competitive interest rates. Overall, the accounts are making good interest, and the budget is in good shape.
- The documents outlining the recommendations of the Scholarship Parameters and the MOU with Ferris State University were reviewed, followed by the revised Development Plan. Melissa Miller shared that Michigan Department of Treasury will have 60 days to approve.

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

- Our Mandatory Orientation session, held in August, was well attended; with 68 out of 71 incoming Promise Scholars along with 35 or more parents in attendance.
- Coffee connections with Success Coaches have also occurred over the fall semester.
- The College and Career Night Out (CCNO) event, held at Fremont High School on October 3rd, was a success. Holly Moon and the Promise Zone coaches were at this event.

- The Success Coaches have offered incentives and goodies to create or continue ongoing connections with students.
- An Instagram account was launched for increasing communication related to upcoming events and deadlines.

Holly Moon presented the following report on behalf of the Fundraising/Marketing & Communications Subcommittee:

- Fundraising year-to-date is \$58,505, this includes the generous donation of \$25,000 from Nestle/Gerber in October.
- Holly passed around a copy of the annual year-end appeal that is expected to be hitting mailboxes by December 3rd. The letter contains the testimony from a former Promise Scholar graduate.
- Giving Tuesday is December 4th, and a promotional flyer will also be shared on Facebook to coincide with our annual appeal.
- It was agreed the promotion of the Promise Scholarships could be accomplished via billboards, banners, and news articles. Further discussion and information gathering will take place over the next few months.

Action Items:

MCC Fall 2024 Invoice Payment: Motion by Swinehart, supported by Tuuk, to approve the fall tuition invoice from MCC totaling \$167,808.08. Ayes – 8, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

6-Month CD Investment: Motion by Brown, supported by Rumsey, to approve the purchase of a 6-month CD, with an annual 12-month renewal. Ayes – 8, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

12-Month CD Investment: Motion by Tuuk, supported by Moon, to approve the purchase of a 12-month CD, with an annual 12-month renewal. Ayes – 8, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

Year-End Appeal Mailing: Motion by Moon, supported by Rumsey, to approve payment of up to \$2,000.00 to KCI for the year-end appeal mailing expenses. Ayes – 8, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

Recommendations of the Promise Zone Scholarship Parameters with Ferris State University: Motion by Tuuk, supported by Hibma, to approve this document. Ayes – 8, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

MOU with Ferris State University: Motion by Rumsey, supported by Swinehart, to approve this document. Ayes – 8, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

Revision of the Promise Zone Development Plan: Motion by Hibma, supported by Rumsey, to approve this document. Ayes – 8, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

Information from Promise Zone Board Members:

Blake Prewitt shared that board members and other community officials will be invited to attend the MOU signing ceremony planned for Friday, November 22, 2024, at Ferris State University. He will be sending directions and parking information via email. Jeanine Ward-Roof shared that she will serve as the point of contact for anyone needing assistance on Friday.

Adjournment:

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:21 p.m.



 Blake Prewitt, Chairperson