



## **Newaygo County Area Promise Zone Authority Board Meeting**

Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 11:30 a.m.

NC RESA Educational Services Center Board Room

### **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Present: Blake Prewitt (chairperson), Scott Rumsey, Holly Moon, Pat Brown, Dick Dunning, Jarred Hibma, Becky Tuuk

Absent: Tim Rossler, Don VanSingel, Scott Swinehart, Kathy Pope (ex-officio)

Visitors: Melissa Miller, Katie Mater, Ty Spickerman, Brandi Parsons (recorder)

Chairperson Blake Prewitt called the meeting to order at 11:32 a.m.

#### **Approval of the Agenda:**

Motion by Brown, supported by Dunning, to approve the agenda Ayes - 7, Nays - 0. Motion unanimously carried.

#### **Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

Motion by Moon, supported by Tuuk, to approve the April 30, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes as presented and February 11, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. Ayes – 7, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

#### **Public Participation:**

Dr. Prewitt welcomed everyone. Melissa Miller introduced Brandi Parsons, the newly hired Student Success Administrative Assistant.

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

- The Revised Development Plan has been approved by the Department of Treasury as of Tuesday, May 13, 2025.
- The financial statement through March 31, 2025, was shared and reviewed.
- Mr. Hibma shared the Certificates of Deposit begin renewing this month and are on a staggered 12-month renewal.
- The 2024 Audit is complete. The audit was clean and there were no recommendations or action needed.
- Early College Newaygo County is seeking up to \$18,900 for 9 Early College completers.
- To date, we have received 9 appeals requests.
- First year applications are due June 3, with a \$50 late fee
- Renewal applications are due June 3 – 30, without a late fee
- We have received 203 Promise Scholarship Applications to date (106 for Ferris, 93 for MCC, and 4 apprenticeships).
- Per the MOU, MCC informed us the tuition rate will increase to \$212 per contact hour, effective Fall 2025.
- NC RESA invoice to Promise for Quarter 1 was shared.
- Dr. Rossler formally informed us of his resignation. We greatly appreciate his leadership over the years.
- Removing the SAT Requirement for Homeschool Students will be an action of the Board. For Promise Zones who support homeschool students, Dr. Prewitt shared we





were the only Promise Zone to require the SAT. Since COVID, many institutions no longer require the SAT for admission. Many colleges use placement tests like the Accuplacer.

- Revising our homeschool procedure was discussed. Some other Promise Zones allow homeschool students to receive a Promise Scholarship upon registering one-time, indicating consecutive years of residency in their county. We have learned this is a very large group in our county and we are very fortunate to connect with them.

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

- We held three student success events that provided mid-term and final exam support to students. Each event provided a variety of snacks, drinks, and Crumbl Cookies.
- Mandatory orientation plans are underway. The orientation for Ferris-bound students will be held in July and the orientation for MCC-bound students will be held in August.
- Presentations sharing about the Promise Scholarship were held for high school juniors and seniors throughout the county.
- We have been supporting Promise Scholars with the Promise Zone renewal process and sharing dates, events, and availability of success coaches via text, email, and social media.

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

- Our 2025 total giving is \$38,261.00. This includes a generous \$25,000 gift from Gerber Life. Our total giving was \$96,087.00 in 2024.
- Mrs. Moon presented at Farm Bureau, where there were discussions of Ferris and the development of an agriculture program.
- Mrs. Moon has upcoming presentations planned for the Fremont Area Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club of Fremont, and the Newaygo GOP.
- Billboards have received 1.2 million impressions plus 128,000 bonus impressions, bringing the total to 1.3 million impressions.

**Action Items:**

Early College Completers: Motion by Tuuk, supported by Brown to approve payment in the amount up to \$18,900 for 9 Early College completers. Ayes – 7, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

MCC Winter Tuition: Motion by Moon, supported by Brown to approve the winter tuition from MCC totaling \$168,656.80. Ayes – 7, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

2024 Audit: Motion by Dunning, supported by Tuuk to approve the 2024 Newaygo County Area Promise Zone audit. Ayes – 7, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

NC RESA Invoice (Qtr. 1 2025): Motion by Moon, supported by Dunning to approve payment in the amount of \$65,952.72. Ayes – 7, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

Removal of SAT requirement: Motion by Brown, supported by Tuuk to remove the SAT requirement for homeschool students. Ayes – 7, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.



Revision of homeschool procedure: Motion by Brown, supported by Dunning to revise our procedure to match the other zones and allow homeschool parents to register and self-report consecutive attendance. Ayes – 7, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

**Information from Promise Zone Board Members:**

- Mrs. Moon is interested in looking at the possibility of scholarships for parochial school students.
- Mr. Dunning expressed his interest in the agriculture program at Ferris to pursue programming around drones for crops and an emphasis on business and economics.

**Adjournment:**

Motion by Tuuk, supported by Dunning to adjourn. Ayes – 7, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:28 p.m.

  
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Blake Prewitt, Chairperson