



Newaygo County Area Promise Zone Authority Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at 11:30 a.m.
NC RESA Educational Services Center Board Room

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Present: Dr. Blake Prewitt (chairperson), Scott Rumsey, Holly Moon, Pat Brown, Dick Dunning, Jarred Hibma, Scott Swinehart, Dr. Tim Rossler, Stu Sanders, Don VanSingel, Becky Tuuk

Absent: N/A

Staff: Melissa Miller (Director of Career, Technical, and Postsecondary Education), Katherine Mater (Student Success Coordinator), Ty Spickerman (Promise Zone Success Coach), Brandi Parsons (Student Success Administrative Assistant)

Chairperson Dr. Blake Prewitt called the meeting to order at 11:33 a.m.

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion by Scott Swinehart, supported by Don VanSingel, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes – 11, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

Visitors:

None

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

The February 10, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes were approved as amended, replacing “come from” with “go to” in the sentence: “Mrs. Moon inquired as to whether we should be encouraging gifts to go to the foundation.” Ayes – 11, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

Public Participation:

Dr. Prewitt welcomed everyone.

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

- The preliminary financial statement through April 30, 2026, was shared and reviewed.
- Dr. Prewitt shared the accrual of \$37,000 of back interest owed to the operational fund by the Fremont Area Community Foundation due to an accounting error dating back to 2022. Discussions continue regarding moving the operational fund balance, investing in certificates of deposit, and exploring additional financial institutions.
- A request was made to increase the 2026 budget professional fees to \$40,000 to cover the strategic planning consultant fees.
- A request was made to increase the 2026 budget in the amount of \$93,295.12 for in-kind donations since we have a more accurate estimate to work off from.
- The 2025 Audit is complete. We received a good opinion and no adjustments were needed.
- Early College Newaygo County is seeking up to \$18,900 for 9 Early College completers.
- NC RESA invoice to Promise for Quarter 1 was shared.
- The MCC winter invoice was discussed. MCC is currently reviewing a list of students we believe belong on the Winter 2026 invoice, resulting in an up to amount rather than an exact amount.

- The application timelines were shared with the Board. First year applications are due June 2, with a \$50 late fee. Renewal applications are due June 1 – 30, without a late fee.
- To date, we have received 200 Promise Zone applications, with 83 selecting Ferris and 117 selecting MCC. We received 187 applications in 2025.
- Conflict of Interest & Policy updates were shared. This will be forwarded to our legal team for review.
- Our strategic plan is underway. We are focused on revising our mission and vision statements to better reflect our commitment to all students, sustainable career pathways, and strengthening the community. Our next session will be scheduled soon.

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

- Student success events were held at Ferris, MCC, and NC RESA. Each event provided a variety of snacks and engagement with students.
- Promise Zone orientation dates will be July 14th for MCC students and July 15th for Ferris students at the Dogwood Center.
- Promise Zone presentations were held for seniors at all high schools throughout the county and at the Career Tech Center open house.

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

- Our total giving for 2026 is \$35,000.00, including a generous \$25,000 gift from Gerber Life.
- We have three billboards that are performing exceptionally well and generating more impressions than originally contracted. We plan to continue the billboard campaign.
- Dr. Kate O'Connor is spearheading the agriculture program at FSU, and she would like our feedback on the curriculum. Mrs. Moon has invited Dr. O'Connor to our August meeting. This will be a good opportunity to give her a tour of the fair and connect her to the NC RESA agriculture program and Fremont's agriculture program.

Action Items:

Early College Completers: Motion by Brown, supported by Sanders to approve payment in the amount up to \$18,900 for 9 Early College completers. Ayes – 11, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

MCC Winter Tuition: Motion by Rumsey, supported by Tuuk to approve the winter tuition in an amount up to \$188,859.00. Ayes – 11, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

NC RESA Invoice (Qtr. 1 2026): Motion by VanSingel, supported by Dunning to approve payment in the amount of \$83,271.92. Ayes – 11, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

2026 Budget Increase for Professional Fees: Motion by Tuuk, supported by Moon to approve a budget increase in the amount of \$40,000.00. Ayes – 11, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

2026 Budget Increase for In-kind Donations: Motion by Tuuk, supported by Rossler to approve budget increase in the amount of \$93,295.12. Ayes – 11 Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.



Retroactive Payment for MPZA Dues: Motion by Swinehart, supported by Sanders to approve retroactive payment in the amount of \$3,302.00. Ayes – 11, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

Retroactive Payment to Gabridge & Company, PLC for 2025 Audit Payment: Motion by VanSingel, supported by Moon to approve retroactive payment in the amount of \$8,900.00. Ayes – 11, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

2025 Audit: Motion by Moon, supported by Tuuk to approve the 2025 Newaygo County Area Promise Zone audit. Ayes – 11, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

2026 Audit Firm: Motion by Rossler, supported by Dunning to approve Gabridge & Company, PLC as the audit firm for the 2026 Newaygo County Area Promise Zone audit. Ayes – 11, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

Information from Promise Zone Board Members:

Mr. Dunning inquired about the typical tuition amounts provided by Promise Zones for four-year institutions. Dr. Prewitt shared the number of Promise Zones partnering with four-year institutions is still too limited to establish a range yet. Melissa shared at this time; there is not a common average established across the Promise Zone Association.

Adjournment:

Motion by Swinehart, supported by Rossler to adjourn. Ayes – 11, Nays – 0. Motion unanimously carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:43 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Prewitt".

Dr. Blake Prewitt, Chairperson