



**Mason County Promise Zone Authority Board
Meeting Minutes**

August 9, 2018
1:00 PM

Location:

Lakeshore Resource Network
920 E. Tinkham Ave.
Ludington, MI 49431

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM by the Mason County Promise Zone Authority Board Chair, Jason Kennedy.

- A. **Roll Call:** Monica Schuyler, Ed Makowicki, and Andrea Large were absent from the meeting; All other members were present.
- B. **Approval of the Agenda:** The agenda was approved with one agenda modification. Roger Nash requested to add a discussion on eligibility criteria to the agenda.

Motion - Knizacky, Support - Krieger; Motion carried 8-0; 3 absent.

- C. **Approval of July 9, 2018 Meeting Minutes:** The meeting minutes were approved as presented to the Board.

Motion - McLean, Support - Thurston; Motion carried 8-0; 3 absent.

D. Reading of Correspondence:

- a. Commissioner Wally Taranko presented a \$1,000 donation on behalf of individual members of the Mason County Board of Commissioners. These were individual donations made by individual board members in support of the Promise.
- b. Chair Kennedy read a correspondence regarding insurance coverage indicating that the proposal from MMRMA for liability insurance was completed. The Board will be provided with the proposal once it has been received.

E. Limited Public Comment:

- a. Nick Palmer from the Mason County Local College Access Network was present at the meeting and he offered his services to continue supporting the promotion of the Promise in local school districts.
- b. Annette Quillan shared a comment regarding schools of choice and eligibility that she received from a community member. This comment was also copied to Chair Kennedy, and a response was provided to this community member.

F. **Committee Work** (Monica Schuyler entered the meeting at this point):

- a. **Adoption of Bylaws:** A draft copy of the bylaws was distributed for review by Chair Kennedy. Fabian Knizacky and Nick Krieger explained the contents of the draft document. Jim McLean shared that he felt that we needed to add a statement to our purpose that included “fee free.” The Board amended the draft copy of the bylaws to include a statement that said, “free of tuition and fees.” There were no additional questions on the bylaws. The bylaws were adopted and approved by the Board.

Motion: McLean, Support: Nash; Motion carried: 9-0; 2 absent

- b. **Application Process and Follow-up:** Chair Kennedy reviewed the status of applications for the scholarship. As of today’s meeting, sixty-five (65) students have applied. Sixty-three (63) of those applications have been approved as having met the requirements of the Promise, with two (2) of those applications currently being reviewed prior to being approved. We expect to see this number grow slightly with a final push to get students to apply. The following statistics were also shared with the Board:
 - i. 18.5% of applicants thus far are first generation college students
 - ii. 64% of applicants thus far stated that the Promise affected their decision to attend college.
- c. **Communications and Fundraising Update:** The Board discussed the importance of improving communication with all schools and the college. The Board also reviewed the Mason County Promise Fund through the Community Foundation for Mason County. The Board has been pledged or raised a total of \$793,000 as of today’s date. Other donations are expected yet. A copy of the most current Founders Fund list was provided.
- d. **Payment of Bills:** The Board held discussion on bill payment and how bills should be processed. The Community Foundation has received a check from an anonymous donor to be used to offset operational costs of the Board in marketing and managing the Promise campaign. Fabian shared that the Mason County Board of Commissioners has agreed to hold an account in the name of the Mason County Promise so that bills can be paid.

- e. **Friday Night Live Debrief / Fair Booth (Next year)**: The Board discussed the Friday Night Live event and how well it went. Annette suggested that the Board continue to participate in these events next summer. Are there similar events in Scottville or Custer that the Board could participate in?

Dena Thurston shared her interest in making sure that we had a booth at the Western Michigan Fair next summer. This could be one additional way to reach families in and around Mason County.

- f. **Eligibility Criteria**: Roger Nash shared that Paul Bigford from Sweetwater Township, Lake County shared concerns with him that his children are not eligible for either the Baldwin Promise or the Mason County Promise because his children attend MCC.

- g. **Upcoming Events**: Chair Kennedy reminded the Board of the following events:

- i. Meeting at WSCC on August 10, 2018 with WSCC staff
- ii. Board of Realtors presentation - August 15, 2018
- iii. President's Reception at WSCC - September 12, 2018 at 6:00 PM
- iv. College and Transfer Night at WSCC - October 11, 2018

- G. **Set Next Meeting Date**: The Board scheduled the next meeting for September 14, 2018 at 2:00 PM at the Lakeshore Resource Network, 920 E. Tinkham Ave. Ludington, MI 49431.

H. **Any Other Business**:

- a. **Pennies from Heaven Intern / Americorp**: Monica Schuyler reported that the Pennies from Heaven Foundation is arranging for a Americorps worker to assist with the marketing and management of the Promise Zone. This will be a great help and assistance to the Board.

- I. **Limited Public Comment**: None

- J. **Adjournment**: The meeting was moved for adjournment at 2:40 PM by Roger Nash, and supported by Fabian Knizacky. Motion carried: 9-0; 2 absent. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nick Krieger, Secretary
Mason County Promise Zone Authority Board