



**Mason County Promise Zone
Student Success Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 22, 2024: 10AM
Location: Lakeshore Resource Network**

Members Present: Annette Quillan, Kathy Surd, & Joan Vidak

Members Absent: Monica Jewell, Michael Masters, Amy Pepper, Chad Riffle

Staff Present: Jody Maloney

- 1) **Call to order: Vidak called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.**
- 2) **Public Comment: None**
- 3) **Approval of Agenda: Motion by Surd to approve, with support from Quillan; Motion carried 3-0-4.**
- 4) **Approval of Minutes from 6-24-24: Motion by Quillan to approve, with support from Surd; Motion carried 3-0-4.**
- 5) **Business:**
 - a) **Scholar Updates:**
 - i) **Orientation: 51 Attended Ramp It Up**
 - (1) So far 63 first year and 17 returning year scholars are on track to qualify for the Educational Supplies Award—Maloney shared that additional ways students are qualifying include participation in College Edge, meeting with Advisors for course recommendations, and ASM Tech core time.
 - ii) **Class of 2024 Updates**
 - (1) **Approvals/Applications**
 - (a) LHS: 134 approved, 2 denied (residency)—This information was not available at the last meeting, so Maloney mentioned it, along with reiterating that the applicant cohort for 2024 has been the largest of any graduation year.
 - (i) **Discussion: Surd asked how parents are learning about Promise related information, and Vidak shared that she has a Google classroom and junior parent meeting available, but there is no perfect system. Staff at high schools can work with students and families. Maloney highlighted that upon application to the Promise, students are protected by FERPA, and currently the application does not provide a section for authorizing information sharing to any other entity, so the Promise can only provide general information to students. Quillan highlighted that for her, sometimes web-based information can be unclear to navigate [so other options are helpful].**
 - (ii) Surd asked how the new staff will be included. Maloney shared that the “To College” workgroup that current plans “Show Up” would include the new staff, and that Gold Coast may be another option if the staff are not needed in the school in the absence of the counselor.
 - (a) LHS: 134 approved, 2 denied (residency)—This information was not available at the last meeting, so Maloney mentioned it, along with reiterating that the applicant cohort for 2024 has been the largest of any graduation year.
 - iii) **Graduates from WSCC: 22% First Gen: Maloney will share this information at the full Board meeting based on a request from Knizacky, but provided it to the SSC along with a request that if there are other additional data that the committee would find meaningful, she would like to provide related reports.**
- b) **Promise Growth/Legislative Change Initiative Planning**
 - i) **MCAN is currently advocating to MiLEAP for Promise scholarship packaging order using Promise last**
 - (1) **CC Guarantee Webinar indicated possible options—Right now the Zone would need to amend the plan to change anything so that Promise Zone funds are not used prior to state funding.**
 - (a) **Discussion: Members discussed what could work best. Vidak shared that much is still unknown about the Guarantee and new FAFSA release for 2024. At the moment, it does not**



make sense to encourage 2024 graduates to apply for the Promise unless something changes, and with upcoming administrations it is possible that the Guarantee could be eliminated. Surd expressed that it makes sense to keep the Promise as it is currently until more is known. Maloney shared that Zones cannot make changes beyond tuition, fees and books until the amended law is signed by the Governor.

- (b) Surd also asked how the Zone can work with schools to provide parents with more consistent college-going information, checklists, and outreach, and align efforts across schools. Maloney suggested that paper packets through mail could be an option for the Zone to do.
 - (2) Michigan Promise Zone Association Drafted Language for Zones (REF #3)
 - ii) Promise Zone Act amendments, while approved, are not yet signed by Governor Whitmer
 - iii) College Coaching:
 - (1) Earn to Learn
 - c) WSCC Partnership
 - i) Pinnacle Trucking: Recommending to refer prospective students to Michigan Works (partial funding may be available): Maloney shared that she requested more information on funding options from President Ward. Currently the program is not eligible for federal student aid and if Promise-eligible, would require a development plan amended to fund.
 - ii) New PZ Liaison: President Ward has recommended Rachel Henderson as our liaison, and will confirm.
 - iii) State of Michigan MiLEAP Grants: Maloney shared that multiple grants ranging from \$33,000 to \$1 Million are available, requiring a local Community College as a partner, and primarily student success focused. WSCC has shared that they do not intend to apply, and that while willing to explore submitting the grant if someone else wrote it and serving as fiduciary, they do not have the capacity to write or administer the grant beyond that.
 - d) **Next Meeting:** September 23, 2024@10AM: Location: LRN
 - i) **Discussion:** Surd wondered if there would be a welcome from the Board to the new staff. Maloney said there could be a “meet and greet,” but she would like to be conscientious about including the staff on regular meetings, since they don’t report directly to the Board. Surd wondered how the Zone could work with schools to welcome the new staff [for post-secondary advising], through welcome packets or meeting with the Board. Vidak shared that she has a welcome packet started for MCC’s new Advisor. Maloney shared that she intends to clarify with the Board if educational activities funds can be used to purchase Promise-themed gear for the staff. Quillan shared that a press release would be nice to have; Maloney responded that a press release is planned, but she is waiting until both hires have completed paperwork and background checks.
- 6) **Adjourn: Vidak moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 AM.**