



Mason County Promise Zone
Student Success Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 25, 2021: 1:00 PM
Location: Ludington & Scottville Chamber of Commerce Conference Room

Members Present:

Kathy Surd (left at 2:39), Monica Schuyler, Andrea Large, Annette Quillan, Amy Pepper, Jim McLean (attended virtually, non-voting)

Member Absent: Dena Thurston

Staff Present:

Jody Maloney, Kelly Parker

Guests Present:

Dr. Erwin Selimos, Wendy Wells, Kathryn Nixon, Annie Jacobson, Jason Jeffery (left at 2:06pm)

1. **Call to Order:** Schuyler called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.
2. Limited Public Comment: Public did not offer comment
3. Approval of the Minutes from September 13, 2021: *Motion by Large to approve the agenda with support by Surd; Motion carried 5-0-1.*
4. Business:
 - a. Presentation: Dr. Erwin Selimos, explained findings related to a WSCC Student Focus Group on Retention
 1. Resulting Discussion:
 - a. Dr. Selimos highlighted that Mason County has higher rates of underprepared (for college) students than the national trends. Based on the findings of the student survey and related interviews, themes that emerged were needs for ways to connect students mental health support, social supports and time management skills. He also shared that finances were the least important factors that students highlighted, and that family instability was important.
 - b. As next steps, Dr. Selimos recommended early (grades 9-12) career guidance to connect students to what careers may support their life goals, and for the Promise to identify sub-populations of students that may be less likely to complete, and connect with them to understand their barriers and what supports may benefit their specific situation. Also, friendly and personal representatives were mentioned as necessary to help students overcome mistrust of educational institutions.
 - c. Focus Group to understand WSCC Promise Scholar retention & completion
 - i. Dr. Selimos recommended that conversations should start earlier than college, and clarified the different value in a survey, focus group, and forum. Using peer networks was also suggested as a way to get information and identify relevant supports and initiatives for students.
 - ii. To College Advisory Workgroup: Meeting recap & notes
 1. Goal initiatives
 - a. Survey/Focus group at LHS, MCC & MCE
 - i. Financial Request (Lunches)

1. *Motion by Pepper to approve an estimated cost of \$100 per school (LHS, MCC, MCE) to provide lunch during the focus group event at each respective school with support by Large; Motion carried 4-0-2*
 - b. AdviseMI?
 - i. *Motion by Large to approve the college advising program through MSU & MCAN in the amount of \$21,700, \$7500 for 2022 shared position for MCE & MCC, totaling \$15000 and \$6700 for an LHS/Promise position, with support by Quillan; Motion carried 4-0-2.*
 - c. 2021-22 FAFSA Initiatives
 - i. MCE FAFSA Night Financial Request
 - ii. MCC FAFSA Night Financial Request
 1. *Motion by Pepper to recommend to the full board to approve up to \$300 per school for 2021 FAFSA nights; supported by Large; Motion carried 4-0-2.*
 - iii. Expected future requests for 2022: MCC \$800; MCE \$500; LHS G2S: TBD
 1. *Motion by Large to approve a recommendation to fund incentives for families to complete the FAFSA at local high schools. (MCC, MCE, LHS, G2S) with support by Pepper; Motion carried 4-0-2.*
 - d. FYS at MCE
 - i. Financial Request
 1. *Motion by Large to approve FYS tuition for MCE in the amount of \$6,500 with support by Quillan; Motion carried 3-0-2 absent-1 abstention, Pepper.*
 2. Due to the lack of time, all remaining items were postponed by the Chair until the next meeting.
5. Adjourn: Schuyler moved for adjournment at 2:58p.m.