



Mason County Promise Zone Authority Board
Special Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 19th, 2020, 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Location: Online via Zoom due to ongoing Covid-19 pandemic state of emergency declared by Michigan DHHS

1) Roll Call/Call to Order

a) Monica Schuyler called the meeting to order at 12:31pm

b) **Members Present:**

Andrea Large-Ludington, MI; Amy Pepper-Scottville, MI; Kathy Surd-Pere Marquette Twp., MI; Fabian Knizacky-Ludington, MI; Annette Quillan-Ludington, MI; Monica Schuyler-Pere Marquette, Twp, MI; Jim McLean-Cornelius, NC; Roger Nash, Eden Township, MI; Jason Kennedy-Ludington, MI.

Members Absent: Ed Makowicki, Dena Thurston

Staff Present: Jody Maloney, Kelly Parker

2) Limited Public Comment: None

3) **Approval of the Agenda**

a) Motion by McLean to approve the Agenda, with support by Knizacky; Motion carried.

4) **New Business**

a) **Board Member Candidate Interviews (Candidate Lettering in Alpha Order)**

i) **12:35-1:05 Candidate A: Biggs**

(1) What most interested you in this position on the Promise Board?

(a) *Strong believer in volunteering and community involvement. Works with her schedule personally and timing wise. She feels it's a great opportunity.*

(2) All Board members have different points-of-view, backgrounds and roles within the community; what unique qualities, skills or perspectives could you bring to your work on the Promise Zone Board?

(a) *Primary aspect is her work at the college. There is collaboration between the Foundation and the MCP. She feels this background is critical. She also has a CPA with a finance background.*

(3) The Promise offers tuition and fees scholarships to Mason County students who attend West Shore Community College. The Mason County Promise is also focused around improving student success so that more students complete college. Based on your own experience or knowledge of the college experience, what is one source of support or type of experience that you feel college students need in order to thrive?

(a) *Big emphasis on life cost. Students need to know that there are people advocating for them and have their backs. They need to be able to get the help when they need it.*

(4) The Board recently created its vision for the Promise, to guide strategic planning. You have received a copy of the vision. What area or areas of the Promise Zone's vision are you most enthusiastic about and why?

(a) *All 5 categories are very important, but lean towards Hope. Hope is important this year, 2020, for the kids.*

(5) The Mason County Promise Zone currently meets every 2nd Monday of each month, from 3-5 PM, and has 5 Committees, composed of 3-5 members each: Appeals, Marketing, Policy, Executive and Student Success.

The Appeals committee meets most often--monthly--and others quarterly or as needed.

Understanding the time commitment each month, what challenges might you encounter related to full participation in Board meetings?

Follow-up: What is your past experience with Committee Work and/or your future interest in Committee Work?

(a) *She wouldn't have any challenges at this point. Her schedule allows for 1 more board.*



- (b) *She has been on boards where there were committees, and has been on many over the years. Marketing would be her least forte'. Willing to fit in where the need is.*
- (6) Is there anything else you would like the Board to know about why you would like to serve Mason County's Promise Zone?
- (a) *She loves being involved in the community. She's a hard worker. Easy to get along with and very professional.*
- (7) What questions do you have for the Board?
- (a) *Why did the board decide to contract with Kennari Consulting, what are the objectives or goals?*
- (b) *Is there any particular skill set the board is looking for regarding this position?*

ii) 1:10-1:40 Candidate C: Lamb

- (1) What most interested you in this position on the Promise Board?
- (a) *A personal investment with a banking and finance background*
- (2) All Board members have different points-of-view, backgrounds and roles within the community; what unique qualities, skills or perspectives could you bring to your work on the Promise Zone Board?
- (a) *Able to provide financial support within the community with her financial background with a proactive approach.*
- (3) The Promise offers tuition and fees scholarships to Mason County students who attend West Shore Community College. The Mason County Promise is also focused around improving student success so that more students complete college. Based on your own experience or knowledge of the college experience, what is one source of support or type of experience that you feel college students need in order to thrive?
- (a) *Full understanding of what debt of student loans looks like.*
- (4) The Board recently created its vision for the Promise, to guide strategic planning. You have received a copy of the vision. What area or areas of the Promise Zone's vision are you most enthusiastic about and why?
- (a) *Vested interest in sustainable development.*
- (5) The Mason County Promise Zone currently meets every 2nd Monday of each month, from 3-5 PM, and has 5 Committees, composed of 3-5 members each: Appeals, Marketing, Policy, Executive and Student Success.
- The Appeals committee meets most often--monthly--and others quarterly or as needed. Understanding the time commitment each month, what challenges might you encounter related to full participation in Board meetings?
- Follow-up: What is your past experience with Committee Work and/or your future interest in Committee Work?
- (a) *Replacing one board with another. No time restrictions.*
- (b) *Splash Pad, Friday Night Live, DDA, United Way are just a couple of committees.*
- (6) Is there anything else you would like the Board to know about why you would like to serve Mason County's Promise Zone?
- (a) *Would like to pay it forward and provide hope for the MCP.*
- (7) What questions do you have for the Board?
- (a) *What are some of the joys/most memorable things the current board members can share.*

iii) 1:45-2:15 Candidate B: Ezdebski

- (1) What most interested you in this position on the Promise Board?
- (a) *The kids are our future and the most important investment*
- (2) All Board members have different points-of-view, backgrounds and roles within the community;



- what unique qualities, skills or perspectives could you bring to your work on the Promise Zone Board?
- (a) *Worked in finance for 42 years.*
- (3) The Promise offers tuition and fees scholarships to Mason County students who attend West Shore Community College. The Mason County Promise is also focused around improving student success so that more students complete college. Based on your own experience or knowledge of the college experience, what is one source of support or type of experience that you feel college students need in order to thrive?
- (a) *In order to thrive the students need support from family and community.*
- (4) The Board recently created its vision for the Promise, to guide strategic planning. You have received a copy of the vision. What area or areas of the Promise Zone's vision are you most enthusiastic about and why?
- (a) *All areas are great. But unity is the most important. Without the community the students will struggle to be successful.*
- (5) The Mason County Promise Zone currently meets every 2nd Monday of each month, from 3-5 PM, and has 5 Committees, composed of 3-5 members each: Appeals, Marketing, Policy, Executive and Student Success. The Appeals committee meets most often--monthly--and others quarterly or as needed. Understanding the time commitment each month, what challenges might you encounter related to full participation in Board meetings?
- Follow-up: What is your past experience with Committee Work and/or your future interest in Committee Work?
- (a) *No challenges once he retires.*
- (b) *He has served on several boards, not a lot of experience with committee work. He would be interested in the marketing committee.*
- (6) Is there anything else you would like the Board to know about why you would like to serve Mason County's Promise Zone?
- (a) *He will be disappointed if he isn't selected, but will continue to look for other avenues to give back.*
- (7) What questions do you have for the Board?
- (a) *What do you see as your toughest objective right now, finances?*
- (b) *What is your current percentage that graduates with MCPS?*

Surd shared a YouTube video link in the meeting chat regarding Ezdebski's accomplishments:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LGI8-d_uORl.

iv) 2:20-2:50: Candidate D: Nixon

- (1) What most interested you in this position on the Promise Board?
- (a) *The chance to make a difference in young lives.*
- (2) All Board members have different points-of-view, backgrounds and roles within the community; what unique qualities, skills or perspectives could you bring to your work on the Promise Zone Board?
- (a) *Has a wide range of experiences with OxyChem.*
- (3) The Promise offers tuition and fees scholarships to Mason County students who attend West Shore Community College. The Mason County Promise is also focused around improving student success so that more students complete college. Based on your own experience or knowledge of the college experience, what is one source of support or type of experience that you feel college students need in order to thrive?



(a) *They need professional mentoring. Also help them create study and peer groups to grow confidence.*

(4) The Board recently created its vision for the Promise, to guide strategic planning. You have received a copy of the vision. What area or areas of the Promise Zone’s vision are you most enthusiastic about and why?

(a) *Does not believe the Vision is done. Make the next step forward then revisit the vision.*

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The Appeals committee meets most often--monthly--and others quarterly or as needed.

Understanding the time commitment each month, what challenges might you encounter related to full participation in Board meetings?

Follow-up: What is your past experience with Committee Work and/or your future interest in Committee Work?

(a) *Planning to retire this year, along with plenty of vacation time.*

(b) *She has served on plenty of committees and would be open to helping where it's needed.*

(6) Is there anything else you would like the Board to know about why you would like to serve Mason County’s Promise Zone?

(a) *A chance to make a difference in these kids.*

(7) What questions do you have for the Board?

(a) *What is the board term?*

(b) *Is there a particular committee that is in need of help?*

b) Reflection

i) Maloney provided some questions to frame the Board’s reflection on future membership

(1) What Board candidate will help the Promise fulfill its vision?

(2) Who will fill a gap or need in the Board’s perspective, skill set, and understanding?

(3) When you consider the future growth and opportunities the Mason County Promise Zone, consider the potential gains each candidate can provide or how their experiences and skills can advance the Promise Zone work; and conversely, consider what the Promise Zone might lose by not bringing in each candidate.

5) Any Other Business

a) Maloney will be off the week of Nov. 23-27

b) Pepper thinks it would be helpful to have someone that went into the military first before college on the board.

6) Limited Public Comment-None

7) Meeting moved for adjournment by Schuyler, 2:50pm