



Mason County Promise Zone Authority Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 8, 2023, 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Location: Lakeshore Resource Network Conference Room, E. Tinkham, Ludington, MI

Present: Juliana Anderson, Vic Burwell, Fabian Knizacky, Roger Nash, Amy Pepper, Chad Riffle (Arrived at 3:08PM) Annette Quillan, Kathy Surd, and Dena Thurston

Members Absent: Monica Schuyler, Joan Vidak

Staff Present: Jody Maloney

1. Call to Order: Thurston called the meeting to order at 3:01PM

a. Welcome New Board Member, Juliana Anderson: Board members reintroduced themselves.

2. Limited Public Comment: Jim Scatena read his letter encouraging the Board to expand to other institutions (see attached letter)

3. Approval of the Agenda: Motion to approve by Nash, supported by Knizacky; Motion carried 8-0-3.

4. Approval of the Minutes

a. 4-10-2023: Motion to approve by Knizacky, supported by Nash; Motion carried 8-0-3.

5. Treasurer's Report:

a. Balance Report for April 2023: \$1,547,511.59—Knizacky noted that a correction will be made to put the Winter 2023 tuition paid in the correct line item for tuition, rather than under books and educational supplies.

b. CFFMC Quarterly Report: \$379,684.68

c. Invoice: WSCC Winter 2023 Invoice: \$168,350.15

1. Credit detail: 140 attended/87 used the Promise

ii. *Approval of Invoices: Motion to approve by Knizacky, supported by Burwell; Knizacky asked why past paid bills need approval, with Maloney responding that the Board approved to pay out invoices upon arrival if they were accounted for in the annual budget, noting that the Board still wanted to approve all invoices received at each meeting; Motion carried 8-0-3.*

d. *Approval of Treasurer's Report: Motion by Burwell to approve the Treasurer's Report, supported by Nash; Quillan inquired about the amount in the books and educational supplies award line item, to which Knizacky responded by reminding of his earlier statement that it was an error that will be corrected; Motion carried, 9-0-2 (Riffle arrived).*

6. Director's Report: Maloney shared monthly events and questions asked by MPZA Executive Director Wilbur.

a. *Approval of Director's Report: Motion by Knizacky to approve the Director's Report, supported by Nash; Motion carried, 9-0-2.*

i. Please send your input related to Chuck Wilbur's questions to jodym@ludington.org by 5/10 at noon.

1. *Motion by Burwell to allow the Executive Committee to develop and submit a statement to highlight Board concerns at the Executive Committee meeting on Wednesday, May 10th, supported by Riffle; Motion carried 9-0-2.*

7. New Business

a. LHS Bound to Soar Initiative: LHS College Adviser, Tess O'Neal, shared current results of their initiative, which included efforts to complete the FAFSA as funded by the Promise Zone.

b. MMRMA Policy for Review & Renewal: Director will meet w/MMRMA Rep. on 5/19/23: Maloney noted that not much had changed the last contract. Board members who have questions or concerns can email them to Maloney prior to the meeting.

c. Committee Reports:

i. Appeals Committee: Did not meet; Next Meeting: 6-5-23@11AM

ii. Student Success Committee: Met: 4-24-23@10AM

1. Reviewed updates related to programming, “Ramp It Up,” “College Edge,” Promise Scholars feedback from focus group
- iii. Community Engagement Committee: Did not meet--5-3-23@3:30PM--Cancelled; Next meeting TBD
 1. Reschedule or Defer to August 2, 2023@3:30 PM? Topics on the agenda included: Updated Points of Pride & Promise, Do’s & Don’t’s when interacting with Community Partners, Honoring Community Partners for Good Working Relationships, & What to recommend when individual members don’t support full board decisions <https://consciousgovernance.com/blog-archives/3-ways-to-handle-a-board-decision-you-disagree-with-even-if-you-are-the-lone-voice>
- iv. Executive Committee: New meeting scheduled: 5-10-23@4PM; Next meeting: 10-16-23@1PM
 1. Topics for 5-10-23: Policy on communications with partners, administrative costs, issues related to upcoming renewals (contingency plan, legislative outreach, etc.)
- 8. Old Business:** None
- 9. Any Other Business:** None
- 10. Limited Public Comment:** None
- 11. Adjourn:** *Thurston moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:00 PM.*

JIM SCATENA
HAMLIN TOWNSHIP

FIRST, I HAVE LOOKED FORWARD TO THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK THE MASON COUNTY PROMISE BOARD FOR THE REMARKABLE BENEFIT THAT YOU OFFER TO OUR COMMUNITY.

THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A MASON COUNTY GRADUATE TO OBTAIN A POST SECONDARY EDUCATION IS A GIFT THAT WILL PAY BACK TO THE STUDENT AND THE COMMUNITY FOR A LIFETIME. I OFFER MY SINCERE THANK YOU TO THE BOARD AND THE WORK THAT YOU PERFORM THAT ALLOWS THAT TO HAPPEN.

I AM A MEMBER OF THE WEST SHORE COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION BOARD AND I AM VERY PROUD OF OUR COMMUNITY COLLEGE. THE FACULTY AND STAFF AND THE ADMINISTRATION PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY, AFFORDABLE CERTIFICATIONS AND TWO YEAR DEGREES TO OUR AREA STUDENTS. THE FOUNDATION COMBINED WITH THE MASON COUNTY PROMISE AS WELL AS OTHER VARIOUS FEDERAL AND NOW STATE TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS VIRTUALLY ELIMINATE THE COST OF TUITION AS A BARRIER TO HIGHER EDUCATION. I AM PROUD THAT BOTH ORGANIZATIONS LOOK BEYOND TUITION AND WORK TO ELIMINATE OTHER BARRIERS TO HIGHER EDUCATION.

IT IS MY HOPE THAT THIS BOARD CAN ALSO LOOK TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS WISHING TO ATTEND OTHER INSTITUTIONS THAT MIGHT PROVIDE DEGREE PROGRAMS OR PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS THAT ARE NOT NECESSARILY OFFERED BY WSCC.

WHILE I ABSOLUTELY LOVE MASON COUNTY, I ALSO BELIEVE THAT ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PARTS OF GOING TO COLLEGE CAN BE THE "GOING" ITSELF. GETTING AWAY FROM WHAT IS FAMILIAR, TO EXPAND ONE'S HORIZONS AND TO BE CHALLENGED BY NEW EXPERIENCES. IT HAS BEEN PROVEN THAT, LEARNING TO BE SELF-SUFFICIENT IN A TRANSITIONAL FORMAT SUCH AS COLLEGE, PROVIDES STUDENTS WITH A SAFETY NET, AND YET AT THE SAME TIME, TEACHES YOUNG ADULTS HOW TO LEARN FROM THEIR MISTAKES. THEY HAVE TO SPREAD THEIR WINGS AT SOME POINT IN THEIR LIFE AND GOING AWAY TO COLLEGE IS AN IDEAL TIME. THEY NEED THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE SELF-SUFFICIENT AND DO THINGS WITHOUT MOM OR DAD COMING TO THE RESCUE RIGHT AWAY. ULTIMATELY, WE ALL WANT OUR CHILDREN TO FEEL CONFIDENT THAT THEY ARE CAPABLE OF MANAGING CHALLENGES AND STRUGGLES AND, GOING AWAY TO COLLEGE IS A WONDERFUL WAY TO PRACTICE THESE LIFELONG SKILLS AND BUILD THEIR NETWORKS.

ULTIMATELY, EACH FAMILY AND STUDENT MUST MAKE THE DECISION FOR THEMSELVES. HOPEFULLY THE COLLEGE EXPERIENCE WILL BE FULFILLING WHICHEVER THEY DECIDE. I AM ONLY ASKING THE PROMISE BOARD TO CONSIDER MAKING EITHER OPPORTUNITY A POSSIBILITY.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AND AGAIN, FOR YOUR HARD WORK ON THIS AMAZING PROGRAM.

JIM SCATENA