



**Mason County Promise Zone
Student Success Committee Minutes
Monday, May 11, 2020 8:00-9:30 AM
Location: Online via Zoom**

Student Success Committee Statement of Purpose: The role of the Mason County Promise Student Success committee is to identify the barriers to college readiness and post-secondary educational success; to help facilitate the coordination of resources to address those barriers; to propose to the Promise Board educational improvement activities or amendments to the Plan to better support the success of our students.

Board members present: Andrea Large, Dena Thurston, Monica Schuyler, Kathy Surd

Guests Present: Jamie Bandstra, Vic Burwell, Dale Horowski, Anne Jacobson, Michelle King, Jeff Mount, Shelly Rife, Lynne Russell, Paul Shoup; Scott Ward, Joan Vidak

- 1) Call to order: 8:03 AM
- 2) Public Comment: Guests provided thoughts and input on student success throughout the meeting.
- 3) Business:
 - a) Maloney shared updates on Promise Numbers & Senior Survey (See presentation for specific info)
 - (a) Currently 209 seniors applied
 - (i) Senior Survey: 47 responses (see presentation for takeaways)
 - (ii) More ways to communicate w/Promise: Online Q&A w/WSCC to help connect seniors questions to answers;
 - (iii) Notices will come out in Mid-June: please send any questions about the Promise that come up to the coordinator, so that informational materials can be catered to answering them.
 - (b) Renewals for current WSCC Student
 - (i) Submit on Promise website & send transcript
 - b) Promise Student Support
 - i) Connectivity—What are the considerations for student support through the summer and fall to ensure that future or current scholars have the access they need to be successful whether deciding on a college path or taking classes on or off campus?
 - (1) Responses:
 - Scott Ward shared that connectivity issues are expansive across Michigan and not limited to rural or urban geography. There are larger regional conversations happening around Broadband. A roadmap was completed in 2018. There is funding in the CARES act for educational improvement that could be used to help mitigate connectivity issues. FCC currently is helping to fund broadband for education. WSCC’s library has hotspots for student use, and WSCC provided laptops and helped with hotspots in order to facilitate remote learning during winter 2020. Talent 2025 and Connect MI are noted to be working on a regional plan. Ward also noted that at present, WSCC’s plan is for fall classes to take place in person, and that there will be an increase in online course offerings.



- Vic Burwell expressed an interest in understanding how local connectivity compares with surrounding counties. Kathy Surd shared a document created by ESD/ISD inventories, which show how connectivity for K-12 students looks across the state.
- Jamie Bandstra highlighted that one size does not fit all when it comes to what works for student connectivity, and that it is important to reach out to students to provide support that works with their existing providers, because there may be ways to boost bandwidth that are offered specific to a student's plan.
- A connectivity survey post-school year, or an ongoing survey like the Google survey conducted by G2S, would be beneficial to better understand how connectivity solutions met student needs. ETA online may be a helpful resource to discuss technology specifications for ideal online learning. It would be beneficial for the Promise to be a part of this conversation, so that we can ensure that Mason County's students are prepared for a transition to college in an online environment.

(a) Are there basic connectivity requirements that make online learning optimal?

(i) Recap:

- Work with WSCC and ETA Online to outline basic tech needs for optimal student success;
- Discuss connectivity and online readiness as a factor in Promise Zone's student success planning, and consider what would need to happen for Mason County's approach could be exemplary when it comes to supporting rural connectivity among college students;
- The Promise Zone should be involved in local and regional discussions on this;
- Workshop individual student provider plans to see what options they may have;

(b) What are practical actions that the Promise Zone can take now?

(i) Recap:

- Consider how transition planning, training and support can be catered to the online learning experience for the purposes of equity and access, whether this means finding grants or using Promise dollars to support tech solutions like laptops for all, hotspots, etc.;
- Remember that 21st Century students are very tech savvy, and their barriers may be different than what adults perceive;
- Work with local education providers to re-survey students to see how connectivity during COVID worked, to inform future efforts;
- Keep at the forefront that human connection in learning is paramount and that remote learning should find as many ways as possible to keep it at the forefront.

c) Defining Student Success

i) What is your definition & how has COVID-19 affected this?

(1) Recap:



- Students are career or college ready, with the academic, and social skills that meet workforce demands; At this time, what student success looks like is evolving, and grit and resilience among students are both essential to student success;
- Student success happens when students are prepared to make a positive contribution to society; COVID-19 has exposed previously overlooked factors in society success, such as the importance of essential workers, educators and frontline workers—these have become important to our big picture view;
- Student success is exemplified by students that are well-rounded socially, emotionally and academically; COVID-19 has emphasized how much of a role adaptability and resilience play in success;
- The importance of students having all skills for success, like collaboration, critical thinking/problem solving and self-discipline are more evident and necessary now than ever, considering the remote nature of learning and work; Considerations of how being from a low-income background affects a student's accomplishments at this moment are necessary to inform our definition of success;
- Student success means that students not only have those core abilities that they need to be successful in life, but that they know what they are and that they have them; COVID-19 has highlighted the need for adaptability.
- It's important to align any Promise Zone definition of success with other regional and local partners like Talent 2025, and Mason CAN;
- The importance of a cohort model and a strengths-based, growth-minded approach will build success among students; Students who are self-aware can maximize their talents.
- The individual nature of student success should also be considered; Student create their own goals and they should be able to pursue work that they enjoy; There are so many options for employment, and COVID-19 has magnified the landscape of just how many fields of employment are essential—all of which provides more options for students to choose a path to their own success.

d) Bridging High School to College and Career: Conversation postponed until our Sept. 14 meeting.

4) Adjourned at 9:28 AM

Next Meeting: Next meeting: Monday, September 14th, 8-9:30 AM