



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

Members Present: Monica Jewell, Amy Pepper, Annette Quillan, Chad Riffle, Kathy Surd (arrived at 10:20) & Joan Vidak

Staff Present: Jody Maloney

- 1) **Call to order/Welcome:** Vidak called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM.
- 2) **Public Comment:** None
- 3) **Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda by Jewell, supported by Pepper; Motion carried 5-0-1.
- 4) **Approval of Minutes from 11-27-23:** Motion to approve the minutes by Riffle, supported by Jewell; Motion carried 5-0-1.
- 5) **Business:**
 - a) **Promise Numbers**
 - i) WSCC Retention Rates Update: Maloney shared updated on objective 2.1, which is that 70% of graduates who use the Promise are retained fall-to-fall. Based on data provided by WSCC, the retention rates, which includes all Promise Scholars whose first year was 2021 or 2022, were 51.2% for 2021 and 59.5% for 2022, compared with all of WSCC's incoming students at 56.6% for 2021 and 57.3% for 2022. Previously, Maloney calculated retention based on billing data, which likely provided an incomplete picture, as some Promise Scholars may not have renewed but still have returned to WSCC. Maloney also noted that these data included scholars who may have transferred from another institution as students in their first year at WSCC, which may present a discrepancy from the wording of the objective. After discussion, the SSC members opted to leave the "graduate" language related to retention as-is, pending future growth discussions and any need to address goal measures. Members also asked Maloney to request retention data from 2018-2020 years, to align the data from year-to-year. Maloney will follow up with a request to WSCC.
 - b) **Recent Amendments to Promise Development Plan:** Defacto Approval as of 1-15-2024. Maloney shared that she has informed Scholars and key staff at WSCC, but wanted to notify the Board prior to announcing to community-wide.
 - i) **9 Credit Removal follow up:**
 - (1) *Use of Promise for guest students: Which semester(s)?* Maloney asked if guest students should be able to use the Promise in fall or winter semesters, with the 9-credit minimum removal. Until now, guest students typically only use the Promise in the summer, based on home institutions providing financial aid flexibility; If students who were taking classes at other colleges did previously want to use the Promise in other semesters, they would have needed to get an appeal to take under 9 credits. Members discussed how it could impact WSCC's partner programs and the current requirement to list WSCC as their first institution on the FAFSA in order to qualify for the Promise. Historically, WSCC has arranged for payment to other institutions and coordinated financial aid, including the Promise. The Promise would need agreements with other institutions to pay them directly. No action was taken, as members generally agreed that listing WSCC first on the FAFSA would be enough to address the issue.
 - ii) **Educational Supplies Usage, 2024-25**
 - (1) *Thoughts for Class of 2024 qualification:* Maloney shared that previous awards required registration for at least 9 credits by the deadline, in addition to the requirements below, but with the minimum credits removed, requested that the SSC consider a recommendation to specify how many credits would be required to qualify.



- (a) *August 1/December 1 Deadline for Full Award*
 - (i) *FAFSA—Needed for Years 1&2*
 - (ii) *Registration Credit Requirement?*
 - (iii) *Year 1: Orientation—require in person?*
 - (iv) *Year 2: First Year Seminar*
 - 1. *Motion by Riffle to recommend requiring registration for 12 credits to qualify for the full ESA, and to ask the Board if they could consider a partial award option for half-time students at 6-11 credits; supported by Surd; Discussion included that Maloney will follow up with WSCC's business office to determine how a partial award would impact workload; Motion carried 6-0-0.*
 - c) **Deadline for t-shirts?** Maloney shared that t-shirts will be distributed for seniors at schools again this year, and that the March 1 deadline required for ordering to arrive in time for the “Show Up” event was no longer necessary. She requested input from the committee related to how they felt about the internal change back to April.
 - i) March 1 used to be state deadline and helpful for Show UP
 - ii) April 1 could be re-established to have shirts by graduation: The committee felts that returning to the April 1st deadline would work. Maloney will let counselors and college advising staff know of the change.
 - d) **To-Thru College Advisory Workgroup:** Met to Plan Show-Up in January; Next Meeting: 2-4-24
 - i) Working on Show Up: April 10, 2024
 - e) **Next Meeting:** 4th Monday at 10AM: Next meeting: February 26, 2024@10AM: Location: LRN; Chair Vidak suggested to the Committee to cancel its March 25th meeting, since spring break coincided with it. Members generally agreed that they would prefer to cancel, so Maloney will change the meeting notices and remove it from calendars.
- 6) **Adjourn:** Vidak moved to adjourn at 11:05 AM.