



**Mason County Promise Zone
Student Success Committee Meeting
Minutes
Monday, October 23, 2023: 10 AM
Location: Lakeshore Resource Network**

Members Present: Amy Pepper, Annette Quillan, Monica Schuyler, Kathy Surd, Joan Vidak (Committee Chair);

Members Absent: Chad Riffle

Staff Present: Jody Maloney

- 1) **Call to order:** Vidak called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM.
- 2) **Public Comment:** None
- 3) **Approval of Agenda:** Motion by Schuyler to approve the agenda, supported by Surd; Motion carried 5-0-1.
- 4) **Approval of Minutes 9-25-23:** Motion by Schuyler to approve the minutes, supported by Surd; Motion carried 5-0-1.
- 5) **Business:**
 - a) **Success Coaching Discussion Follow-Up**
 - i) Review feedback received/Past conversations: Maloney reviewed feedback from the Board members who responded to the SSC's previous request. 3 Board members submitted a response. Committee members discussed the following:
 - Need for consistent high school-based support for students in college and career readiness,
 - Counselors' increase in workload related to mental health and other student needs means that there's decreased time for post-secondary planning,
 - it is important for students to have a face, a name, and a trusting, consistent relationship with school-based roles,
 - having a success coach role embedded in the school system would be the ideal option for the Promise success coach,
 - if the Promise could reimburse schools for the role and have the role report to counselors and be evaluated by the school system they serve, it would be more effective,
 - there is a need for such a role in place at MCC for 2024 because of the current large group of juniors,
 - shared role between MCE/MCC worked out before and is vacant; LHS's college adviser role is in year 2
 - ii) PZ Act Language: Maloney read the following language from the Promise Zone Act, and clarified that the current legislation makes it clear that readiness includes K-12, but newly proposed amendment to the law would clarify that PZ funds could be used for supporting current Promise college students as "readiness" as well: The proposed promise of financial assistance may also authorize the expenditure of funds for educational improvement activities designed to increase readiness for postsecondary education at public schools located in the promise zone.
 - (1) Our PZ Approved Plan Language: Upon Authority Board direction, monies may be designated for educational improvement activities that focus on student success and readiness. The Authority Board will ensure focus of the Promise is on student academic preparedness, compliance with Promise eligibility, and creating access and success in higher educational opportunities.
 - (a) Some Zones have determined this to mean that college-level coaching must come from administrative funds
 - (b) Zones generally also determine this to mean that high school-level coaches can be funded as educational improvement



- (c) Proposed State Promise Zone Act legislation is to clarify this to include all levels of coaching as educational activities that promote readiness
 - iii) Planning:
 - (1) Housing the position: *Schuyler made a motion to recommend to the full Board to allow the Promise Zone Director to enter into discussions with public school districts to explore two college success coach roles in Mason County-based high schools; Supported by Surd; Motion carried 5-0-1.*
 - (a) Structure
 - (i) FT/PT—What would you recommend? Maloney suggested full-time, with benefits.
 - (ii) School Year/Full Year—What would you recommend? Summer transition and outreach to students and families were highlighted by Vidak as a reason for a full-year position
 - (b) Location
 - (i) What would you recommend?
 1. House positions at colleges, high schools, Chambers, community foundations, ESD/ISDs: Positions embedded in the schools served was the first preference.
 2. Our current partner for staffing in the Chamber: Maloney shared that the Chamber offered single benefits, but finding an organization that offered family benefits would be better to make the position more livable.
 - (c) Pay/Benefits
 - (i) Success Coaching positions available to area talent: Maloney shared that remote coaching roles are paying \$23/hour and that Grand Rapids Promise Zone offered \$20/hour and lost a prime candidate mid-interview at that rate. Surd shared that local schools are paying over \$20.50/hour for a 180-day position that requires a bachelor's degree. Quillan expressed that it was important to pay a livable wage. Schuyler felt that supplanting the current AmeriCorps roles that the Promise Zone is funding and using those funds to contribute to a long-term success coach role will be helpful for the budget, adding that the board will need to approve a range of funds that they would be willing to use to reimburse partner(s) for housing the role.
 - (2) Student/scholar Requirements: Did not discuss beyond the Board member feedback of requiring students with GPA below 3.0 to participate at the college level.
 - b) **To College: Next meetings:** Met: 10-19-23@1PM--Maloney shared data from a 2023 senior survey.
 - c) **Through College:** Meets Next: 12-7-23@8:30 AM—MCC & MCE are confirmed for 4-10-23 Show Up event
- 6) **Adjourn: Vidak moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:23 AM.**