



**Mason County Promise Zone: Student Success Committee**  
**Ludington & Scottville Area Chamber of Commerce Conference Room**  
**Monday, February 3, 2020 8:00-9:30 AM**  
**Minutes**

**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.

**Promise Board Members Present:** Jason Kennedy, Andrea Large, Jim McLean, Monica Schuyler, and Kathy Surd

**Guests:** Dale Horowski, Annie Jacobsen, Jason Jeffery, Mark Kinney, Jeff Mount, Laura Powers, Paul Shoup, Lynne Russell, Joan Vidak, and Lisa Winger

**Staff:** Jody Maloney

1. Call to order/Welcome/Introductions: Meeting was opened at 8:04 AM
2. Public Comment: This meeting was open to public comment at all time
3. Minutes: The minutes were provided to all in attendance.
4. Business:
  - a. Updates on Promise Numbers & Scholar Feedback (presentation): The Promise Zone coordinator shared that nearly there are currently three early graduates and 5 signed up for spring 2020. \$185000 was paid in Promise Scholarships paid and 86 out of the 170 Promise Scholars at WSCC in 2019 relied on the Promise for tuition and fees.
  - b. Promise Student Support
    - i. Scholar Outreach: Facebook and email reminders to renew FAFSA; Postcard mailings: The Promise Zone coordinator has been reaching out to students through direct emails and postcards to follow up on FAFSA and attrition.
    - ii. Promise/WSCC Partnership Update: FYS & Scholar Procedures: Maloney shared an update on First Year Seminar at WSCC from Director of Enrollment Jacobsen at WSCC. Jacobsen was at the meeting to clarify numbers: Currently MCCHS has 37 students enrolled, MCEHS has at least 15 in the course. WSCC is working with LCANs on a MI-BEST grant for community colleges to identify barriers to student success; Maloney distributed an article that stated that WSCC was up 12% in enrollment when other Michigan community colleges are down, an increase that has been partially attributed to paid tuition in Mason County.
    - iii. College Completion & FAFSA 75%: Initiatives & Ideas (Ref. #3)

1. Decision Day Plans & Support: Participants at the meeting discussed options for greater community involvement in FAFSA completion. Some ideas included: reaching out to the Employee Resource Network for partnering; doing a FAFSA workshop at churches, employment agencies or workplaces, or other community-based locations; working with community agencies to include FAFSA completion help in wraparound support; engaging a local CPA in helping families tie in tax support and FAFSA help like Alcoa/Howmet did in Muskegon County; finding natural gathering places for promoting FAFSA completion (Wal-Mart, Meijer).
    - iv. Promise Scholarship Best Practices: Maloney gave a brief overview of Promise Zone best practices from the 2019 PromiseNet Conference.
      1. Success Coaching: Maloney described success coaching and review how success coaches support students
      2. Pre-K to College: There will be a meeting Feb. 25th to discuss this topic with WSCC Director of Enrollment, KickStart to Career Coordinator and Mason CAN; Anyone interested in participating should let Maloney know.
5. Survey of Career & College Readiness (Presentation)
  - a. Results from Educator Survey: 20 educators participated; their most desired supports were after school programming, High School Alumni as mentors/success coaches, summer youth activities and college readiness activities. Other needs indicated were people to reinforce career readiness, and numerous college readiness activities.
  - b. Launch of Student & Family Survey
6. Homework: Defining Student Success (Ref #5): Participants were asked to define "student success" for themselves, and interview another person from a different background on their definition for the purpose of sharing at the next meeting.
7. Any Other Business, Comments or Feedback:
  - a. Maloney shared that a CFFMC Youth Advisory Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 6th at 9AM at West Shore ESD. Large added that interested people are invited to learn about an additional round of \$7000 in grant funding for YAC priority areas.
  - b. Russell invited anyone interested in learning about Communities & Schools of Northwest Michigan to join in on a visit to their agency in Mancelona on February 17th, starting at 7:45 AM. Those interested should contact Russell for more information.
  - c. McLean asked how the Promise could support existing student career plans through the Promise application or student support process. Educators shared their views on whether such a plan might come from EDP, Xello or other similar student portfolio resources. Maloney will add the discussion to bridge career planning efforts the next meeting agenda.
8. Motion to adjourn by McLean at 9:32 AM.

Next Meeting: Next meeting: Monday, May 11th, 8-9:30 AM