



**Mason County Promise Zone Authority Board
Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 10th, 2020 from 3pm-5pm
Chamber of Commerce-Conference Room**

Members Present: Jason Kennedy, Andrea Large, Annette Quillan, Jim McLean, Ed Makowicki*, Amy Pepper, Monica Schuyler, Kathy Surd, Dena Thurston

Members absent: Fabian Knizacky, Roger Nash

Staff Present: Jody Maloney, Brandy Miller, Kelly Parker

Call to Order

Monica Schuyler called the meeting to order at 3:02pm

A. Limited Public Comment: No comments were made

B. Approval of the Agenda:

Motion-Kennedy, Support-McLean; Motion carried 8-0-3.

*Arrival of Makowicki was acknowledged at 3:06 PM.

C. Approval of the Meeting Minutes- January 13th, 2020: The minutes were approved with the following changes; January 13th minutes:

a. Spelling errors-Ed Makowicki

b. A name changes-Annie Jacobson

Approved by McLean support by Thurston. Motion carried 9-0-2.

D. New Business:

a. Treasurer's Report:

i. Monthly Update on Budget: Maloney gave the update on the January budget.

1. Invoices-None

b. Coordinator's Report: Maloney shared a brief list of her activities over the past month.

i. Activities

1. WSCC Partnership

a. A draft of the Promise Scholarship procedures created by Chad Inabinet, WSCC Dean of Student Services were shared. McLean mentioned the need to be proactive and create an alert system for those students that may be in academic trouble.

b. MSU Consortium

i. MSU Consortium at WSCC students must pay for their credits at the beginning of each semester, and because of lack of personal funds and financial aid, some students have had these credits dropped if they cannot pay out of pocket by the MSU drop/add deadline. Maloney shared that WSCC is defining a process so that this does not happen, and recommended that the Board consider supporting WSCC in ensuring that Promise Scholars do not get dropped for non-payment. Because WSCC is developing this procedure, no specific action was recommended at this time.

- ii. Promise Numbers
 1. 2020 Cohort Applicants: 172 as of 2/6/2020 (Est. 75-80% of 2020 Senior Class).
 2. Early Graduation: There are currently three (3) WSCC Promise Scholars who have graduated and five (5) planning to graduate in May 2020 (with more likely to sign up).
 3. 2019 Numbers: In 2019, 170 students at WSCC were eligible to use the Promise ("Promise Scholars"), and of the group, 86 relied on the Promise Scholarship to pay for classes.
 4. The Promise Zone distributed just over \$185,000 in scholarships in 2019.
 5. Class of 2018 Retention: 78% of students who relied on the Promise Scholarship were retained at WSCC from fall 2018-fall 2019. For Promise Scholars who did not rely on the funds to attend, the rate was 50%. The overall rate was 68% for Promise Scholars.
 6. WSCC notes that enrollment has increased by 12%, attributed, in part, to the Promise.
- c. Michigan Promise Zones
 - i. 2020 Dues will be \$1000 and invoices and payment should arrive in March.
 - ii. 60 by 30 Alliance: The Michigan Promise Zone Association, and Mason County Promise Zone as a part of the Association is joining an alliance with the governor to support the 60% postsecondary completion by 2030 goal in Michigan.
 - iii. March Trainings: Salesforce & Success Coaching Webinar.

E. Old Business

a. 2020 Board Orientation

- i. Visioning Packet for Feb. 11th Session-Goal is to narrow the focus and goals of the board for the next 5 years.
- ii. Dinner Orders-Jody asked that the board place their order for the Vision session 2/11/2020.

b. Committee Updates

- i. Appeals: 1/20 meeting cancelled
- ii. Marketing: No meeting Scheduled
- iii. Student Success: Met 2/3/20-Jody Maloney reviewed meeting minutes from the February 3rd Student Success Committee meeting.
 1. Student Success Initiatives & Planning
 - a. Success Coaching-Initial Draft and Feedback-2 year model student based. Maloney asked the Board to review the information that was included in today's meeting materials and indicated that she will present it at the next regular meeting.
 - b. Promise Day to Honor Graduates-Area school counselors are interested in honoring graduates by holding a "Promise Day" in conjunction with Decision Day activities. McLean questioned how the Board should recognize WSCC graduates who used the Promise. Maloney suggested possible green and blue cords for the graduates. An approval from WSCC is required first. Makowicki suggested asking the students first what or how they would like to be celebrated at graduation.
 - c. FYS Updates: LHS will participate
- iv. Policy Committee: Met 2/5/2020
 1. Clarification Needed:
 - a. The Policy Committee's interpretation is that the Promise Scholarship covers 60 credits of tuition and fees for any eligible student, in addition to the credits covers by any other first-dollar funding (and will in the future cover 72 credits upon state approval of the previously Board-approved increase of total attempted credits) The Policy Committee would like to know if the Board shares this interpretation. The board would like to postpone this conversation until their next regular meeting, in order to inform the discussion by the Board's 2020-2025 vision that will be completed at the Special Meeting on Tuesday, February 11th at 5PM.
 2. Recommendations for Board
 - a. The Policy Committee recommended that the Board amend the approved plan to require a 6 credit per semester minimum to be eligible for the Promise Scholarship at WSCC. A motion to include a minimum of 6 credits in Fall or Winter semesters for students to be eligible to use the Promise Scholarship at WSCC, with the stipulation that the credits only be lowered if there were no restrictions from the Treasury department and no financial aid eligibility issues that would result from such a decrease, was made by Mclean with support by Large. Kennedy and Quillan abstained from voting. Motion passed 7-0-2 with 2 abstentions.

- i. Makowicki asked that the Promise Board produce a list of types of financial aid that are available at different credit levels.

F. Any Other Business

- a. Thurston asked if Promise bags could be given out at the door during the summer job fair for the students to place their items in. Monica stated that a job fair hasn't been scheduled yet. Kennedy mentioned MiCareerQuest as a new event for students to learn about jobs. MiCareerQuest will be held at Ferris and the ESD is coordinating the trip for 9th grade students.
- b. Thurston mentioned the discussion of the G2S's proposed enrollment increase of 40 more students that might be eligible for the Promise. Maloney invited Board members who are interested in the discussion of residency and eligibility to the next Policy Committee Meeting on May 6th at 1PM.
- c. Pepper spoke on behalf of the Michigan Transfer Network, and the savings and advantages of the Promise.
- d. Maloney said that she is compiling a list on eligibility for Homeschooled students in other Promise Zones, which she will provide for the Policy Committee's next meeting. Any related recommendations will be brought to the full Board at a regular meeting.

G. Limited Public Comment:

- a. **No public Comment**

H. Adjourn: The meeting was moved for adjournment at 4:55p.m. following a motion from Thurston.