



**Mason County Promise Zone Authority Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes**

Monday April 10, 2023; 3- 5 p.m.

Location: Lakeshore Resource Network Conference Room, E. Tinkham, Ludington, MI

Members Present:

Roger Nash, Fabian Knizacky, Amy Pepper, Chad Riffle (arrived at 3:38 PM), Monica Schuyler, Kathy Surd, Dena Thurston, Joan Vidak, Annette Quillan

Members Absent:

Vic Burwell

Staff & Guests Present:

Jody Maloney & Kristen Smith

1. **Call to Order:** *Schuyler called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.*
2. **Limited Public Comment:**
 - a. Quillan expressed that she felt that students attending other colleges for programs not offered at WSCC should have the opportunity to use the Promise.
 - b. Quillan reported that Molly McCarthy, Family Link at WSCC, presently has \$9,000 available for student emergency use.
3. **Approval of the Agenda**
 - a. *Motion to approve the agenda by Knizacky, with support from Nash; Motion carried 8-0-2*
4. **Approval of Minutes from 3-13-2023**
 - a. *Motion by Nash to approve minutes from 2-13-2023 and 2-20-2023, supported by Knizacky, with Quillan expressing that the minutes should be amended to include the entire email communication that she read from Jim Scatena; Motion carried 8-0-2.*
5. **Treasurer's Report:**
 - a. Balance Report for March 2023:
 - b. Invoices:
 - i. MCAN \$2,500 (went up \$500 from last year)
 - ii. MCE FAFSA Initiative \$750
 - iii. Gordy's Skate Co. \$1,880
 1. *Approval of Invoices: Motion by Vidak, supported by Thurston; motion carried, 8-0-2.*
 - c. *Motion by Vidak to approve Treasurer's Report, supported by Pepper; motion carried 8-0-2.*
6. **Director's Report**
 - a. Approval of the Director's Report:
 - i. *Motion by Thurston to approve the Director's Report, supported by Knizacky; Motion carried 8-0-2.*

1. Provided questions for the board to consider as the board considers movement toward goals
2. Shared that volunteers are welcomed for April 12 and for other upcoming events.
3. Legislative priorities provided:
 - a. Support Michigan College Access infrastructure, including improving school counselor to student ratio
 - b. Make college affordable
 - c. Increase early college credit

7. New Business

a. Committee Reports

- i. Appeals Committee: met 4-3-2023 to consider six appeals; committee is recommending all to be approved by Promise Board (Appeals #57, #58, #59, #60, #61, #62). *Motion to approve appeals as recommended by the committee by Vidak, supported by Nash; approved 8-0-2*
 1. Monica Schuyler recommended that Jody Maloney have the authority to approve appeals that had been previously denied based on grade point average. *Motion to remove 2.0 High School GPA requirement, retroactive to the 2018 cohort by Knizacky, supported by Nash; motion approved 8-0-2.*
 2. Minimum requirement of 9 credits also discussed. Anyone with fewer than 9 credits must file an appeal. This will be reconsidered.
 - a. Jody Maloney will compile data for the June Appeals Committee meeting.
 3. Board discussed how McKinney-Vento (homeless) students may be eligible for Promise benefits.
 - a. Appeals Committee will review this issue in June after more information has been gathered from other Zones and the Michigan Department of Treasury. *Motion by Thurston, supported by Vidak, to pursue a McKinney-Vento plan; motion approved 9-0-1.*
- ii. Student Success Committee: met 2-27-2023; Meets next 4-24-2023@10AM
 1. Addressing scholars who use educational benefits then drop
 - a. Committee recommends that students who drop after using the educational supply award will forfeit that year's award in total. Students can still qualify for Year 2 educational supply award. *Motion by Knizacky, supported by Thurston; motion approved 9-0-1.*
- iii. Community Engagement Committee: Meets May 3
- iv. Executive Committee: Meets in October

8. Old Business

- a. Promise Board Candidate Interviews Results
 - i. Candidates previously tied 3-3 at committee level. Scores to consider: Juliana Anderson, 58 points; Theresa Shoop, 66 points. The lowest score is considered the highest score.
 1. Kathy Surd: It's important to have relationships with all of the schools in the county.
 - ii. Final deliberation & selection: *Motion by Thurston to select Juliana Anderson as the new board member, supported by Riffle. Knizacky abstained due to a familial relationship; approved 7-1-1-1*

9. Any Other Business: None

10. Limited Public Comment: None

11. Adjourn: Schuyler moved for adjournment at 4:10 p.m.