



**Amended
Promise Zone
Development Plan**

October 9, 2023



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Summary of 2023 Amendments to Mason County Promise Zone Development Plan

Items requested for amendment the Mason County Promise Zone Development Plan as approved by the Mason County Promise Zone Authority Board and recorded in **Error! Reference source not found.** from July 10, 2023, September 11, 2023 and October 9, 2023:

Under the **“ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:”** section, item 1. A. Residency Requirement, part i. includes a bulleted addition with the following language to accommodate homeless students who attend Mason County-based eligible high schools and are verified by their school as homeless: **Students who qualify as homeless under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 11301 et seq., will be deemed to meet the residency requirement if their homeless status is verified by the Eligible School that they attend.**

Under the **“ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:”** section, item 2., part A. includes a bulleted addition with the following language to clarify requirements related to FAFSA: **Eligible students must list the institution at which they intend to receive Promise funding as the first college choice on the FAFSA (not applicable to summer guest students) Free Application for Federal Student Aid (the “FAFSA”) Requirement**

- A. Complete the FAFSA each year that the student intends to seek proceeds from the Promise Scholarship
 - **Eligible Students must list the institution at which they intend to receive Promise funding as the first college choice on the FAFSA (not applicable to summer guest students).**

From the TERMS OF THE MASON COUNTY PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP:

The following section about a 9-credit minimum requirement for fall and winter semesters has been removed

~~**Eligible Students must enroll in a minimum of nine (9) credit hours per fall and winter semester at West Shore (the “Credit Requirement”). The Credit Requirement will be met so long as the credits are attempted subject to the Promise Term and Credit Limit.**~~

~END Summary of 2023 Amendments~



PURPOSE:

The Mason County Promise (the "Promise") is a significant commitment to the students and families of Mason County, whereby, Eligible Students (as defined below) will be able to earn a two-year college degree, certificate, or approved credential that is tuition free. The Mason County Promise Scholarship (the "Promise Scholarship") is an award that is "promised" to resident graduates of an Eligible School (as defined below). The Promise provides the financial assistance necessary to obtain a two-year degree or its equivalent, including any certificate programs offered by West Shore Community College ("West Shore"), when used in conjunction with federal and state grants. The Promise Scholarship will promote postsecondary education and training, while preparing students for future success. The Promise provides the financial assistance necessary to obtain technical or vocational certification, in addition to the equivalent credits needed to obtain an associate degree at West Shore. The hope is that the Promise will provide education and training opportunities to Mason County residents that graduate from an Eligible School in an effort to enhance the skilled trades and the workforce development of our community, and thus, continuing to improve the economic growth of Mason County.

MASON COUNTY PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Students will have a maximum of six years from the date of high school graduation from an Eligible School, or from the date of issuance of an approved high school credential, GED, or its equivalent as determined by the Authority Board, from an Eligible School to use the Promise Scholarship. Eligible Students will receive funding for Mason County Promise Zone Authority Board (the "Authority Board") approved qualified educational expenses at West Shore to cover a maximum of 72 attempted credits. 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.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

In order to be an Eligible Student ("Eligible Student") and receive Promise Scholarship proceeds, a student must meet the following criteria for Residency and Graduation, FAFSA Completion, Enrollment and FERPA Release as defined below:

1. Residency and Graduation Requirement:
 - A. Residency Requirement
 - i. Residence in Mason County for a least one full school year, including the Eligible Student's graduation year and graduate from and Eligible School. Residence is defined as the Eligible Student's primary residence.

- Students who qualify as homeless under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 11301 et seq., will be deemed to meet the residency requirement if their homeless status is verified by the Eligible School that they attend.
- B. Graduation Requirement
 - i. Graduate from one of the following Schools (each, an “Eligible School”)
 - A public or nonpublic school that is registered and recognized by (1) the State of Michigan or (2) the West Shore Educational Service District.
 - A home school that is registered and recognized with the West Shore Educational Service District for a least the Eligible Student’s entire graduation year.
 - Obtain a GED or its equivalent.
 2. Free Application for Federal Student Aid (the “FAFSA”) Requirement:
 - A. Complete the FAFSA each year that the student intends to seek proceeds from the Promise Scholarship
 - Eligible Students must list the institution at which they intend to receive Promise funding as the first college choice on the FAFSA (not applicable to summer guest students).
 3. West Shore Community College Enrollment Requirement:
 - A. Maintain enrollment at West Shore.
 4. Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (the “FERPA”) Release Requirement:
 - A. Complete and submit the FERPA release to the Authority Board and West Shore.

TERMS OF THE MASON COUNTY PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP:

Eligible Students will receive funding for tuition and mandatory fees up to the cost of obtaining an associate degree or its equivalent at the prevailing West Shore tuition rate. An Eligible Student's Promise Scholarship amount will be the balance remaining for tuition and mandatory fees at West Shore, after the student has applied for and accepted all federal and state grants for a given year. Proceeds from the Promise Scholarship shall be paid directly to West Shore. The Authority Board reserves the right to expand the list of qualifying institutions by majority vote of the Authority Board. Eligible Students will also have the opportunity to qualify for an educational supplies allowance as defined below.

While in attendance at West Shore, Eligible Students must comply with the following Standards of Academic Progress to remain eligible for the Promise Scholarship:

1. Students must maintain a minimum semester and cumulative grade point average (“GPA”) of 2.0 that is calculated from all attempted classes that earn GPA points. Incompletes, withdrawals, forgiven repeats, transfer credits, and developmental classes are excluded from the GPA calculation.
2. Each semester, Eligible Students must complete all attempted credits at a pace of at least 67%, including courses below the 100 level. Incompletes, withdrawals, and repeated classes are used to calculate the completion rate.

Students must also comply with the Mason County Promise Scholarship Student Success Guidelines. These guidelines include participation in: placement test preparation sessions, student orientation, educational plans or audits, check-in meetings with counseling or college staff, exam study sessions, and early warning intervention strategies.

Eligible Students will have a maximum of six years from the date of graduation from an Eligible School, or from the date of issuance of an approved high school credential, GED, or its equivalent as determined by the Authority Board, to use Promise Scholarship monies (the “Promise Term”) to cover a maximum of 72 attempted credits which is the equivalent to an associate degree from West Shore(the “Credit Limit”). Eligible Students must apply for the Promise Scholarship annually and provide a copy of their West Shore transcript with the application. Eligible Students must also supply notice of any financial aid awards for the next year of college attendance. The amount of an Eligible Student’s Promise Scholarship may be adjusted each year based on any revised financial aid information provided.

EDUCATIONAL SUPPLIES ALLOWANCE:

Beginning with the 2023-24 academic year, all recipients of a Promise Scholarship (the “Promise Scholars”) can qualify to receive an annual educational supplies allowance for an amount determined by the Authority Board to pay for books, supplies and equipment needed to complete their course of study (the “Supplies Allowance”). Promise Scholars may receive the Supplies Allowance for up to two academic years (i.e. four semesters), which can be used for required books, educational supplies, and equipment, as outlined by their course syllabus. Promise Scholars may qualify for the Supplies Allowance through participation in Authority Board-approved student success initiatives that are available to all Promise Scholars. Promise Scholars will be notified how to qualify for the Supplies Allowance in the initial scholarship award approval notice, and in the first annual renewal approval notice.

ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS:

The Promise Scholarship may be used for any program authorized by West Shore, including, but not limited to: vocational or technical certificates or associate degree programs that are authorized and approved by West Shore.

PROCESS FOR APPEAL(S):

Eligible Students may appeal to the Authority Board to either (1) defer use of the Promise Scholarship or (2) seek review of the denial of their eligibility. All appeals must be made in writing to the Authority Board and shall contain the Eligible Student's name, address, date of birth, and phone number; the basis for the appeal; and any other supporting documents pertinent to the Eligible Student's claim or appeal. When all required materials are received, the Chairman of the Authority Board will place the appeal on the Authority Board’s next meeting's agenda and send copies of the appeal and all supporting documents to each Authority Board member. The Authority Board shall issue a written decision within 60 days of the date of the meeting at which the appeal was first considered. Eight (8) of the eleven (11) members of the Authority Board must approve the appeal in order for it to be granted to the Eligible Student. The appeal form may be found on the Authority Board's website.

Good cause for granting an appeal may include, but is not limited to: incapacitation, homelessness, death of an immediate family member, military service, or other family obligations such as birth or adoption of a child.

Dual enrollment credits earned by the Eligible Student will not negatively impact the student's eligibility for the Promise Scholarship, as the grade points earned from dual enrollment classes will not count toward determining eligibility for the Promise Scholarship. Issues relating to this may be subject to the appeal process, as described above.

CONTINUATION THROUGHOUT COLLEGE:

Eligible Students receiving the Promise Scholarship must apply for its continuation each year by demonstrating their continued eligibility and providing a copy of their official academic transcripts to the Authority Board or its designee. The Eligible Student agrees to sign an information release form allowing the Authority Board access to the student's GPA and transcript to ensure compliance with the Standards of Academic Progress requirements of the Promise Scholarship, as outlined in the "Terms of the Mason County Promise Scholarship" section of this Amended Promise Zone Development Plan (the "Plan") above. The amount of the Eligible Student's Promise Scholarship may be adjusted each year based on any revised financial aid information provided to the Authority Board.

PROMISE ZONE AUTHORITY ADMINISTRATION:

Oversight of the Promise Scholarship will be provided by the Authority Board, in partnership with West Shore. All decisions of the Authority Board shall be final.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE MASON COUNTY PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP:

The Promise Scholarship will be funded through a combination of community support, gifts from private donors, corporate and foundation investments, federal or state financial aid available to Mason County students, and all other eligible sources. The Authority Board is charged with developing and implementing a development plan to fund the Promise Scholarship. The minimum projected amount needed for the first two years of operation has been calculated using three (3) scenarios. First, using the historical actuarial model, where 20% of the Eligible Students attend West Shore, the minimum projected funding needed is \$135,448. Second, using a median actuarial model, where 50% of the Eligible Students attend West Shore, the minimum projected funding needed is \$453,370. Finally, using a model that allows all Eligible Students with a GPA at or above 2.00 to attend West Shore and where 90% of the Eligible Students attend West Shore, the minimum projected funding needed is \$877,265. Each of these three estimates reflects the funding needed to cover the cost of the Promise Scholarship for two (2) years.

The first five years of operation under the final scenario where all Eligible Students (i.e. 90% of the graduates) enroll at West Shore is \$2,757,443. The Mason County Promise Zone Authority is confident that its fundraising plans will succeed in securing sufficient funds to pay these and subsequent costs as they are required. The fundraising plan is to seek the financial resources necessary to support the issuance of Promise Scholarship to the Class of 2018 and the Class of 2019 through privately earned donations. Future graduating classes will be issued Promise Scholarships through the capture of the State Education Tax (the "SET") dollars and the tax increment financing structure that exists in state statute.

MASON COUNTY PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISING PLAN:

The Authority Board will engage in a fundraising approach that will include the following:

- Establishment of a Community Campaign - This campaign will target large and small donors and will depend upon personal contacts and participation by prominent members of the community, as well as the Authority Board. The campaign will include any Mason County resident with vested interest, area district alumnae, small local businesses, and local community efforts. An active online giving campaign will be created. A presentation was made to the Mason County Township Association on April 19, 2018.
 - o Donors may contribute to the **Mason County Promise Fund** through the Community Foundation for Mason County online at www.mason-foundation.org, or by sending a check to the Community Foundation for Mason County with Mason County Promise written on the memo line to P.O. Box 10, Ludington, Michigan 49431.
- Solicitation of Major Gift Donors -The Major Gift Campaign will be a directed campaign that centers on prominent individuals with the capability of making contributions of \$1,000 or greater and will use a highly personalized approach to raise significant funds within a short period of time. The Authority Board will tell the organization's story to the community's most influential people and quickly raise awareness for the tax increment financing structure to provide a significant long-term return on investment, and thus the need to consider giving to the Promise. A presentation is planned with the fund holders of the Mason County Community Foundation on April 30, 2018.
- Solicitation of Corporations and Foundations - Local corporations and foundations will be approached centering on a social and economic investment in our students. Targets will be several key corporations that impact Mason County area residents for employment opportunity, as well as local foundations within the community that may have an expressed interest in donating to the Promise.
- Planned Giving - This campaign will be designed to reach donors who wish to leave a legacy after their death, and the proceeds from these planned giving events will be done in partnership with the Community Foundation for Mason County.

EVALUATION PLAN AND ANNUAL REPORT:

The Mason County Promise Zone Authority will develop an evaluation plan to measure the extent to which the Promise Scholarship and program services are impacting success among the Promise Scholars. This involves: (1) establishing and implementing a strategic plan accompanied by benchmarks against which annual progress can be measured; (2) developing the capacity to keep and track relevant student data; (3) conducting an analysis of college attendance and persistence behaviors among Mason County graduates; and (4) establishing data-sharing partnerships with the partnering post-secondary institution; including a comprehensive annual report and assessment that will be submitted in writing to the Michigan Department of Treasury, no later than October 31st of each year.

This annual report shall include the following information, which may be obtained, in whole or in part, from any reliable source that complies with applicable laws regarding student privacy:

- a) The number of Eligible Students who received financial assistance pursuant to the Plan during the prior academic year.
- b) Of those Eligible Students accounted for under subparagraph a) above, the number who successfully completed the following:
 - i) A certificate or associate program.
 - ii) A bachelor's program.
- c) Of those Eligible Students accounted for under subparagraph a) above, the number who withdrew from classes during the prior academic year.
- d) Of those Eligible Students accounted for under subparagraph a) above who initially reached successful completion of more than the equivalent of 23 semester credits during the prior academic year, the average time to successfully complete the equivalent of 24 semester credits.
- e) The 6-year graduation rate for recipients of financial assistance pursuant to the Plan.

BEGINNING OF THE MASON COUNTY PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS:

The first Promise Scholarship awards will be awarded to Eligible Students in the Class of 2018, unless private donations are insufficient to cover the costs associated with carrying out the Plan and provide funding to cover those Promise Scholarship awards for two years. It is the intent of the Authority Board to raise the necessary private donations to issue Promise Scholarships to the Class of 2018. Cohort application deadlines will be under development.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS FOR MASON COUNTY PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS:

The Mason County Promise Zone Authority estimates that the total Promise Scholarship awards will cost approximately \$286,688 for the first year that the Promise Scholarship is authorized. The second year will cost approximately \$590,577, which will fund the second year of cohort one, and the first year of cohort two. Total required funding for the Promise Scholarships for the first two (2) years is estimated to be \$877,265 and required funding, including the SET capture money, for scholarships for the first five (5) years is estimated to \$2,757,443.

The Promise will provide an annual Promise Scholarship based on prevailing tuition rates and mandatory fees at West Shore. The analysis assumes that at least 90% of Eligible Students will attend West Shore upon graduation from an Eligible School, 90% will graduate with a GPA of 2.00 or higher, 56% of those would qualify for Federal Pell grants and 7% of the students who attend will qualify for full Tuition Incentive Program (“TIP”) benefits.

If as projected, future SET growth results in revenues that exceed the cost of the Promise Scholarship described in this Plan, the Authority Board reserves the right to consider modification to the Promise Scholarship as it strives for quality implementation. This includes modifying the eligibility requirements, expanding the Promise to additional partnering higher education institutions, or other modifications as approved by the Authority Board.

Appendix J

Board Meeting Minutes & Concordance Related to 2023 Plan Amendment July 10, 2023 September 11, 2023, & October 9, 2023

Note: Changes proposed and approved as follows:

7-10-23: Item 7.A.ii.1.a (Approved on 8-14-23)

9-11-23: Item 7.a.i.3. (Approved on 10-9-23)

10-9-23: Items 7.b.i.2.c. & 8.a.i. Amended Plan Approved & Concordance Signed (Approved on 11-13-23)



Mason County Promise Zone Authority Board Meeting
Monday, July 10, 2023, 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Minutes

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

Members present: Juliana Anderson, Vic Burwell, Fabian Knizacky, Roger Nash, Annette Quillan, Amy Pepper, Chad Riffle, Monica Schuyler, Kathy Surd, Dena Thurston, & Joan Vidak

Staff present: Jody Maloney

1. **Call to Order:** Schuyler called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.
2. **Limited Public Comment:** Quillan submitted comment about the 4th of July parade and a suggestion from a member of the public to add a QR code to the banner. A written copy of the comment is provided at the end of the minutes.
3. **Approval of the Agenda:** *Motion to approve the agenda by Knizacky, supported by Nash; Motion carried 11-0-0.*
4. **Approval of the Minutes**
 - a. *6-13-2023: Schuyler suggested correction of the word "agenda" to "minutes." Motion to approve the minutes with the correction by Thurston, supported by Riffle; motion carried 11-0-0.*
5. **Treasurer's Report:**
 - a. 2022 Audit:
https://www.masoncountypromise.org/files/ugd/689df5_01c4e0e937d649b894fccb15ee77e2c4.pdf
 - b. Balance Report for June 2023: \$ 1,543,420.65: Knizacky noted that there is a \$7968.36 credit to the account from interest, which can be used consistent with the Promise mission.
 - c. Refund—MMRMA: \$207.00: Quillan inquired if Maloney should be covered by this insurance policy; Maloney responded that the director role is covered by a different policy, and that MMRMA covers Board members only.
 - d. Invoices (all included in budget):
 1. Clark Schaeffer Hackett--2022 Audit: \$9500.00
 2. Michigan State University: 2023-24 College Adviser Local Match: \$15000.00
 3. *Approval of invoices: See Approval of Treasurer's Report.*
 - e. *Approval of Treasurer's Report: Motion by Vidak to approve the invoices and Treasurer's Report, with support from Riffle; Motion carried 11-0-0.*
6. **Director's Report**
 - a. *Approval of Director's Report: Motion by Nash to approve the Director's Report, with support from Vidak; Motion carried 11-0-0.*
7. **New Business**
 - a. Committee Reports:
 - i. Appeals Committee: Did not meet; Next Meeting: 8-21-23@11AM
 - ii. Student Success Committee: Met: 6-26-23@10AM; Next meeting: 7-24-23@10AM; (8-2023 Cancelled)
 1. *Recommendation on FAFSA Development Plan Language Issue: Quillan suggested to break the recommendation up into two motions, one to change the language plan, and one to honor the commitment.*
 - a. *Motion by Knizacky to change the plan language to require that scholars must list the institution at which they intend to receive Promise funding as first on their FAFSA, with support from Surd; Motion carried 11-0-0.*
 - b. *Motion by Surd to support the Student Success Committee's recommendation and fulfill our commitment to pay the amount needed to support the student, supported by Thurston; Motion carried, 9-2-0, with Pepper and Quillan opposed.*
 - iii. Community Engagement Committee: Met: 6-13-23@2PM; Next Meeting: 8-2-23@3:30PM

1. Reviewed these talking points for Board Members: Knizacky suggested rearranging the Board talking points to place the Promise Scholarship information first and partner information **second last**.
- iv. Executive Committee: Met: 6-14-23@2PM; Next Meeting 10-16-23@1PM
 1. *Seeking clarification of Board intent: Are the recent changes retroactive to all eligible cohorts vs. effective for the 2023 graduation class and thereafter?*
 - a. *Homeschooled graduates registered with the state/ESD?*
 - b. *Residents who lived in Mason County and graduated from outside of Mason County?*
 - i. *Motion by Knizacky to offer the recently approved changes so students from any cohort since 2018 can now use the Promise, with support from Nash; Motion carried 11-0-0.*
 - ii. *Recommended a policy for legislative renewals, for Board consideration: Motion to approve the legislative renewal policy (as written below), with support from Anderson; Surd inquired about how the list will be developed, with committee members responding that it will align with the current process for locally selected Board members; Motion carried 11-0-0.*

Legislatively Appointed Board Member Renewal Policy

1. For Legislatively Appointed Members, the member(s) up for renewal will be asked to inform the Board at the October meeting, prior to the term's end, of their interest in continuing to serve another four-year term.
2. Prior to the Thanksgiving legislative recess, the Director will send a notice to the appropriate legislative member in the appropriate branch of the legislature, which will state:
 - a. Who is currently appointed to serve;
 - b. If the member is not interested in continuing their service, indicate that the member wishes to decline reappointment;
 - c. That the Board can provide input on the appointment or reappointment, if desired.
 - i. If the Board desires, they can follow the Promise Zone Authority Board handbook's New Board Member Selection Policy for a Legislatively Appointed Member's "unexpected vacancy" to develop and submit a list of potential appointment alternatives, for inclusion in the notice to the legislative office.
3. Regardless of the Board's action or opinion, the appropriate legislative branch has the sole power to select and appoint a new Board member, or reappoint the Board member serving in this role or upon the term's end.

8. Old Business

- a. Growth Discussion: Setting the Stage
 - i. State Education Tax Capture
 - ii. PZ Law Basics
 - iii. Goals & Growth Overview
 - iv. Growth Feedback
 1. Related Data—Will review in depth at a future date; Send Director additional thoughts
 - a. Burwell suggested that no matter what priorities the Board opts for, it should avoid growth that requires fundraising.
 - b. Knizacky suggested that it would be helpful to hear from the community.
 - c. Nash put forth that the Board should consider part time students and that the goal should be to help as many students as we can.
 - d. Knizacky added that if coaching is a priority, there should be a requirement to participate.
- v. Next Steps:
 1. Revisit our Vision & Determine Growth Priorities through Goals & Financial Framework
 - a. Data will be reviewed in August, with financial projections.

9. Any Other Business: None

10. Limited Public Comment: None

11. Adjourn: Schuyler moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:11 PM.



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

Monday September 11th, 2023; 3- 5 p.m.

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

Members Present:

Vic Burwell, Fabian Knizacky, Amy Pepper, Chad Riffle, Monica Schuyler, Kathy Surd, Dena Thurston, Joan Vidak, Annette Quillan (arrived at 3:01), Juliana Anderson (arrived at 3:15)

Members Absent:

Roger Nash

Staff Present:

Jody Maloney, Myndi Dangler & Kristi Zimmerman

1. **Call to Order:** *Monica Schuyler called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.*
2. **Limited Public Comment:** None
3. **Approval of the Agenda**
 - a. *Motion to approve the agenda by Pepper, with support from Burwell; Motion carried 8-0-3.*
4. **Approval of Minutes from 8-14-2023**
 - a. *Motion by Knizacky to approve minutes, supported by Vidak; Motion carried 9-0-2 (Quillan arrived).*
5. **Treasurer's Report:**
 - a. Balance Report for August 2023: \$1,497,171.30
 - b. Invoices (all included in budget based on 8-2023 amendment):
 - i. WSCC College for Kids: \$24,125.25
 - ii. *Approval of Invoices*
 - c. *Approval of Treasurer's Report*
 - i. *Motion to approve invoices and Treasurer's Report by Burwell, supported by Riffle; Discussion—Quillan asked if the Director received any information about the number of classes offered, to which Maloney responded that it was not part of the Board's requirements in order to fund the scholarships and Schuyler noted that WSCC will be presenting on the event at the October Board meeting; Motion carried 9-0-2.*
6. **Director's Report**
 - a. *Approval of the Director's Report: Motion by Knizacky to approve Director's Report, supported by Vidak; Motion carried 9-0-2.*
7. **New Business**
 - a. Committee Reports:
 - i. Appeals Committee: Met: 8-21-23@11AM; Next meeting: 12-4-23@11AM
 1. 10 appeals considered: 9 appeals approved; 1 denied.
 2. *Recommendation to amend development plan to include McKinney-Vento students (REF #5)*
 3. *Motion by Knizacky to approve an amendment development plan to include McKinney-Vento students, support by Burwell; Schuyler added that this amendment and the FAFSA first choice amendment will be provided to the full Board for review in October; Motion carried 9-0-2.*
 - ii. Student Success Committee: Did not meet; Next meeting: 9-25-23@10AM; (8-2023 Canceled)

- iii. Community Engagement Committee: Did not meet; Next Meeting: 11-1-23
- iv. Executive Committee: Did not meet; Next Meeting 10-16-23@1PM
- b. Board Member Terms Ending on December 31, 2023:
 - i. The following Board members are up for renewal; renewals will be voted on in October:
 - 1. Annette Quillan—Local—Submitted intent to renew
 - 2. Monica Schuyler—Legislative—Can submit intent to renew at October Board meeting
 - 3. Dena Thurston—Local—Submitted intent to decline an additional term

8. Old Business

- a. Growth Discussion: Discuss & Decide on Growth Priorities
 - i. Level Setting: Promise Overview—Maloney reviewed what the Promise offers and options for growth that were previously identified.
 - ii. Discussion: What would we most like to see happen in the future?—Kristi Lucas-Zimmerman
 - 1. Small group discussion
 - a. Examining options: Board members discussed what they would most like to see happen in, based on the Promise Vision word that was most important to them.
 - 2. Full group activity
 - a. Selecting a priority on which to move forward—Board members discussed and put forth two versions of the following two options with related details:
 - i. Adding Success Coaching
 - 1. For first year scholars to support transition to college
 - 2. To all scholars regardless of institution
 - 3. Coaching participation would be expected or mandatory at a certain level to provide necessary interventions; consider incentivizing participation as well
 - 4. To make connections to community resources, develop relationships with students who attend in and out-of-county post-secondary institutions that supports their academic and personal success, and to maintain connections between Mason County and students who have left the community .
 - ii. Adding Additional Institutions
 - 1. Broaden incrementally to:
 - a. Provide opportunities not available through WSCC
 - b. Support post-secondary aspirations of dual-enrolled students who have maximized their coursework at WSCC during high school
 - c. Allow students to explore opportunities outside of Mason County.
 - 2. Limit to 72 credits at WSCC rates.
 - iii. Maloney will send minutes and request that Board members
 - 1. Review the discussion notes
 - 2. Submit any clarifying questions they may have about the identified priorities to director prior to October
 - 3. Submit any request for data that they'd like to see related to the priorities prior to October.

9. Any Other Business: None

10. Limited Public Comment: None

11. Adjourn: *Schuyler moved for adjournment at 5:31 PM.*



Mason County Promise Zone Authority Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes: Monday, October 9, 2023, 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Location: Lakeshore Resource Network Conference Room, E. Tinkham, Ludington, MI

Members Present:

Juliana Anderson, Fabian Knizacky, Roger Nash, Amy Pepper, Chad Riffle, Monica Schuyler, Kathy Surd, Dena Thurston, Joan Vidak, Annette Quillan

Members Absent:

Vic Burwell

Staff Present:

Jody Maloney

1. **Call to Order:** Schuyler called the meeting to order at 3:01 PM.
2. **Limited Public Comment:** None
3. **Approval of the Agenda:** Motion by Knizacky to approve the agenda, supported by Thurston; motion carried 10-0-1.
4. **Approval of the Minutes from 9-11-2023:** Motion by Knizacky to approve the minutes, supported by Nash; motion carried 10-0-1.
5. **Treasurer's Report:**
 - a. Balance Report for September 2023: \$1,449,323.85; Knizacky reported that changes from last month included \$5001.99 in dividend income, and the first payment of the Educational Supplies Award.
 - b. Invoices (all included in approved budget):
 - i. WSCC for Educational Supplies Award FA23: \$44,114.92
 1. 90 students awarded based on FAFSA completion & registration by August 1, 2023; one dropped prior to using award, and one dropped after using a partial award, for a total of 89 awarded.
 - c. *Approval of Invoices & Treasurer's Report: Nash motioned to approve the invoice and Treasurer's Report, supported by Riffle; Motion carried 10-0-1.*
6. **Director's Report**
 - a. *Approval of Director's Report: Surd made a motion to approve the Director's Report, with support from Vidak; Motion carried 10-0-1.*
7. **New Business**
 - a. **Guest Presentation:** Wendy Wells provided an overview of the 2023 College for Kids program at West Shore Community College, including 284 9-15 year-old students, 155 from Mason County. 25% of Mason County youth depended on transportation provided by the program to get to campus. 41 sections of 26 classes were offered. Board members requested a copy of the presentation, which Maloney will distribute.
 - b. **Committee Reports:**
 - i. Appeals Committee: Met: 10-9-23@11AM; Next Meeting: 12-4-23@11AM
 1. 10 appeals considered: 9 approved, 1 deferred to December
 2. *Recommendations will be provided at the Board meeting:*
 - a. *Recommendation to Approve 9 Appeals: Motion by Riffle to approve the 9 recommended appeals, with support from Knizacky; Motion carried 10-0-1.*
 - b. *Request for input on Appeals to exceed 72 credits: Motion by Vidak to empower the Appeals Committee to support appeals beyond 72 credits, supported by Nash; Motion carried 9-1-1.*
 - c. *Recommendation to Remove the 9-Credit Minimum Requirement: Motion by Knizacky to remove the 9-credit minimum for fall and winter semester for the next Promise Zone*

plan amendment, with support from Nash; Discussion: Surd inquired how it would affect the Educational Supplies Award eligibility, which would remain available for two years; Motion carried 10-0-1.

- ii. Student Success Committee: Met: 9-25-23@10AM; Next Meeting: 10-23-23@11AM
 - 1. *Recommendation: 2024 FAFSA Initiative: Motion by Knizacky to approve the recommendation to include 2024 FAFSA Completion Initiative funding at last year's rates (\$5000 total) in the 2024 proposed budget, supported by Riffle; Motion carried 10-0-1.*
 - 2. *Recommendation: 2024 College for Kids Scholarships: Motion by Nash to approve the recommendation to fund College for Kids scholarships in 2024, providing up to \$25,000, with a request to include the number of scholarship recipients on the invoice, supported by Anderson; Motion carried 9-0-1-1 (Pepper abstained due to conflict of interest).*
- iii. Community Engagement Committee: Did not meet; Next Meeting: 11-1-23
- iv. Executive Committee: Did not meet; Next Meeting 10-16-23@1PM
- c. Board Member Terms Ending on December 31, 2023:
 - i. The following Board members are up for renewal; renewals will be voted on in October: *Motion by Knizacky to accept the two renewal letters (Quillan renewing, Thurston not renewing), supported by Pepper; Motion carried 9-0-1-1 (Thurston abstained).*
 - 1. *Annette Quillan—Local--Submitted intent to renew*
 - 2. *Monica Schuyler—Must submit intent in October 2023; No action from Board required. Schuyler indicated intent to renew. Maloney will submit a renewal request letter prior to the November recess.*
 - 3. *Dena Thurston--Local—Submitted intent to decline an additional term*

8. Old Business

- a. *2023 Amended Plan (REF #6): Motion to Approve Needed: Motion by Knizacky to approve the amended plan with the added removal of the 9-credit minimum requirement, supported by Nash; Motion carried 10-0-1.*
 - i. *Authorize by Signing Concordance: Members who were present signed the concordance as reflected in the form attached to the minutes.*
- b. 2023 SET Capture: \$948,654.00
- c. Growth Discussion: Follow-Up: Riffle requested that the form be emailed so that Board members could provide individual responses to the Director.
 - i. Success Coaching: SSC is working on questions
 - ii. Expansion to Other Institutions
 - 1. Clarifying question submitted: What institutions do students typically attend? Maloney reviewed that the top five college trajectories over the last five years for Mason County-based students were GVSU, MSU, Ferris, U of M, and MTU, in that order, with GVSU, Ferris, MSU and MTU serving students from four schools, and Ferris serving students from all five.

9. Any Other Business: Pepper shared that Michigan ReConnect has expanded to support students age 21-24.




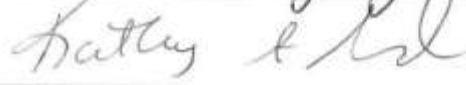





10. Limited Public Comment: None

11. Adjourn: Schuyler moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:35 PM.

Mason County Promise Zone 2023

CONCORDANCE – SIGNATURES:

We, the undersigned, have mutually committed to the content and scope of this amended plan. The Mason County Promise Zone Authority Board will work together to accomplish the goals and objectives, and implement the requirements set forth in this document. Approved by a majority of the Board members on October 9, 2023.

Name & Role	Signature
Monica Schuyler, Chair Legislatively Appointed Member	
Dena Thurston, Vice Chair Elected Member	
Fabian Knizacky, Treasurer Elected Member	
Kathy Surd, Secretary Elected Member	
Juliana Anderson Elected Member	
Victor Burwell Legislatively Appointed Member	
Roger Nash Elected Member	
Amy Pepper Elected Member	
Annette Quillan Elected Member	
Chad Riffle Elected Member	
Joan Vidak Elected Member	