

**PROCEEDINGS
OF
THE PROMISE ZONE AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN**

OFFICIAL

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BOARD CHAMBERS/1331 FRANKLIN STREET SE**

SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Chairperson Tom DeJonge welcomed attendees and provided expectations concerning safety protocols.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2021

Meeting called to order at 2:30 p.m. by airperson Tom DeJonge.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Bliss, Mr. Faber, Ms. Grant, Mr. McComb, Ms. Weatherall Neal, Dr. Roby, Ms. Sieger, Chairperson Mr. DeJonge – 8.

Excused: Mr. Cuevas and Mr. Huizenga – 2.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairperson Mr. DeJonge asked for approval of the agenda.

Motion by Ms. Sieger, Supported by Mayor Bliss, to approve the agenda as written.

Voice Vote: Carried.

Nays: 0.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – June 10, 2021

Chairperson Mr. DeJonge asked for a motion to approve the June 10, 2021 board meeting minutes.

Motion by Ms. Grant, Supported by Mr. Faber, to approve the June 10, 2021 board meeting minutes.

Voice Vote: Carried.

Nays: 0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Grand Rapids Community College Updates

Promise Zone Director Search

Ms. Lisa Freiburger shared Mr. Evan Macklin accepted another role within Grand Rapids Community College. A search for a new director of the Promise Zone was posted and will be reviewed to evaluate potential candidates. GRCC currently have an interim director in place, Mr. Dave Selman, to handle day to day operations.

Fall 2021 Enrollment Update

Ms. Freiburger provided data concerning current enrollment. Numbers have increased since this report and will have the entire fall semester information available at the next board meeting. This year's budget was established for 320 students and has exceeded projections.

<u>Enrollment by Student Type</u>	
Type	Number of Students
Returning	138
New	263
Grand Total	401

<u>Enrollment by Credit Load</u>	
Credit Load	Number of Students
Less than 6 credits	13
6-8 credits	74
9-11 credits	89
12+ credits	225
Grand Total	401

<u>Enrollment by Pell Eligibility</u>	
Type	Number of Students
No FAFSA	35
Ineligible	148
Pell Eligible	218
Grand Total	401

<u>FAFSA Completion by Student Type</u>	
Student Type	Number of Students
Returning	171
New	399
Grand Total	401

Promise Zone Annual Report

Mr. Brian Knetl presented the 2020-2021 Grand Rapids Promise Zone Authority Progress Report. He focused on the highlights from Cohort 1. There were 319 students out of 888 eligibility to take advantage of the Promise Zone scholarship opportunity. He highlighted various data points which were also provided within the board members' packet. He touched specifically on the following from the first Promise Zone cohort:

- Four students graduated during the first year of the program.
 - One student completed an Associate's Degree.
 - Three students completed a Job Training Program.
- Promise Zone students enrolled full-time at a higher rate than the GRCC average of 30%.
 - Fall 2020—69% enrolled full-time
 - Winter 2021—48% enrolled full-time.
- Broad participation by Promise Zone Schools
 - 19/25 Promise Zone schools had students enroll at GRCC at least one semester.
 - 100% of Promise Zone schools with at least 7 eligible students had students enroll at GRCC at least one semester.
- Summer enrollment
 - 86 students enrolled in summer and completed the summer with a 2.5 GPA.
 - 28 of the 86 students were new to GRCC in the summer and averaged 7 credits.
- Retention rate from Fall 2020 to Winter 2021
 - Retention rate was 70%, which is comparable to GRCC's average.
 - Fall 2020 to Fall 2021 retention rate will be available early fall.

PromiseNet 2021 Conference

Ms. Freiburger provided board members with information on the 2021 PromiseNet conference taking place in Kalamazoo, November 8 – 9, 2021. Participants will be provided an opportunity to collaborate on shared experiences and best practices. All Promise Zone board of directors are invited to attend and is of no cost. There will be representation with Provost Brian Knetl, Ms. Lisa Freiburger, and also the new director (if hired by this date) will attend. She asked that members let her know if they are also planning to attend.

Reagan Marketing Update

Ms. Freiburger also announced that postings and minutes will be placed on the Promise Zone website – effective December 2021. She is also seeking board membership bios so these can be included with the board of directors' profiles on the website.

ACTION ITEMS

Election of New Board Members & Oath of Office

Chairperson Mr. DeJonge noted that Ms. Kate Pew Wolters' term expired June 30, 2021, creating a vacancy on the board. Ms. Holly Johnson from the Frey Foundation was recommended and has enthusiastically accepted this appointment to the board. She could not be at the meeting this afternoon due to a personal matter.

Motion by Ms. Sieger, Supported by Ms. Weatherall Neal, to accept the appointment of Ms. Holly Johnson to the Grand Rapids Promise Zone Authority Board.

Voice Vote: Carried.

Nays: 0.

Election of 2021/22 Officers – Treasurer

Chairperson Mr. DeJonge shared that Mayor Rosalyn Bliss was recommended to serve as Treasurer during the last board of directors meeting in June. She was excused that particular meeting. She enthusiastically accepts this appointment.

Motion by Mr. Faber, Supported by Ms. Grant for Mayor Rosalynn Bliss to serve as Treasurer.

Voice Vote: Carried.

Nays: 0.

Review and Consideration of Student Success Framework

Dr. Dan Quinn from Public Policy Associates joined the board meeting virtually to provide an overview of the Student Success Framework Recommendations:

1. Grand Rapids Promise Zone partner with Grand Rapids Community College to develop a peer mentoring program for GRCC students to provide guidance, support, and role modeling to aspiring Promise Zone students in a structured setting.
2. Grand Rapids Promise Zone partner with Grand Rapids Community College to work with high school counselors to design early communications and intervention measures.

It was noted these recommendations reflect the results of the task force and are aligned with the approved framework of increasing access, persistence, and degree completion of Promise Zone students.

Motion by Mr. Faber, Supported by Ms. Weatherall Neal, to accept the two recommendations as presented by Public Policy.

Voice Vote: Carried.

Nays: 0.

Approval of Disbursements

Ms. Lisa Freiburger presented disbursements, paid expenses from June 20, 2021 – August 31, 2021.

- ◆ Public Policy Associates - \$13,155.14
- ◆ GRCC Tuition – Summer Semester – \$48,328.01
- Total Disbursements - \$61,483.15

Motion by Mayor Bliss, Supported by Ms. Sieger, to accept the disbursements.

Voice Vote: Carried.

Nays: 0.

Ms. Freiburger added the Promise Zone is required to have a separate and independent audit. Grand Rapids Public Schools is tying this with the normal audit process with Grand Rapids Public Schools and conducted by Plante Moran. She anticipates Mr. Larry Oberst will provide the board an update at a future meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Chairperson Mr. Tom DeJonge provided that effective December 2021, the Grand Rapids Promise Zone Authority Board will post notices, agendas, and meeting minutes on an independent website apart from the Grand Rapids Public Schools. This website is dedicated to all things Promise Zone and will be more appropriate place for anyone looking for this information. He thanked Grand Rapids Public Schools for their work and for launching the meeting process. He also noted the next board meeting is scheduled on Thursday, December 9, 2021 at 2:30 p.m. He also referenced the Donor Reception to take place on October 11, 2021 at the GRCC Library. He is requesting all board members be present.

Dr. Roby expressed her gratitude for the start of the 2021-22 school year and is pleased to see everyone back in-person and appreciated everyone's work involved.

Ms. Weatherall Neal thanked Grand Rapids Community College for all of their work on the committee.

Mayor Bliss is grateful for everyone who is serving on this board.

Mr. McComb thanked everyone at Grand Rapids Community College for their work on the administrative end of the Promise Zone.

Mr. Faber is grateful for the start of the school year and for everyone's work.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Mr. DeJonge adjourned the meeting at 3:15 PM.

Secretary