

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

OFFICIAL

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BOARD CHAMBERS/1331 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR STREET SE**

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2022

Meeting called to order at 2:30 p.m. by Vice Chairperson Ms. Kristian Grant.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Bliss, Mr. Cuevas, Mr. Huizenga, Ms. Johnson, Mr. McComb, Dr. Roby, Ms. Sieger, and Vice Chairperson Ms. Grant – 8.

Excused: Chairperson Mr. DeJonge, Mr. Faber, and Ms. Weatherall Neal – 3.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice Chairperson Ms. Grant asked for approval of the agenda.

Motion by Mr. Cuevas, Supported by Mr. McComb, to approve the agenda as written.

Voice Vote: Carried.

Nays: 0.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – September 8, 2022

Vice Chairperson Ms. Kristian Grant asked for a motion to approve the September 8, 2022 board meeting minutes.

Motion by Ms. Johnson, Supported by Mr. Cuevas, to approve the September 8, 2022 board meeting minutes.

Voice Vote: Carried.

Nays: 0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ITEMS

Year End Audit

Mr. Larry Oberst, representing Grand Rapids Public Schools was joined by Mr. Corey VanDyke, CPA principal from Plante Moran. Mr. Oberst highlighted the details of the audit receiving an unmodified opinion by Plante Moran which is the highest level of assurance that they can provide to a set of financial statements. They also reviewed internal controls and found no deficiencies or material weaknesses. Mr. Oberst reviewed the financial standing for 2021-22.

Reagan Marketing Update

Board of Directors were asked if they had any questions in regard to the memo submitted for review within their packet, there were none. Board of Directors have been pleased with the Reagan Marketing's work.

Marketing Request for Proposal

Board members were advised that the Grand Rapids Promise Zone will be seeking requests for proposals for marketing services in January 2023. Bids will close February 3, 2023. A board member expressed this is a healthy process.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Grand Rapids Community College Updates

GRCC Enrollment and Activities

Ms. Ashlee Mishler shared an update on the winter 2022 semester enrollments. She and her team are actively enrolling students for the upcoming semester. Fall and winter retention for Promise Zone students is 70%.

The Promise Zone Department held registration sessions and conducted outreach to students who were enrolled during the winter 2022 and/or fall 2022 semesters who have not enrolled in the

winter 2023 semester to date. The department is not only making phone calls but following up with emails and text messaging.

Recruitment efforts are ongoing.

Framework Implementation Update

Ms. Ashlee Mishler provided a high level overview of work that took place partnering with Public Policy and Associates in which the Promise Zone Board adopted the Student Success Framework. This provided groundwork for three stages: access, persistence, and completion. There have been multiple meetings with the Student Success Framework Committee determining there was a need to establish a mentorship program and hiring student success coordinators. The coordinators are being phased into the high schools as the final three coordinators recently hired.

Covenant House Academy, Hope Academy, Innovation Central High School, NexTech High School, Ottawa Hills High School, and Union High School were part of the first phase to implement these coordinators. The Promise Zone Department reached out to all remaining high schools to discuss the implantation of coordinators, which is anticipated to take place at the beginning of the new year.

A soft launch of the mentorship program is slated to take effect in January 2023. Three students have completed the interest form to date. The Promise Zone Department will continue to reach out for additional mentees for the program. They are also seeking support from community members, Promise Zone Board, GRCC Foundation Board, and the greater GRCC community and networks to consider serving as a mentor.

Promise Zone Position Updates

Ms. Ashlee Mishler was pleased to recognize three new coordinators:

- ◆ Ms. Sarah Zwylhuizen (began November 28, 2022)
- ◆ Ms. Madeline Joliet (effective December 12, 2022)
- ◆ Mr. Mackenzie Houlehen (effective December 12, 2022)

Sarah Zwylhuizen and Madeline Joliet were present and invited to provide comments. The Board of Directors warmly welcomed them.

Promise Zone Student Ambassador Update

Ms. Ashlee Mishler provided the Promise Zone Department is actively recruiting Promise Zone Student Ambassadors.

Michigan Achievement Scholarship Update

Ms. Ashlee Mishler provided Board of Directors information on the Michigan Achievement Scholarship Public Act 212 of 2022 signed by Governor Gretchen Whitmer in October 2022. This will start to benefit class of 2023 and has specific criteria around it. There is more to learn concerning the bill. Early projections show that as much as 86% of Promise Zone students may be eligible. This does not take into account the full-time enrollment status, which is approximately 50% of enrolled Promise Zone students do not meet. Ms. Mishler and her team will continue to keep up to date to learn of the impact this may have on Grand Rapids Promise Zone and its students

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Disbursements

Ms. Larry Oberst submitted the following disbursements and paid expenses from September 1, 2022 – November 30, 2022:

- ◆ GRCC Schools Admin Fee – \$80,733.01
- ◆ Barnes & Noble – GRCC Bookstore – \$95,680.94
- ◆ Reagan Marketing – \$16,811.75
- ◆ Plante Moran - \$19,500.00
- ◆ Thrun Invoice Payment – \$189.00
- ◆ Grand Rapids Public Schools Student Art for Donor – \$100.00
- ◆ Total Disbursements - \$213,064.70

Motion by Mr. Huizenga, Supported by Mr. Cuevas, to accept the disbursements as presented.

Voice Vote: Carried.

Nays: 0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mayor Bliss thanked the team as this brings her joy and having students here.

Mr. Huizenga is impressed with the professionalism.

Mr. McComb expressed his gratitude.

Mr. Cuevas expressed his excitement that he will be moving into Grand Rapids.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairperson Ms. Kristian Grant adjourned the meeting at 3:37 p.m.

Secretary

Respectfully submitted by
Ms. Julie Anderson
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
of Grand Rapids Public Schools