

**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, SEPTEMBER 8, 2022

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Bliss, Mr. Cuevas, Mr. Faber, Ms. Grant, Mr. McComb, Dr. Roby, and
Chairperson Mr. DeJonge – 7.

Excused: Mr. Huizenga, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Weatherall Neal, Ms. Sieger (arrived at 2:44 p.m.)
– 4.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairperson Mr. DeJonge asked for approval of the agenda.

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

Voice Vote: Carried.

Nays: 0.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – June 20, 2022

Chairperson Mr. DeJonge asked for a motion to approve the June 20, 2022 board meeting minutes with a correction to reflect a misspeak of two officer positions. Mr. Huizenga has agreed to continue to serve in the role of Secretary while Mayor Bliss has agreed to continue to serve in the role of Treasurer. There were no concerns expressed by the board of directors to correct this.

Motion by Ms. Grant, Supported by Mr. Cuevas, to approve the June 20, 2022 board meeting minutes to reflect the correction of Mr. J.C. Huizenga serving as Secretary and Mayor Bliss serving as Treasurer.

Voice Vote: Carried.

Nays: 0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ITEMS

Chair DeJonge provided there was information within the packet for the board of directors to please read through concerning the Plante Moran Engagement Contract and a Reagan Marketing Update. They were not a part of the official agenda for reports or action but he wanted to highlight for informational. He advised if there are any questions to please let him know.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Grand Rapids Community College Updates

GRCC Enrollment and Activities

Ms. Ashlee Mishler shared an update on the Fall 2022 semester enrollment. As of this morning, there are 523 Promise Zone students enrolled through the Promise Zone of which 449 are eligible for the scholarship. There are 294 new students. The Class of 2022 represents 249 students equating to 26 percent eligible enrolled in the fall semester.

The Promise Zone Department has been working on promotions by way of photoshoots to reflect true students in the marketing. They will continue to do video shoots and interviews with Promise Zone students creating promotion videos and what the Promise Zone is doing to make a difference. There will also be a Spanish speaking video produced. Reagan Marketing is working on commercials and using materials from this.

GRCC also hosted the first Preop with Promise Zone event on August 23, 2022 to educate students as to what the Promise Zone is and the process to enroll. This has also created engagement

opportunities. A welcome back event is being planned out for returning Promise Zone students returning to the fall semester.

Recruitment efforts are underway for the Class of 2023.

Promise Zone Annual Report

Mr. Brian Knetl provided a progress report on the 2021-22 enrollment data covering fall, winter, and summer semesters. He was pleased to announce there was 511 (for cohort 2) Promise Zone students which exceeded projections. Mr. Knetl provided the following breakdown of data:

- 22 students have completed a GRCC credential and/or the Michigan Transfer Agreement (MTA).
 - 59% of the students who have completed during the 2021 – 2022 academic year were Hispanic/Latino.
- 511 Promise Zone students enrolled at GRCC – greater than the 471 predicated by the Development Plan.
- 27.6% from the Class of 2021 took advantage of the Promise Zone scholarship at GRCC.
- 17% of enrolled Promise Zone students during the 2021 – 2022 academic year completed 24 or more credit hours, while only 11% of all GRCC students.
- 60 students enrolled and took classes as a Guest student during the Summer 2022 semester. They averaged 6 credit hours that they will be able to transfer back to their home institution and apply towards their bachelor's degree.
- Significant increase in Hispanic/Latino enrollment.
 - Class of 2020 - Fall 2020: 43
 - Class of 2021 - Fall 2021

Promise Zone Position Updates

Ms. Ashlee Mishler announced two new hires to build the Promise Zone team:

- ◆ Mr. Andrew Masters will serve as Associate Director for the Promise Zone.
- ◆ Ms. Ashleigh Laho was hired as a Success Coordinator.

Interviews are underway to fill three additional Success Coordinator positions. Ms. Mishler shared her enthusiasm for the additional Promise Zone staff.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of the 6 Credit Hour Requirement Amendment

Ms. Mishler provided from time to time there are extenuating circumstances preventing students from being registered or needing to be registered for 6 credit hours such as course placement or not needing the credits as their program is at completion. This is a rare exception but want to honor the needs of these students. Chairperson DeJonge iterated the intent is to empower staff to best support student needs to allow for flexibility of legitimate exceptions.

Chairperson Mr. DeJonge requested the board's approval of the 6 Credit Hour Requirement Amendment.

Motion by Mayor Bliss, Supported by Ms. Grant, to approve the 6 credit hour requirement amendment with the language amended to include limited exceptions made,

Voice Vote: Carried.

Nays: 0.

Approval of Appeal Process Amendment

Chairperson Mr. DeJonge provided the appeal process amendment shifts the decision for approving or denying an appeal to the executive committee of the board. The Executive Committee will have the authority to make a final decision and will notify the full board what the decision is. This process was vetted through Thrun Law Firm.

Motion by Mayor Bliss, Supported by Ms. Sieger, to approve the Appeal Process Amendment as Recommended.

Voice Vote: Carried.

Nays: 0.

Approval of Disbursements

Ms. Larry Oberst will continue to support the Promise Zone following his retirement from Grand Rapids Public Schools. He presented an overview of disbursements and paid expenses from June 1, 2022 – August 31, 2022:

- ◆ GRCC Tuition – \$95,116.90
 - ◆ Barnes & Noble – GRCC Bookstore – Fall Semester - \$221.36
 - ◆ Reagan Marketing – \$1,196.69
 - ◆ Thrun – \$472.50
 - ◆ Grand Rapids Public Schools Admin. Fee – \$4,200
- Total Disbursements - \$101,207.45

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

Voice Vote: Carried.

Nays: 0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

Mayor Bliss left at 3:20 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Faber thanked the Executive Committee for their work on behalf of the full board.

Dr. Roby expressed her appreciation for the sensitivity to differentiate the supports needed for young people providing them with supports.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Mr. DeJonge adjourned the meeting at 3:22 p.m.

Secretary

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