

**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, DECEMBER 9, 2021

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. Huizenga, Ms. Johnson, Mr. McComb, Ms. Weatherall Neal, Dr. Roby, Ms. Sieger, Chairperson Mr. DeJonge – 11.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairperson Mr. DeJonge asked for approval of the agenda.

Motion by Mr. Cuevas, 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 – September 9, 2021

Chairperson Mr. DeJonge asked for a motion to approve the September 9, 2021 board meeting minutes.

Motion by Ms. Grant, Supported by Mayor Bliss, to approve the September 9, 2021 board meeting minutes.

Voice Vote: Carried.

Nays: 0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBER

Chair DeJonge introduced Holly Johnson thanking for her service and welcoming her as a board of director.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Grand Rapids Community College Updates

Introduction of Promise Zone Director Ashlee Mishler

Ms. Lisa Freiburger introduced and welcomed Ms. Ashlee Mishler the new Promise Zone Director. She was hired by Grand Rapids Community College this fall. Ms. Mishler is a GRCC alum who previously worked out of state and at Ferris State University prior to this new role.

Ms. Ashlee Mishler shared her gratitude and enthusiasm for this opportunity.

GRCC Enrollment and Activities

Ms. Ashlee Mishler shared an update on the Winter 2022 semester enrollment. This is early in the month and the college is still in the process of registering students for classes. The current data available is expected to increase. She provided data concerning enrollment based on returning or new students, enrollment by credit load with the majority of these students enrolled full-time, enrollment by Pell eligibility, and FAFSA completion by student whether returning or new. The college is continuing outreach efforts through January 2022 to increase enrollment.

Student Success Framework Update

Mr. Brian Knetl presented Ms. Mishler will be taking over the student success framework. The team implemented the specific initiatives related to the Student Success Framework created in collaboration with Public Policy Associates. The team is comprised of representation from all of the school districts as well as Promise Zone partners to work through the framework of the initiatives laid out by Public Policy Associates. There are three different areas to focus on student

success: access, persistence and attentions, and completion. The team is planning to return to the GRPZA board to bring forth implementation initiatives. He provided the list of initiatives and proven practices for promise zone networks similar to Grand Rapids.

Reagan Marketing Update

Ms. Freiburger provided Reagan Marketing staff is present if the board has any questions relative to their report. The update was included as a written report in their packet.

Donor Recognition Update

Mr. Josh Spencer, vice president of Kennari Consulting. Reminded the board they exceeded their fundraising efforts raising \$3,182,000 with 15 donors. The donors were recognized in a couple of ways. They developed 24 signs placed in each of the school districts representing the Grand Rapids Promise Zone and 2 larger signs at City Hall and GRCC in recognition of the donors. They also commissioned student artwork to frame and send a thank you to each of the donors.

Audit Update

Mr. Larry Oberst, chief financial officer at Grand Rapids Public Schools was joined by 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 2020-21.

ACTION ITEMS

Audit Acceptance

Chairperson Mr. DeJonge requested the board's approval of the Audit Report presented by Plante Moran.

Motion by Mayor Bliss, Supported by Ms. Weatherall Neal, to accept the Audie Acceptance by Plante Moran .

Voice Vote: Carried.

Nays: 0.

Approval of State Required Certifications

Chairperson Mr. DeJonge provided the board needs to approve two certifications to ensure compliance: Certificate of Incumbency and Promise Zone Annual Certification of Compliance. Mr. Oberst provided this must go along with the audit report.

Motion by Mr. Faber, Supported by Ms. Grant to approve the Annual Resolution for Compliance.

Voice Vote: Carried.

Nays: 0.

Approval of Disbursements

Ms. Larry Oberst presented disbursements, paid expenses from September 1, 2021 – November 30, 2021.

- ◆ GRCC Bookstore – Fall Semester - \$71,925.72
 - ◆ Plante & Moran Audit Fees - \$15,500.00
 - ◆ Public Policy Associates - \$1,834.94
 - ◆ Reagan Marketing - \$11,420.50
- Total Disbursements - \$100,681.16

Motion by Mayor Bliss, Supported by Mr. Cuevas, to accept the disbursements.

Voice Vote: Carried.

Nays: 0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Chairperson Mr. Tom DeJonge welcomed Ms. Ashlee Mishler the new Promise Zone Director on behalf of the board and is excited for her to work alongside them. He also thanked Mr. Larry Oberst and Plante Moran for their work.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Mr. DeJonge adjourned the meeting at 3:00 PM.

Secretary