

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

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2023

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Mr. Cuevas, Mr. McComb, Ms. Weatherall Neal, Ms. Sieger, and Chair DeJonge – 5.

Excused: Mayor Bliss, Mr. Faber (arrived at 2:35 p.m.), Ms. Grant, Mr. Huizenga, Ms. Johnson,
Dr. Roby – 6.

This meeting did not have a quorum when Roll Call was taken.

MEETING PROTOCOLS

Chairperson Mr. DeJonge provided the meeting will not include any action items as a quorum was not met upon roll call.

Out of respect for individuals who were scheduled to present, members determined they would allow the meeting to move forward as a reporting out session.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Grand Rapids Community College Updates

President Dr. Charles W. Lepper

Ms. Ashlee Mishler, Promise Zone Director, shared Dr. Charles W. Lepper, Grand Rapids Community College President will be in attendance at the June 2023 meeting. She also provided that Provost Dr. Brian Knetl was appointed president of a college and in his place until the position is filled, is Dr. Tina Hoxie who has come back to support during the interim.

GRCC Enrollment & Activities Update

Ms. Ashlee Mishler, Promise Zone Director, provided enrollment numbers for Promise Zone students for the winter 2023 semester:

<u>Enrollment by Student Type</u>		<u>Enrolment by Credit Load</u>	
Type	Number of Students	Credit Load	Number of Students
Returning	400	Less than 6 credits	23
New	44	6-8 credits	124
Grand Total	444	9-11 credits	125
		12+ credits	172
		Grand Total	444

444 reflects the number of students who are enrolled that are, or at some point and time were, eligible for the Promise Zone Scholarship. 209 students enrolled are from the class of 2022. At some point in time, 365 students are enrolled and have scholarship eligibility.

<u>Enrollment by Pell Eligibility</u>		<u>FAFSA Completion by Student Type</u>	
No FAFSA	29	Returning	381
Ineligible	176	New	34
Pell Eligible	239	Grand Total	415
Grand Total	444		

Ms. Mishler also highlighted activities that have occurred over the last quarter:

- ◆ Held 6 Promise Zone information session (one virtual, one Spanish)
- ◆ Held 3 FAFSA completion workshops for current and prospective students (one in Spanish)
- ◆ Had a table at the GRPS Expo and Snow Spectacular
- ◆ 14 after-school events supported by Promise Zone Success Coordinators

Promise Zone Coordinator Update

Ms. Mishler reported that Promise Zone Coordinators have communicated with almost all Promise Zone high schools and created a plan to assist eligible students with post-secondary planning. There has been a multitude of ways the coordinators have engaged with students to support them in filling out college applications, FAGS, essays, and touring the MTEC. The coordinators have also assisted with coordinating and supporting events, classroom presentations, and other activities to support Promise Zone students.

Highlights of their work includes they met with over 180 students, assisted with over 100 FAFSA applications, Assisted with over 100 college applications, and supported 14 after-school events. Ms. Mishler expressed her appreciation for the efforts of Promise Zone Coordinators.

Ms. Mackenzie Houlehan, Promise Zone Coordinator, provided the board of directors with insight on the roles of the coordinators. They have a caseload of 300 plus students and are assigned to six schools. Ms. Mishler shared a touching promotional video sharing the stories of two Promise Zone students, Lucy and Ricardo.

2023 Graduation Celebration

An invitation will be going out to the Promise Zone Board of Directors to celebrate the Class of 2023 Promise Zone graduates on April 27, 2023 between 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Michigan Achievement Scholar

Ms. Lisa Freiburger provided that Pell funds followed by TIP, then Promise Zone will fill in the gaps The Michigan Achievement Scholar funds will supplement after Promise Zone funds are utilized for students. The state listed \$1,750 minimum refund to use on educational expenses. This will not impact the Promise Zone budget. The Michigan Achievement Scholarship is refund based.

Marketing RFP

The Promise Zone worked with GRCC's Purchasing to put out the bid for marketing. They also contacted four firms to make them aware of the bid process. No bids were received. GRCC's Communications Department has agreed to take this on for one year using the allocated Promise Zone budget.

UPCOMING BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

Board of Director Insurance Coverage

Chair DeJonge asked Ms. Lisa Freiburger if she had any concerns with the planned item for D&O Coverage for the Board of Directors. This was a scheduled action item for this meeting. Ms. Freiburger informed they have quotes and may have an appropriate 45-day hold. This item can wait until the June meeting.

Chair DeJonge also noted that the Promise Zone has three seats expiring June 30, 2023. These are currently held by Mr. Dave Faber, Ms. Teresa Weatherall Neal, and Mr. J.C. Huizenga. He will be reaching out to each of them for their interest in being reappointed.

ACTION ITEMS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Cuevas is inspired by the passion he sees. It is refreshing to serve others.

Mr. Faber advised the December 2022 minutes were in need of a correction (accepted by the minute taker).

Mr. McComb thanked and encouraged leadership to keep up the great work.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Mr. DeJonge adjourned the meeting at 3:11 PM.

Secretary

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