



**Mason County Promise Zone  
Student Success Committee Meeting Agenda  
Monday, July 25, 2022: 10 AM  
Location: Lakeshore Resource Network**

**Committee Chair: Monica Schuyler**

- 1) Call to order/Welcome**
- 2) Public Comment**
- 3) Approval of Agenda**
- 4) Approval of Minutes from 5-23-2022 (REF #1)**
- 5) Business:**
  - a) **Homeschooled Youth**
    - i) Update from ESD Conversation (REF #2)
    - ii) Students who live in Mason County but choose out-of-county schools
    - iii) Recommendation?
  - b) **College for Kids Request/Update**
    - i) Volunteer Needs
    - ii) Funding Needs--Wendy Wells (REF #3)
  - c) **AmeriCorps Update**
  - d) **Books & Technology Update and Follow-Up with Chuck Wilbur (REF #4)**
  - e) **To College/Thru College**
    - i) Setting up fall meetings—kick off with goal data review?
  - f) **Next Meeting:** August 22, 2022@10AM: Location: LRN—Mark Kinney will share on OE/OE Programs
- 6) Adjourn**



**Mason County Promise Zone**  
**Student Success Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, May 23, 2022: 10:00 AM**  
**Location: Lakeshore Resource Network**

**Members Present:**

Andrea Large (left at 11:24 AM), Amy Pepper, Annette Quillan, Monica Schuyler

**Members Absent:**

Kathy Surd, Joan Vidak

**Staff Present:**

Jody Maloney, Kelly Parker (10:12 AM)

1. **Call to Order:** Schuyler called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM
2. Limited Public Comment: None present
3. Approval of the Agenda
  - a. *Motion by Large to approve the agenda with support by Quillan; Motion carried 4-0-2.*
4. Approval of the Minutes from April 25, 2022
  - a. *Motion by Large to approve the agenda with support by Pepper; Motion carried 4-0-2.*
5. Business:
  - a. **Homeschooled Youth**
    - i. Comparison Chart
      1. The committee reviewed the comparison chart, and requested that Maloney invite a representative from Newaygo Promise to explain how they process/include/report on homeschooled students in their Promise Zone.
        - a. *Motion by Large to recommend to the full Board the inclusion of homeschooled graduates who reside in Mason County if they have registered as a homeschool with the State of Michigan for at least one year, with support from Pepper. Motion carried 4-0-2.*
    - b. **Past & Future Growth Possibilities**
      - i. Monica gave a brief overview of the Past & Future Growth diagrams. Jody asked that the committee review the information and give feedback and email any additional suggestions.
        1. *Motion by Large to recommend the Promise Development plan to require Mason County Private and parochial schools to register with the ESD for at least one year with support from Quillan. Motion carried 4-0-2. Maloney will reach out to the ESD to learn more about the schools included, and how a non-public school can register.*
    - c. **To College/Through College:** Did not meet
      - i. Ongoing projects
        1. College Readiness Planning, June 2nd. Grades 8, 9 & 10-WSCC staff, Joan Vidak, and Alyssa Merten will meet virtually to explore supporting late middle and early high school students in college readiness.
        2. WSCC Orientation Summer 22: June Session (7th or 21st, date TBD) July 20th and August 9th



- a. Up to 90 spots for scholars
  3. Summer AmeriCorps Work: Two members will be working this summer. The Committee reviewed the responsibilities listed for the summer support staff and did not add any additional items.
    - a. Motion by Quillan to recommend purchasing a laptop for work with the summer Americorps workers (\$300-\$700) with support from Pepper. Motion carried. 3-0-3. Large was absent during voting.
  4. MSU-WSCC Ag Program: WSCC staff are working on a process with MSU Advisor, Connie Schwass
  5. WSCC College Fair-Target date: Sept 27th for all high school & WSCC students, 12-2pm
    - a. Could the Promise explore funding transportation for local high school students?
      - i. Maloney mentioned supporting the cost of high schools in Mason County bussing to this event. Large suggested for Maloney to see if the ESD could fund the cost of the bussing before the Promise considers it.
    - ii. What does the committee want the workgroups to be working on?
      1. Andrea Large mentioned that instead of always working on something, ask the group to help research information for other committees, instead of particular projects.
      2. Monica Schuyler recommended a joint meeting to review goals and initiatives.
  - d. Next Meeting: June 27, 2022 at 10 AM: Location: LRN
6. Adjourn: Schuyler moved for adjournment at 11:28 AM



### **Feedback on Homeschool Conversation from ESD Staff**

I met with Amy Taranko and Pam Moul today to learn more about how the ESD might partner with our Promise to allow homeschooled youth access to the Promise, and to clarify a few things. Here are some of the takeaways from the conversation (along with a copied message of Pam's learnings from talking with Newaygo RESA below):

- **How is/could residency be verified with an ESD registration process?** Residency could be verified as part of a google form application by uploading a picture or scan of a utility bill with address, rent receipt with address, or tax information with address. They would be willing to do this for us to align with our current process of having school districts verify student residency, noting that the main reason Newaygo RESA does it this way is because their Promise is embedded in their RESA (ESD). Alternatively, our Promise could verify residency, but currently, this is not our process for other students.
- **What might be the difference between a homeschooled family registering with the state vs. WSESD?** ESD registration would be local and would not require any specific documentation. For homeschooled families to register with the state, they must fill out a registration form and have a certified teacher in the household for approval. Currently in Mason County there is one homeschool who is approved and one registered (i.e., no certified teacher) with the state.
- **What is required to get a UIC?** Students do not get UICs if they register with the state. They get them if they enroll as students through the local district (which homeschooled families can do on a part-time basis, say for CTE, band, foreign language, etc.), enroll at the ESD for special education services, or potentially through community college. It could be possible to go through the process to get a UIC through the ESD without services, but at that point, it might be more appropriate to do so through WSCC.
- **What might ESD folks suggest to make the Homeschooled families application and related information requested on par with students currently graduating from our public education systems?** You could require a transcript, as that is required for current graduates and GED recipients, however, a homeschool transcript is not standardized or verifiable, so it will probably not be indicative of preparedness. It would, however, align with requirements for other applicants (high schools verify that students meet state standards through graduation verification and can provide transcripts). Newaygo Promise requires all students to provide SAT scores, and that could be a request that would be more standardized, however since that is not required for all students then having different requirements for different populations may be problematic.



**Additional information from Pam Moul:**

*"Dr. Jeffrey has requested that I assist you with investigating the possibility of registering homeschool students as a means for them to access the Mason County Promise. He indicated that Newaygo RESA has done so for their Promise Zone. So far, this is the information I've gathered regarding Newaygo's process:*

- *Newaygo County RESA's website:*
  - *There is a packet of pdf documents available on the website which gives information on The Promise and the application process, a Homeschool Report Form for Newaygo RESA (also now available on the site as a Google Form), and an "Answers to Questions about Homeschooling" document.*
  - *Newaygo does not indicate that students are required to be registered with the State of Michigan to be eligible, but only that they are required to register with Newaygo County RESA. There is, however, a question on the form asking if the school is registered with the State of Michigan.*
  - *Newaygo prorates the scholarship based on registration with NC RESA for grades 7-12, with the first year of registration beginning the student's proration.*
- *Your email indicated that the Mason County Promise Student Success Committee was looking to propose to your Board that Mason County homeschoolers who have been **registered with the state** for at least one year would be eligible for the scholarship. This looks to me to be different from Newaygo's requirement to **register with NC RESA** for 6 years (or receive a prorated scholarship).*
- *Last year, there were 2 homeschools in Mason County that were registered with the state. One was listed as Approved and one was listed as Registered.*
- *I've contacted NC RESA's auditor for his input but have not received an answer from him. I am not sure if the homeschooled students were reported to MDE via the general collections/student counts or not.*

*Josh Hayes, our tech director, is also ready to help with making the information accessible via our website if and when you and Dr. Jeffrey are ready to take that step."*

- **I chatted with Chuck Wilbur of MPZA RE: Supporting Homeschooled Youth:** I also asked him thoughts on Homeschooled students, and he didn't have much to add outside of what we already have from Newaygo, and couldn't say that any other zone supported that population. In terms of supporting students who live here but school-of-choice outside of the county, he said that he'd be surprised that our Board would support something to that effect, as there is no economic motivation there in support of our schools. He



agreed that it would be an administrative nightmare, and didn't recommend we do that. I asked him if he knew of any talks in Lansing to expand Promise Zones or of any Zones who have expanded outside of their originally defined borders. He said we're the only county-based zone, and perhaps if another high school was created by our ESD in-county, and that high school accepted students from outside of the borders (similar to what already happens with ASM Tech), that might be a case for expansion, but expanding into schools outside of the initially approved and already defined border is not something that he's seen, nor would he recommend.





## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

# **AUGUST 1-5, 2022**

College for Kids needs your help! West Shore Community College is looking for teaching assistants to join us on campus and in the classroom to guide students 9-15 years old through a variety of hands-on learning activities. Transportation may be provided upon request. If this is something that interests you, please reach out to the College For Kids team at:

231.843.5562 or [CollegeForKids@westshore.edu](mailto:CollegeForKids@westshore.edu)



**Monday - Friday**

**9:00am - 3:30pm**

**\*\*Teaching experience preferred. Must be able to pass background check. \*\***



Finally, I connected with Chuck Wilbur from Michigan Promise Zone Association on the topic of expansion to include Book Award incentives that are awarded as part of a success initiative to scholars who participate in specific success-related activities:

- **Book Award:** Chuck was surprised that Thrun Law cited a conflict of interest, but doesn't feel that should limit us from going ahead with the book incentive for participation in orientation or FYS. He felt that books as an option could be delivered to all students, but that just because that was an option, the legislation did not require that they be provided for all students. He suggests that we write the book incentives as rewards for participation in Orientation/FYS into the Development Plan, and see where that goes from there. He expects that Treasury would approve it.
  - He said that Detroit Promise has a similar arrangement, except it's related to success coaching participation and funded with fundraised/grant/outside dollars, but he doesn't foresee that it should be a challenge to get it through. He said that if we got it to Treasury within the month, we could see if they'd review it in time to offer the reward for 2022 scholars.