



**Detroit Promise Board Meeting
Minutes**

August 31, 2021

4:30pm – 5:30pm

Executive Conference Room, Mayor's Office

11th Floor, CAYMC

2 Woodward, Detroit MI

Zoom: <https://cityofdetroit.zoom.us/j/86536011315>

I. Welcome and Roll Call

- a. Call to order at 4:40pm
- b. Quorum of Board Members Present:
 - i. Charlie Beckham, Chair
 - ii. Floyd Allen
 - iii. John Ziraldo, Vice Chair
 - iv. Desirae Tolbert
 - v. Ashley Johnson
 - vi. Peter Remington
 - vii. Preston Welborne
- c. Board Members Not Present:
 - i. Iris Taylor
 - ii. Penny Bailer
- d. Other Staff:
 - i. Greg Handle, Detroit Regional Chamber Foundation
 - ii. Stacy Boone, Detroit Regional Chamber Foundation
 - iii. Kim Rustem, City of Detroit

II. Approval of Meeting Agenda and July Meeting Minutes *(see August agenda and July meeting minutes)*

- a. Approval of Meeting Agenda
 - i. Motion to approve: John Ziraldo
 - ii. Second: Desirae Tolbert
 - iii. All in Favor: Yes
- b. Approval of July Meeting Minutes
 - i. Motion approve: John Ziraldo
 - ii. Second: Desirae Tolbert
 - iii. All in Favor: Yes

III. Vote to Approve New Board Members

- a. Peter Remington (August 2021 – 2025)
- b. Ashley Johnson (August 2021 – 2025)
- c. Preston Welborne (August 2021-2025)
- d. Desirae Tolbert (August 2021-2025)
 - i. Vote to approve all board members simultaneously
 - 1. Motion to approve: Floyd Allen
 - 2. Second: John Ziraldo
 - 3. All in Favor: Yes
 - ii. Vote to approval all board members
 - 1. Motion to approve: John Ziraldo
 - 2. Second: Floyd Allen
 - 3. All in Favor: Yes
- e. Oaths of office
 - i. Kim Rustem requested that all board members send her the phone numbers and addresses so that she can send to clerk to assist with their oaths of offices.

IV. New Board Member Recommendations

- a. For the final 2 open positions, board members suggested the following:
 - i. Maria Selenas
 - ii. Jametta Lily
 - iii. Trades representative
 - iv. Community college representative
 - v. University representative - Stacie Clayton - Desirae Tolbert offered to reach out to her.

V. Staffing Updates

- a. Kim Rustem gave the Board an update that she is working with the Mayor on the hire of the Director of the Office of Early Learning. Once this person is hired Kim will work with this individual to transfer the Detroit Promise duties over to them.

VI. Review Revisions to DPZA Development Plan *(see revisions)*

- a. Greg Handel reviewed the draft summary of changes to the DPZA development plan. A summary of those changes are described below along with questions or thoughts identified by other members of the board.
 - i. The DPZA needs to file an updated development plan, which the Michigan Department of Treasury which would seek approval for expenditures to support the growth of the Detroit Promise since the plan was filed in 2018. The updated development plan would:
 - 1. Expand community college options for Detroit Promise students from the current list of Wayne County Community College District, Henry Ford College, Schoolcraft College, Macomb Community College and Oakland Community College, to any community college in Michigan with which the Detroit Promise Develops an agreement. This would allow for funding students at Jackson College, which was added as a participating

school in 2017 and the potential for several other community colleges with whom we are interested in developing partnerships. The Promise would then maintain a list of Promise eligible community college options on its website rather than updating the development plan each time the list changed.

- a. Questions/thoughts from the board:
 - i. Make sure the DPZA has the revenue flow to support additional colleges.
 - ii. How do we also support those wanting to go into the trades?
2. Change the requirement that community college students attend full-time to “strongly encourage to attend full-time”, reflecting the fact that many students need to work and rigid enforcement would result in a drop in the number of students utilizing the Promise.
3. Questions/thoughts from the board:
 - a. How do we add supports for kids to help part-time students complete college?
 - b. The board should consider resources we have that can help more students towards college completion.
 - c. What is the definition of part-time?
 - d. Need data to know who is on track and who is not on track. Are colleges sharing that data with the Detroit Promise?
 - e. What is the overall vision of the promise?
4. Allow for the support of students at any four-year university in Michigan which develops an agreement with the Detroit Promise, with the list of eligible institutions kept on the Promise website. In the case of four-year institutions, students must meet academic eligibility criteria, with the institutions providing the majority of funding needed to cover tuition and fees in accordance with agreements between the institution and the Detroit Promise.
 - a. No comment from Board
5. Authorize funding for student programs to assist students with college completion.
 - a. Are there GED testing center in the city? If you take GED test outside of the city you are not eligible for the Detroit promise. So how do we better communicate that?

VII. Vote to Approve Revisions to DPZA Development Plan

- a. The Board agreed to not vote at this time, until their questions could be answered.
- b. Greg Handel offered to convene a subgroup that includes Peter Remington, Ashley Johnson, himself and Stacy to make revisions to the revised development plan. He suggested that those changes then be proposed to the group for discussion and a vote over email in the coming days.

VIII. Detroit Promise Program Update

- a. Greg Handle provided an update on community college and 4-year university Detroit promise commitment forms:
 - i. They have received 394 community college commitment forms this year compared to 620 last year (37% decrease)
 - 1. This Greg attributes to the fact that community colleges have not yet committed to in-person classes as universities have done
 - 2. The Detroit Promise is working on surveying students to find out why else these numbers may be dropping.
 - ii. They have received 451 4-year university commitment forms this year compared with 261 last year (72% increase)
 - 1. This Greg attributes to the work the program has been doing to help match students with schools that accommodate for their SAT scores, grade points, etc.
- b. The board followed that up with several ideas and thoughts to consider by the program:
 - i. Modify highschool outreach tactics in the midst of covid-19.
 - ii. Partner messaging with DPSCD messaging

IX. Next Board Meeting

- a. October 21 at 4:30 pm
 - i. Due to the recent public health order issued by the Detroit Health Department the in-person Open Meetings Act requirement as been suspended. Therefore, until further notice, all future board meetings will be conducted over zoom.

X. Public Comment

- a. Brenda Butler suggested that the DPZA Board consider recruiting someone from the New Carpenter Trade Training Center to participate on the board. She also requested that someone from the Board visit her next Neighborhood Improvement Committee at Eastside Community Network to share more information about the Detroit Promise. Her email is brendabutler815@gmail.com and her phone number is 248-298-6649.

XI. Adjourn

- a. Motion to adjourn: Desirae Tolbert
- b. Second: John Ziraldo
- c. All in favor: Yes