

**Prosperity Index Committee**  
**Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017**  
**Hagerty Center, Traverse City, MI**

**DRAFT- Minutes - DRAFT**

**Committee members present:** Ken Osborne, Eric Bachman, Tim Nelson, John Stephenson, Jamie Al-Shamma, Mike Groleau, Michael Cain, Marsha Smith

**Committee members absent:** Ed Boettcher, Alan Cooper, Doug Luciani, Doug Mansfield, Joe Moch, Richard Schmidt, Clint Steele

**Staff present:** Anne Helbig, Matt McCauley, Scott Gest

**Call to order**

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair, Ken Osborne at 4:08 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes of the October, 10, 2016 meeting was made by Tim Nelson, seconded by Eric Bachman. Motion approved.

**Meeting Minutes**

New members Ed Boettcher and Mike Groleau were introduced by Matt McCauley.

The purpose of the committee was discussed. This committee is different than other committees; it is designed to discuss the data behind our full board strategic discussions. In the future, we will try to present data one meeting before the related full board meeting. This committee takes a deeper dive into the data than the full board meeting and hopefully leads to discussion on what is behind the data and what policies could help to address the situation. It was suggested that data should be related to the Regional Prosperity Plan. It was also suggested that we look at how the Regional Prosperity Plan relates to Governor's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Economy and Infrastructure reports.

A presentation was made by Scott Guest on education attainment rates and high school dropout rates. Education attainment rates are increasing across all ages however the dropout rate is also increasing in our region. There was discussion on what is driving the increasing dropout rate. The trend of our dropout rate is very concerning. As a rural region it is important to create talent within our region as it is more difficult to attract talent. Loss of youth funding for Michigan Works makes it harder to help students that are still in school. There were additional questions asked regarding things that could be influencing the dropout rate such as school's zero tolerance policies, family situations, and commute distances. The committee expressed interest in looking into the reasons behind our high dropout rate at a future meeting.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Anne Helbig*

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