

**METROPOLITAN EDUCATION COMMISSION
YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL/TUCSON TEEN CONGRESS (YAC/TTC)
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2015
PIMA COUNTY LIBRARY LOWER LEVEL MEETING ROOM,
101 N. STONE AVE., TUCSON, ARIZONA**

MEETINGS MINUTES

Members Present: Maggie Zheng, David Nicholson, Glenn Ward, Jacob Contreras, Amisadai Licea, Leshawn Bowen, David Ojeda, Jose Roberto Diaz-Brown, Michelle Coronado, Ev Essif, Ki Huang, Moeed Irfan, Sameed Irfan, Stephanie Tineo, Amisadai Licea, Leshawn Bowen, Kevin Balsarak, Kyle Hetherington.

Non-Members Present: Dr. June Webb-Vignery, Senator Steve Farley, Senator David Bradley, Jen Darland, Jennfer Flores, Jennifer Sprung, Paul Lovelis, Ed Nossem, Kirt Ijams, Nancy Montoya, Hal Ijams, Kimberly Ward, Karen Essif, Irfan Sheikh, Brianda Vila Henninger, Insa Davidson, Gloriana Mass, Angel Flores, Alex Murillo.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER – MAGGIE ZHENG

Meeting called to order at 6:15 P.M.

2.0 ROLL CALL – MAGGIE ZHENG

Roll was called; a quorum of members was present.

3.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – MAGGIE ZHENG

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all attendees.

4.0 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES – MAGGIE ZHENG

Motion to approve December 17, 2014 meeting minutes: Jacob Contreras

Second: Leshawn Bowen

Motion carried unanimously.

5.0 STUDENT LOBBY DAY TRAINING

Senator David Bradley, Senator Steve Farley, and Jen Darland from the Arizona Education Network presided over the Student Lobby Day training.

Senator Bradley described the basic structure of AZ state government – there are 30 State Senators and 60 House of Representative members. There are 30 state Districts; each District has 1 Senator and 2 House representatives. He then described the processes through which negotiations on bills presented to the AZ State Senate are conducted. The basic job of the Legislature is to produce a budget, which the Governor then either approves or rejects. Each annual legislative session lasts from January until the budget is finalized. Typically 1300 bills are introduced in any given session; it is difficult to get them all through in a given session – only 300-400 bills actually get passed. Of these 20 or so are vetoed by the Governor, which the Legislature can in turn overrule by a majority vote, so maybe only 200 bills are enacted into law. Many of these bills are not as thoroughly vetted as they ought to be. Legislators are forced to learn very many things about a myriad of topics in a very short period of time.

Senator Steve Farley described the necessity of having 15-minute meetings with various interested parties to learn all that can be learned in such a short period, while having to vet the source for truths or misrepresentations. Many issues are non-partisan, but are presented as

partisan issues; good legislators work with both sides of the aisle. Senator Farley (Democrat) has developed relationships with his Republican colleagues to get important things done; one doesn't necessarily need their own name on a bill for it to be effective in representing their constituents' interests.

Regarding the student lobby effort, Senator Farley recommended having relevant facts and figures, but more importantly, to Tell Your Story – people respond to personal stories with policy implications that resonate with them. Senator Bradley echoed these recommendations, and said that you should never feel intimidated by legislators because they are there to represent your interests.

Jen Darland recommended knowing the stories you are going to tell, because time is of the essence when dealing with legislators. Utilize three points, such as class size, dropouts, public education. Etc. PRACTICE what you are going to say, use your time effectively. Ms. Darland recommended going to www.azleg.gov look into the various committees, find out who the Chair of the committee is, and make a Bi-Partisan effort to meet with the committee chairs. Know your own legislative district. Take their business card with you after you meet, and write down what you talked about. Make note of email addresses, and send a thank you email to every single legislator with whom you met. Remember that you are the Rising American Electorate, and your voice matters and is critical.

Questions and comments were taken from the attendees; Kirt Ijams and Nancy Montoya videoed the proceedings and will be following this story including the actual event on Wednesday, March 4th for inclusion at the MEC's 25th Annual Crystal Apple Awards Luncheon and possibly elsewhere in the media at large.

The YAC/TTC will form committees concerning the three main issues raised at the Teen Town Hall at the next meeting, and will use these as main talking points. Senator Bradley suggested that YAC/TTC members contact his office and Senator Farley's, and that they would make an effort to visit your schools.

- 6.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS - MAGGIE ZHENG
Upcoming meetings with City Council members are as follows:
Council Member Richard Fimbres – Wednesday, February 4
Pima Co. Supervisor Ramon Valadez – Wednesday, February 18
City Council Member Paul Cunningham – Wednesday, March 18
Pima Co. Supervisor Richard Elias – Wednesday, April 1
Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild – Wednesday, April 15

- 7.0 CALL TO THE PUBLIC
No action.

- 8.0 ADJOURNMENT
Motion to adjourn: Stephanie Coronado
Second: Ev Essif
Motion approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned 7:30 p.m.