

**Metropolitan Education Commission
Executive Board Meeting
MEC Office, 930 E. Broadway Blvd., Tucson, AZ.
Thursday, September 3, 2015, 7:30 a.m.**

MINUTES

Attendance: Members present: Dr. June Webb-Vignery, Dr. Kasey Urquidez, Bill Ardern, Pat Wiedhopf, George Favela, Dr. Louis Albert, Paul Lovelis
Members absent:
Non-members present: Felicia Ramirez, Edward Nossem

1.0 CALL TO ORDER – DR. KASEY URQUIDEZ

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m.

2.0 ROLL CALL – DR. KASEY URQUIDEZ

Roll call was conducted; a quorum was established.

3.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – DR. KASEY URQUIDEZ

The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America was recited by all attendees.

4.0 APPROVAL OF AUGUST 5, 2015 MEETING MINUTES – DR. KASEY URQUIDEZ

Motion to approve: George Favela

Second: Bill Ardern

Motion approved unanimously.

5.0 ALICIA ALVAREZ – CLASSROOMS FIRST INITIATIVE COUNCIL

This agenda item has been postponed. On September 10th the Council will meet with the Governor for consultation; the initiative will need approval from the State legislature.

6.0 MEC FUNDRAISING – DR. JUNE WEBB-VIGNERY

We have two grant applications submitted to the Helios Education Foundation and are awaiting word from them. Dr. Webb-Vignery has formulated a Sustainability Logic Model for the Helios College Knowing & Going Grant, which will be submitted to the MEC Commissioners for approval. The RCAC Oversight Committee has drafted a plan to host a Reception for the 24 AmeriCorps Student Ambassadors; Arlene Benavidez has volunteered to work on the Reception Event Planning Guide, and will be soliciting funds for its expenses. David Rodriguez is recruiting Student Ambassadors at the schools. Dr. Webb-Vignery suggested that we recruit MEC Commissioner Jo Riester to Co-Chair the RCAC Oversight Committee.

7.0 MEC RETREAT – DR. KASEY URQUIDEZ

It was agreed that the Education Funding Panel at the MEC Retreat was exceptional, and provided four different and very valuable perspectives on the issue. Dr. Urquidez remarked that the panel's makeup was unique, and that the data that was and will be provided in the future by Dana Wolfe Naimark of the Children's Action Alliance is valuable. The Minutes from the Retreat have been completed and sent to the Commissioners, and the transcript of the Panel Discussion will be completed and disseminated soon. We also had good participation from our YAC/TTC and student school district representatives; we had a very diverse representation of school districts represented. The classroom-style setup of the venue worked very well and should be retained for future Retreats.

8.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.1 Collaborations – Dr. June Webb-Vignery

The Community Schools Initiative out of the Mayor's Office is moving forward. The 24 AmeriCorps Student Ambassadors have been approved; there will be a meeting with David Rodriguez at the MEC office on September 4th to discuss moving forward.

8.2 Budget - Bill Ardern

The execution of the budget remains on track; there is the question of Helios funding. We will send the RCAC Sustainability Logic Model to Helios as soon as it is approved by the MEC Commissioners, predicated on their buy-in and commitment to fundraising activities. MEC staff contracts expire on September 30th.

8.3 Crystal Apple Awards Luncheon – Dr. June Webb-Vignery

We have reserved Friday, April 29, 2016 with the Desert Diamond Casino & Hotel for the 26th Annual Crystal Apple Awards Luncheon. We have 3 tables so far: Pima County School Superintendent (Gold Sponsorship), Pima County Attorney's Office (Commitment), and Jim Click Automotive Team, who will do a Table Sponsorship and has asked to be invoiced in March 2016. Dr. Urquidez has also stated a commitment from the UA Admissions Office.

The CAA Lifetime Achievement Committee has named Dr. John Pedicone as the 2016 CAA Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, and recommended General Ron Shoopman of the Southern Arizona leadership Council as the 2016 Education Advocacy Award recipient, pending MEC Executive Board approval. Dr. Urquidez informed the Board that General Shoopman is a member of the Arizona Board of Regents.

Motion to present General Ron Shoopman with the 2016 Crystal Apple Education Advocacy Award: George Favela

Second: Paul Lovelis

Motion approved unanimously.

8.4 Issues – Pat Wiedhopf

MEC Commissioner Jen Darland will convene the Education Funding Committee at the MEC office to discuss strategic planning, using information from the MEC Retreat Education Funding Panel.

8.5 RCAC – David Rodriguez (not in attendance)

David Rodriguez met with AmeriCorps representatives yesterday (September 2, 2015). Santa Rita High School is intending to attract a total of \$1 million in scholarships this year.

8.6 Appointments –

The proposed slate of MEC Executive Officers for 2015-2016 are: Chair- Pat Wiedhopf; Vice-Chair – George Favela; Secretary – Paul Lovelis; Treasurer – Bill Ardern; Past Chair – Dr. Kasey Urquidez; Appointments – Deborah Embry. The slate was presented at the MEC Retreat, and will be voted on at the September 16th meeting.

Maggie Zheng has been appointed MEC Youth Commissioner by the YAC/TTC and will assume duties at the September 16th MEC meeting.

Pima Community College Chancellor Lee Lambert has recommended Pima Community College Northwest Campus President David Dore to replace Dr. Louis Albert representing PCC, he will be voted on at the September 16th meeting, as will Pastor Jim Wiltbank of St. Francis in the Foothills Church, who has agreed to represent the Pima County appointee for the Religious Community, replacing Sheri Dahl. We still have 2 vacancies – a Wells Fargo appointee representing Libraries, Museums, and Arts (Mayor & Council Appointee); and a second Sun Corridor appointee.

8.7 YAC/TTC – Paul Lovelis

The YAC/TTC has 8 new members, six from the Retreat school superintendents student representatives, one from last year's Education Advocacy school representatives, and one word-of-mouth.

Five YAC/TTC members attended the League of AZ Cities & Towns Youth Conference on August 19th, and it proved to be a very valuable experience. There were 20 AZ cities & Towns youth delegations in attendance including Tucson's YAC/TTC; they all expressed admiration for the YAC/TTC's community and political involvement. The YAC/TTC attendees will prepare a Report to the Tucson City Manager, Mayor, and Council for a future Mayor & Council meeting.

Jen Darland has suggested that the YAC/TTC host a Candidates Forum for the 2016 election, to be held at a date and time to be determined in the Fall of 2016.

YAC/TTC members Aaditee Kudrimoti and Brennen Fedder have advanced a Student-teacher Profile Bill proposal and would like for one of their teachers to present on this at a future YAC/TTC meeting; this will be discussed at the next MEC Executive Board meeting. They have also indicated that they will not be allowed by their school to officially attend the Teen Town Hall.

A monthly Volunteer Day was suggested at the 9/02/15 YAC/TTC meeting for members to volunteer for a local nonprofit; this will be discussed between Dr. Webb-Vignery, Paul Lovelis, and Ed Nossem in the near future.

8.8 Key to Employment Symposium – Ed Nossem

We have secured the UA Student Union for Wednesday, February 3, 2016 for the 2016 K2E event. We will contact the YAC/TTC regarding exhibitors that would be of interest to youth. A meeting to discuss the AZ Telemedicine initiative to

remote telecast workshops to rural Arizona has occurred and we are awaiting word from the AZ SciTech festival.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT – DR. KASEY URQUIDEZ

Motion to Adjourn: George Favela

Second: Bill Ardern

Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 a.m.