

**Metropolitan Education Commission
Executive Board Meeting
MEC Office, 930 E. Broadway Blvd., Tucson, AZ.
Thursday, September 29, 2015, 7:30 a.m.**

MINUTES

Attendance: Members present: Dr. June Webb-Vignery, Bill Ardern, Pat Wiedhopf, Paul Lovelis, Deborah Embry

Members absent: Dr. Kasey Urquidez, George Favela

Non-members present: David Rodriguez, Felicia Ramirez, Edward Nossem.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER – PAT WIEDHOPF

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

2.0 ROLL CALL – PAT WIEDHOPF

Roll call was conducted; a quorum was established.

3.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – PAT WIEDHOPF

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

4.0 APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 3, 2015 MEETING MINUTES – PAT WIEDHOPF

Motion to approve: George Favela

Second: Bill Ardern

Motion approved unanimously.

5.0 APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 21, 2015 MEC REGULAR MEETING AGENDA – PAT WIEDHOPF

We will be hosting the Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence Regional Awards Presentation, followed by a Pima County Bonds Presentation at the October 21st meeting, moderated by Jim Cook and Diana Rhoades.

Motion to Approve: Bill Ardern

Second: Deborah Embry

Motion approved unanimously.

6.0 AMERICORPS MOU – DR. JUNE WEBB-VIGNERY

We have no funding from AmeriCorps to implement sections of the MOU. Insurance requirements are not bearable by MEC, we cannot assume liability, as this would accrue to the Commissioners as well as personal liability of the MEC Executive Director. The State AmeriCorps grant has not yet been taken up by the Mayor & Council, possibly due to legal issues. The MEC Executive Board has recommended that we contact Ben Olsen for clarifications regarding these issues – particularly Sections d, e, j, p, q, r, and the attachments regarding automobile insurance liability.

Regarding the Sunnyside School District MOU, after discussion it was decided that, aside from removing the word “hired”, that it remain worded as is. Sunnyside would

report to the MEC, and the MEC would report to AmeriCorps. Student Ambassadors will be provided with a \$1,200 scholarship and 300 service hours. Placing of a Student Ambassador at the Tucson Urban League was discussed; David said that we can provide a college student. Debbi stated that she had served on the Mayor's Commission on Poverty, which had identified 4 areas of action which dealt with Workforce Development.

7.0 STUDENT-TEACHER PROFILE BILL – PAT WIEDHOPF

YAC/TTC member Aaditee Kudrimoti has introduced a proposal that the MEC support a Student-teacher Profile Bill, which was developed by the State Girls organization of which she is also a part. The bill would change how standardized testing is done. The bill is designed to test students on skills that have been taught and during their high school careers, that yield college and workforce readiness. Students are assessed on their inter-subject synthesis skills, analytical thinking, and work ethic. The bill proposes a state-mandated project designed by a board of high school teachers of mathematics, English, and social and physical sciences.

The MEC Executive Board decided that, as a 501 c3, the MEC cannot lobby for legislation. Since we cannot advocate directly for the bill, it was recommended that Aaditee approach local state legislators with the idea as a more effective way of getting the bill enacted, and commends her on her leadership. She can approach Senator Steve Farley or David Bradley when they come to train the YAC/TTC on legislative issues in January 2016.

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 was 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. The MEC has approved the RCAC Sustainability Logic Model, and it was sent to the Helios Foundation.

MEC staff contracts expire on September 30th. Felicia Ramirez will go on half-time until we know the status of the Helios proposal; Dr. Webb-Vignery will be off-salary until that time.

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 2006 CAA Lifetime Achievement Honoree is Dr. John Pedicone. The 2016 Education Advocacy Award Honoree is General Ron Shoopman of the Southern Arizona leadership Council.

8.4 Issues – George Favela (Not present)

No action.

8.5 RCAC – David Rodriguez

The Reception for the 24 AmeriCorps Student Ambassadors was discussed, suggestions were made as to the date and location, including at the Library, and at the Crystal Apple Awards Luncheon on April 29, 2016. The event could be held in the new year. Regarding fundraising, it was suggested that the Student Ambassadors visit attend Rotary Club and Optimist Club meetings.

8.6 Appointments –

The 2015-16 MEC Executive Officers were voted in at the September 16th MEC meeting:: Chair- Pat Wiedhopf; Vice-Chair – George Favela; Secretary – Paul Lovelis; Treasurer – Bill Ardern; Past Chair – Dr. Kasey Urquidez; Appointments – Deborah Embry. We will keep Ms. Embry advised on appointments developments.

Maggie Zheng has been appointed MEC Youth Commissioner by the YAC/TTC. YAC/TTC member Leshawn Bowen has accepted a proposal that he become the 2nd Youth Commissioner, replacing Diego Martinez Barrera.

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 expressed interest in using Social Media to recruit new members and to advertise events; Paul Lovelis agreed to moderate social media usage. JW-V discussed the oversight and a transition to another oversight person when Paul moves on. We will use a Best Practices template that Paul will provide.

Leshawn Bowen has accepted a proposal that he become the 2nd Youth Commissioner, replacing Diego Martinez Barrera. This will be voted on at the October 7th YAC/TTC meeting.

Ed Nossem is contacting community leaders and schools for the October 23rd Teen Town Hall; we have 14 schools and 28 elected officials, MEC Commissioners, and other community leaders RSVP's at present.

We will invite the YAC/TTC members to attend the MEC's Holiday Celebration on December 16th as a joint MEC – YAC/TTC meeting.

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 discuss exhibitors that would be of interest to youth with the YAC/TTC at a future meeting. 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. The Committee will start meeting after the Teen Town Hall. Exhibitor and Sponsor letters will be mailed out next week.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT – PAT WIEDHOPF

Motion to Adjourn: Deborah Embry

Second: Bill Ardern

Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 a.m.