



**MINUTES – METROPOLITAN EDUCATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2015, 4:00 P.M.
PIMA COUNTY LIBRARY LOWER LEVEL MEETING ROOM,
101 N. STONE AVE., TUCSON, ARIZONA**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Dr. Mary Jan Bancroft, Dennis Barger, Dr. Kent Barrabee, Leshawn Bowen, James Cook, Dr. David Doré, Deborah Embry, Steve Freeman, Teri Laguna, Amber Mathewson, Rafael Meza, Dr. Daisy Rodriguez Pitel, Jo Riester, Regina Romero, Jennifer Sprung, Dr. Alan Storm, Dr. Kasey Urquidez, Dr. June Webb-Vignery, James Wiltbank, Pat Wiedhopf.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Bill Ardern, Dr. Linda Arzoumanian, Diego Martinez Barrera, Jen Darland, Richard Elias, George Favela, Guillermo Figueroa, Jennifer Flores, Molly Gilbert, Javier Herrera, Teri Laguna, Paul Lovelis, Vicky Mullins.

NON-COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Edward Nossem, Melanie McClintock, Diana Rhoades, Laura Dent, Linda Kubiak, Sharon Taddeo, Marge Pelligro, Kirk Astroth, Abby, Hungwe, Danette Davis, Kathleen Kopyy, Curt Bertlesen, Greg D’Anna, Calvin Baker.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER – PAT WIEDHOPF

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.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 16, 2015 MEETING MINUTES – PAT WIEDHOPF

Motion to approve: Steve Freeman

Second: Deborah Embry

Motion carried 21-0.

5.0 APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 2015 FINANCIAL REPORT – PAT WIEDHOPF

Motion: Dr. Alan Storm

Second: Dr. Kent Barrabee

Motion carried 20-0.

6.0 AWARDS PRESENTATION – ARIZONA CENTER FOR AFTERSCHOOL EXCELLENCE – MELANIE McCLINTOCK

The 2015 Awards of Excellence Finalists in Southern Arizona were honored at the MEC meeting. The awards were presented by Melanie McClintock, Director of the Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence in Phoenix. The nominees and awardees are:

Professional: Danette Davis, Pima JTED (Winner); Dr. Frances Mills-Yerger, Workshops for Youth and Families; and Kathy McNair, P.T. Coe Elementary School, “Niñas Con Destino”.

Program: W. F. Killip Elementary School, Flagstaff USD (Winner); Hopi Foundation’s Owl and Panther Project; Junior Leadership Academy.

Jane Romatzke Award: Linda Kubiak, Vail USD (Winner); Council Member Regina Romero, City of Tucson; and Dr. Camille Casteel, Chandler USD.

All of the nominees and awardees spoke; Ms. McClintock thanked the MEC for hosting the awards.

7.0 PIMA COUNTY BONDS FORUM – DIANA RHOADES & JIM COOK

MEC Commissioner Jim Cook and Diana Rhoades from Strategies 360 presented on the Pima County Ballot Propositions and Bond Projects. This will be the first bonds election in over a decade; voters can vote on each bond proposition separately. A committee of 25 members appointed by each Pima County city and town; two Native American tribal governments; and the Board of Supervisors and County Administrator held over 100 public meetings seeking input from thousands of citizens over nine years. A meeting regarding road improvement bonds at a Pima County Supervisors meeting was attended by 600 people.

Seven ballot propositions, if approved by voters, would raise a total of \$815,760,000 for Road and Highway Improvement (Prop. 425); Economic Development, Libraries and Workforce Training (Prop. 426); Tourism Promotion (Prop. 427); Parks & Recreational Facilities (Prop. 428); Public Health, Welfare, Safety, Neighborhoods and Housing (Prop. 429); Natural Area Conservation & Historic Preservation (Prop. 430), and Flood Control & Drainage (Prop. 431).

The neighborhood reinvestment will cost taxpayers \$1.50 per month. Pima County’s population is projected to grow by 11% in the next 10 years; these new residents will assist in paying for the projects.

A new section of the County Code, Chapter 3.06 (Truth In Bonding Code) ensures that the funds will be spent as the voters intended. Public access to all financial records and expenditures is mandatory. A 2013 audit conducted by the Arizona Auditor General’s Office of Pima County’s 1997, 2004 and 2006 general obligation bond programs found that the bonds were used for the purposes authorized, and that the projects benefitted citizens throughout Pima County. The current bond initiatives have Standard & Poor’s and Moody’s approval. Information was disseminated to the MEC Commissioners, including a map location of each of the 99 individual projects. Each project has an information sheet available. These can be accessed on the Pima County website. Material changes in the individual projects would need approval through a hearing of the Bond Advisory Board.

8.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS – PAT WIEDHOPF

8.1 Budget – Bill Ardern (Not present; Pat Wiedhopf in his absence)

The budget is tracking appropriately. The MEC's Financial Review was completed successfully, and will be sent to the City & County.

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

The 25th Annual Crystal Apple Awards Luncheon will take place on Friday, April 29, 2016 at the Desert Diamond Casino & Hotel, 7350 S. Nogales Highway. We have 3 tables: Gold Sponsor: Pima County School Superintendent's Office; Table Sponsors: Jim Click Automotive Team; University of Arizona Enrollment Management. The Lifetime Achievement Committee has selected John Pedicone as the Lifetime Achievement Honoree, and recommended General Ron Shoopman for the Education Advocate Award, which the MEC Executive Board has approved. The Teacher Honoree is Jennifer Anglin, Flowing Wells Junior High School, Flowing Wells Unified School District.

8.3 Appointments –Deborah Embry

Pastor James Wiltbank, the Pima County Appointee representing the Religious Community, was welcomed. He was voted in at the September 16, 2015 MEC meeting but was not in attendance.

The YAC/TTC has elected Leshawn Bowen to replace Diego Martinez Barrera as the second of two MEC Youth Commissioners. The Commission will vote on his position at the November 18th MEC meeting.

8.4 YAC/TTC – Maggie Zheng (not present; Dr. June Webb-Vignery in her absence)

The 2015-2016 YAC/TTC Executive Committee was elected at the September 16th YAC/TTC meeting. They are: President: David Ojeda; Vice President: Ki Huang; Recording Secretary: Roberto Diaz-Brown; Corresponding Secretary: Jazmin Nuñez; Treasurer: Arnolando Martinez.

The YAC/TTC meeting for this evening (October 21st) has been cancelled in order to allow YAC/TTC members to attend this evening's Arizona Budget and Education Town Hall; 11 YAC/TTC members have RSVP'd for the event.

The MEC's 21st Annual Teen Town Hall will take place on Friday, October 23rd, from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. at Catalina High School. 19 schools and at least 25 community leaders will be attending the event. MEC Commissioners were invited to attend and be available to answer students' questions.

8.5 Issues –George Favela (not present)

No action.

8.6 Regional College Access Center – David Rodriguez (not present)

The RCAC Oversight Committee has drafted the RCAC Sustainability Logic Model (see Item 8.0). David Rodriguez has been busy conducting recruitment and training for the 24 AmeriCorps Student Ambassadors, which will be placed at 6 public high schools and 2 alternative high schools.

8.7 Key to Employment Symposium – Ed Nossem

The Key to Employment for the 21st Century Symposium will take place on Wednesday, February 3, 2016 at the U of A Student Union. The possibility of conducting a UA Telemedicine virtual video broadcast, including the RCAC

Workshop and other aspects of the event, is being discussed. Dr, Webb-Vignery met with Jeremy Babendure and Don Reudy from the Arizona Sci-Tech Festival on October 20th to discuss further interfacing with the Az Sci-Tech Festival in Southern Arizona.

9.0 CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Dr. Kasey Urquidez announced that the Arizona Board of Regents has asked the University of Arizona to look at their admissions requirements; there will be a Public Forum on November 18th, and Dr. Urquidez will be sending out an email that will be forwarded to the Commission.

10.0 ADJOURNMENT – PAT WIEDHOPE

Motion to approve: Dr. Kasey Urquidez

Second: Jo Riester, Jennifer Sprung

Motion carried 20-0. Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.