

**Metropolitan Education Commission
Executive Board Meeting
MEC Office, 930 E. Broadway Blvd., Tucson, AZ.
Thursday, November 5, 2015, 7:30 a.m.**

MINUTES

Attendance: Members present: Dr. June Webb-Vignery, Bill Ardern, Pat Wiedhopf, Deborah Embry, George Favela
Members absent: Dr. Kasey Urquidez, Paul Lovelis
Non-members present: David Rodriguez, 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 29, 2015 MEETING MINUTES – PAT WIEDHOPF**
Motion to approve: George Favela
Second: Bill Ardern
Motion approved unanimously.
- 5.0 APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 18, 2015 MEC REGULAR MEETING AGENDA – PAT WIEDHOPF**
Motion to Approve: Deborah Embry
Second: George Favela
Motion approved unanimously.
- 6.0 DAVID RODRIGUEZ 2015-2016 CONTRACT – PAT WIEDHOPF**
The College Success Arizona / MEC College Knowing & Going collaboration, funded by the Helios Education Foundation, allows for an adjustment in RCAC Coordinator David Rodriguez’s salary to \$45,000 per annum. Mr. Rodriguez’s benefits will also be adjusted at 17% of that salary.
Motion to approve: George Favela
Second: Deborah Embry
Motion approved unanimously.

7.0 COLLEGE SUCCESS ARIZONA MOU – DR. JUNE WEBB-VIGNERY

The Memorandum of Understanding between the MEC and College Success Arizona has been signed. It is very easy to understand and working with College Success Arizona should be no problem. Linda Jensen is our principal contact; the MEC will bill College Success Arizona. The funding is provided by the Helios Education Foundation, and totals \$317,000 for the MEC over four years. The Southern Arizona school districts served by the grant are: Casa Grande, Flowing Wells, Nogales, Sunnyside, Tucson Unified, and Vail; the MEC will be responsible for serving these districts. David Rodriguez indicated that some potential school districts had opted out of the program due to their current work loads.

8.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.1 Collaborations – Dr. June Webb-Vignery

There was discussion of the Resolution Regarding the Arizona State Funding for K-20 Education, relating to the State Land Trust legislation that was passed by the State Legislature, which is currently being drafted. Dr. Webb-Vignery indicated that the Resolution should contain verbiage addressing the future viability of school funding. Pat Wiedhopf mentioned that Guillermo Figueroa suggested at the MEC 10/30/2015 meeting that the MEC's Mission Statement should guide the wording of the Resolution. Three important elements for the Resolution were suggested: that of the Constitutionality of the legislation; that the language in the Resolution be forceful in order to galvanize the community; and that the Resolution be succinct (condensed from its present drafted form). Bill Ardern will take these recommendations to the Committee once they are formulated. The Resolution will be placed on the MEC's November regular meeting agenda for discussion and approval. Dr. Webb-Vignery remarked that this Resolution will be looked back on as historically significant. Ms. Wiedhopf suggested that we draft a Media Release explaining and encapsulating the Resolution for the public.

Laurel Kimball from the Phoenix Philanthropy Group has contacted the MEC office; they want to feature the MEC in their next publication, and sent a list of questions regarding the MEC for response. The Group is impressed with the history, mission, programs, and high-quality of Commissioner representation on the MEC. Dr. Webb-Vignery will send the article on to the Commission.

The MEC had received \$6,000 from United Way to fund 2 Student Ambassadors each at Sahuarita and Ajo High Schools. We still have \$3,000 left in the fund because the program didn't continue into the Fall 2014 semester – the Ajo Student Ambassadors graduated, and the school counselor at Sahuarita left the school. Also, the administration of the program in Ajo proved difficult due to the distance factor. Dr. Webb-Vignery contacted Amanda Kucich at United Way, who will follow up with LaVonne Douville.

8.2 Budget - Bill Ardern

The Helios Education Foundation has notified College Success Arizona that they are awarding the College Knowing & Going Initiative with funding for 4 years; the MEC will act as the Southern Arizona component. College Success Arizona has sent the MEC a check for \$10,000 to defray current expenses while the final contract is being finalized by the Helios Education Foundation.

The Pima County 2016-2017 RFP process has a new reporting system, which includes some new federal rules with which they must comply. Dr. Webb-Vignery and Ed Nossem attended a training session to get the information, and the RFP process will begin as soon as the Pima County ZOOM Grant website is ready.

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. Kasey 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. The Teacher Honoree is Jennifer Anglin, Flowing Wells Junior High School, Flowing Wells USD. The Counselor Award nomination forms have been sent out electronically. The Executive Board has recommended that the Counselor Award nominees be accredited counselors, and the nominations will be screened for accreditations.

8.4 Issues – George Favela

No action.

8.5 RCAC – David Rodriguez

David Rodriguez has been facilitating the selection, training, and placement of the 24 AmeriCorps Ambassadors, travelling to the school sites and doing much additional work. Debi Embry reported on the current status of the Tucson Urban League's partnership with the Community Schools Initiative, who are working with the the Pima County One-Stop.

8.6 Appointments –

The Commissioners will be voting on Leshawn Bowen's appointment as MEC Youth Commissioner, and the reappointment of Jim Cook, the Tucson Mayor & Council appointee representing Parks, Recreation, & Housing. We still have 2 vacancies – a Tucson Mayor & Council appointee representing Libraries, Museums, and Arts; and a second Sun Corridor appointee. Xavier Manrique at Wells Fargo has recommended a replacement for the Libraries, Museums, and Arts appointment, and Dr. Webb-Vignery will be meeting with them in the near future.

8.7 YAC/TTC – Paul Lovelis (Not present)

10 members of the YAC/TTC attended an Education Town Hall that was held on the evening of Wednesday, October 21st at Catalina High School, in lieu of the regular YAC/TTC meeting because of the opportunity to learn more about

the issue and to hear comments from the adult community on the current state of public education funding in Arizona. These 10 students' time will be assessed with the regular meetings for inclusion the Pima County 2nd Quarterly Report.

The 21st Annual Teen Town Hall took place on Friday, October 23rd at Catalina High School. 190 students and 30 community leaders attended the event. As in recent years, the dominant topic was public education funding and the deleterious effect that cuts to education funding is having on students, schools, and the community. The discussion will be transcribed and disseminated to the Commission, YAC/TTC, and the community at large. We are planning for a Student Advocacy Day to take place on Wednesday, March 2nd, 2016, where these issues will be discussed with state legislators.

Ward 5 City Council Member Richard Fimbres will attend the November 18th YAC/TTC meeting, and will be discussing the LULAC Youth leadership Conference & Career Fair Workshops along with MEC Commissioner Javier Herrera.

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. A meeting with Janet Major from the AZ Telemedicine Program at the U of A took place to discuss the AZ Telemedicine initiative to remote-telecast workshops to rural Arizona sites, and we are awaiting word from the AZ SciTech Festival as to how we can interface with them.

The K2E Subcommittee will hold its first meeting for the 2016 event on November 6th. Exhibitor and Sponsor letters have been mailed out. We already have sponsors and exhibitors committed, and schools have begun registering students for the event.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT – PAT WIEDHOPF

Motion to Adjourn: George Favela

Second: Bill Ardern

Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.