

**METROPOLITAN EDUCATION COMMISSION  
YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL/TUCSON TEEN CONGRESS (YAC/TTC)  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2016  
PIMA COUNTY LIBRARY LOWER LEVEL MEETING ROOM,  
101 N. STONE AVE., TUCSON, ARIZONA  
MEETINGS MINUTES**

**Members Present: Maggie Zheng, David Ojeda, Ki Huang, Arnoldo Martinez, Leshawn Bowen, Jazmin Nunez, Ev Essif, Madeline Zheng, Kyle Hetherington, Gloria Mendoza.  
Non-Members Present: Jason Freed, Paul Lovelis, Ed Nossem.**

1.0 CALL TO ORDER – DAVID OJEDA

Meeting called to order at 6:05 P.M.

2.0 ROLL CALL – DAVID OJEDA

Roll was called; a quorum of members was present.

3.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – DAVID OJEDA

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all attendees.

4.0 APPROVAL OF JANUARY 20, 2016 MEETING MINUTES – DAVID OJEDA

Motion to approve: Kyle Hetherington

Second: Jazmyn Nuñez

Minutes approved unanimously.

5.0 TUCSON EDUCATION ASSOCIATION PRESENTATION – JASON FREED

Tucson Education Association President Jason Freed described his youth, college, and teaching background, and his eventual involvement in political issues and organizations. He has been an elementary school math teacher for 16 years. He became acutely aware of the socioeconomic and ethnic disparities among different parts of Tucson as he went through his own educational process as a youth.

Mr. Freed stressed the importance of forming your own opinions on issues, getting involved in the political process, and of encouraging other youth to do so. He said the MEC has been a great venue for the public discussion of Proposition 123, through the public forums the MEC held on the topic in December 2015 and January 2016. He related how his opinions on the proposition were shaped over time and through thorough research, as well as his on-the-ground experience as a teacher at a Tucson elementary school. He also discussed the Arizona State Constitution's mandate of keeping public education, including higher education, as nearly free as possible and supported by taxation, and the rising costs of higher education. He urged the YAC/TTC to be well informed and articulate when they visit with state legislators on Civic Engagement Day.

Mr. Freed has agreed to participate in our Mock Legislator practice on Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup>.

6.0 CIVIC ENGAGEMENT DAY – PAUL LOVELIS & ED NOSSEM

Three committees were formed to address issues to discuss with legislators. These are:

1. General Education Funding – Arnoldo Martinez, Madeline Zheng, Ki Huang, Roberto Diaz-Brown
2. School Infrastructure & Technology Issues – Kyle Hetherington, Ev Essif
3. Teacher and Student Retention Issues – Maggie Zheng, Ana Gloria Mendoza, Leshawn Bowen, Jazmyn Nunez, David Ojeda.

These committees will be added to with YAC/TTC members who were not present at today's meeting, and could be revised for even numbers meeting with legislators.

The Mock Legislative meeting has been set for Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the MEC office. Jason Freed, Paul Lovelis, and another adult will play the role of legislators so that the students can get comfortable with their presentations. Schools that had attendees at the Teen Town Hall are being contacted to send 2 students each to the Civic Engagement Day and the Mock Legislative meeting.

7.0 EVERYONE MATTERS DAY – ED NOSSEM

The Everyone Matters Day YAC/TTC participation has been postponed until next year.

8.0 PIMA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY – KENDRA DAVEY

No action.

9.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Arnoldo Martinez led a discussion of possible fundraising options. Maggie Zheng announced that she has tentatively arranged a Donation Night for Panda Express on Campbell & Glenn. Leshawn Bowen said that he might be able to get a quote from his school's shirt vendor, New Stitch, that is cheaper than the one we have at present.

10.0 CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No action.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

Motion to approve: Kyle Hetherington

Second: Leshawn Bowen

Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m