



**MINUTES – METROPOLITAN EDUCATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2016, 4:00 P.M.
PIMA COUNTY LIBRARY LOWER LEVEL MEETING ROOM,
101 N. STONE AVE., TUCSON, ARIZONA**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Bill Ardern, Dr. Mary Jan Bancroft, Dennis Barger, Dr. Kent Barrabee, Leshawn Bowen, Dr. David Doré, Deborah Embry, George Favela, Guillermo Figueroa, Jennifer Flores, Steve Freeman, Molly Gilbert, Javier Herrera, Teri Laguna, Alexander Lewis, Beth Matthias-Loghry, Paul Lovelis, Rafael Meza, Dr. Daisy Rodriguez Pitel, Jo Riester, Jennifer Sprung, Dr. Alan Storm, Dr. June Webb-Vignery, Pat Wiedhopf, James Wiltbank, Maggie Zheng.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Dr. Linda Arzoumanian, James Cook, Jen Darland, Richard Elias, Luis Manjarrez, Regina Romero, Dr. Kasey Urquidez.

NON-COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Frannie Neal, David Rodriguez, Jesus Valenzuela, Edward Nossem.

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 MARCH 16, 2016 MEETING MINUTES – PAT WIEDHOPF**

Motion to approve: Deborah Embry

Second: George Favela

Motion carried unanimously.

5.0 **APPROVAL OF MARCH 2016 FINANCIAL REPORT – PAT WIEDHOPF**

Motion: Dr. Alan Storm

Second: Rafael Meza

Motion carried unanimously.

6.0 **PRESENTATION – TUCSON CITY MANAGER MICHAEL ORTEGA**

Tucson City Manager Michael Ortega thanked the Commission for having him present on the City budget. He said that there are questions about how we got to the current point – it's important that we do it in the context of the community at large, not just city government.

After 5 months on the job as City Manager, I laid out for the Mayor & Council what I saw in terms of revenue and expenses for the next 4 years, and made sure that it was clear that it is cumulative; if we don't address it this year, we add this year's to next year's, and so forth. That cumulative impact was on the magnitude of about \$63 million that we would have to address that 4th year. Clearly that is unacceptable, but it was important for everyone to understand that that is what we're facing, if we did nothing.

The parties embarked on discussions; looking at various options. All costs are rising at present except fuel; oftentimes we hear about public safety and pensions – that's a big cost for us, which is a systemic issue. The biggest cost is personnel, which is about 64% of the budget, and the only way that we can get through this is to reduce personnel costs. We instituted a hiring freeze; we had about 500 people eligible for retirement, many of whom are management-level. We offered them incentives for retirement such as pay through the end of the fiscal year, and some offset for health insurance for retirees. We also looked at scaling back pensions and held on to 150 public service vacancies.

Everyone was challenged to have a good look at how we do business. The model is one of scarcity and competing resources. The budget that was presented to the Mayor & Council yesterday is structurally balanced. The final budget will be adopted on June 7th, 2016.

MEC Commissioners asked various questions regarding the vacancies, possible help from the legislature, and the fairness of the process of Human Services dollars being retroactively rewarded.

7.0 MEC YOUTH INTERACTION GUIDELINES – DR. JUNE WEBB-VIGNERY

The MEC Executive Board has approved guidelines for interaction with youth. These Guidelines serve as rules to be followed by Metropolitan Education Commission (MEC) Staff, Commissioners, and Volunteers when interacting with youth, Student Ambassadors, and other members of the community. They are to be considered the official policy of the Metropolitan Education Commission. The Guidelines cover personal and electronic communications, social media guidelines, transportation, harassment, and other relevant issues. The Guidelines were distributed to the Commissioners for review and comment.

8.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS – PAT WIEDHOPE

8.1 Budget – Bill Ardern

The budget is tracking appropriately; the April Executive Director's Report shows current grants status. In addition to the standard City of Tucson funding, the MEC has applied for \$51,000 for the support of the Regional College Access Center. As there has been a recent negative change in the status of the award for the MEC, we ask that MEC Commissioners attend a hearing on the budget at the City Hall Mayor & Council on Tuesday, May 3rd at 5:00 p.m. and demonstrate support for the MEC. This is crucial because other agencies will also be there to make their cases for funding. We will be sending reminder emails, and are in the

process of arranging meetings with the Mayor & City Council members to discuss the issue.

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 35 tables at present, including individuals. The 2016 Honorees are: Lifetime Achievement Award – Dr. John Pedicone; Education Advocate Award, General Ron Shoopman; Teacher Award - Jennifer Anglin, Flowing Wells Junior High School, Flowing Wells Unified School District; Corporate Award – Cox Communications; Counselor Award – Dr. Judy Bowers; Small Business Award – Elliott Accounting; and Youth Award – Nayra Ochoa, Rincon High School, Tucson USD. A video is being produced by TUSD Media from the Helios Education Foundation College Knowing & Going Initiative Kickoff, and will be presented at the event.

8.3 Appointments –Deborah Embry

Reappointment of Debbi Embry, representing the Tucson Urban League, to the MEC:

Motion: Jo Riester

Second: Javier Herrera

Motion carried unanimously.

8.4 YAC/TTC – Maggie Zheng & Leshawn Bowen

YAC/TTC members attended the 26th Annual LULAC Educators Banquet; YAC/TTC President David Ojeda presented on the group's activities and accomplishments during the past year. The YAC/TTC will be electing interim officers at tonight's meeting. There are 10 students graduating high school and moving on; members were encouraged to recruit suitable replacement members that would commit to attendance and participation.

8.5 Issues –George Favela

It was decided that the MEC Commissioners will not meet in May, but rather that a committee to address the outcome of the Proposition 123 vote will meet to formulate a plan for a response. The volunteers for the committee are: Dr. June Webb-Vignery, Pat Wiedhopf, Javier Herrera, Paul Lovelis; Dr. Kent Barrabee; Molly Gilbert; Alexander Lewis, George Favela, and Debbi Embry.

Motion to Form Committee to Address Outcome of Prop. 123

Motion: Paul Lovelis

Second: Debi Embry

Motion carried unanimously.

8.6 Regional College Access Center – David Rodriguez

A Kick-Off Press Conference for the Helios Education Foundation College Knowing & Going Initiative was held in Phoenix for Wednesday, April 13th, 2016, and the Southern Arizona Kickoff took place on Thursday, April 14, 2016 at Catalina High School Auditorium. Speakers included Mayor Jonathan Rothschild, Pima County Supervisor Richard Elías (as Co-Chairs of the Regional College Access Center), Helios Education Foundation President & CEO Paul Luna, and former RCAC Student Ambassador Jacob Contreras. Other elected officials, school superintendents, and the media were also in attendance, and there was media coverage of the event. This event was important, as it showcased the

need for, and probable outcome of, this grant. The MEC is the Southern Arizona component for the statewide initiative.

8.7 Key to Employment Symposium – Ed Nossem

The 2017 Key to Employment for the 21st Century Symposium will take place on Wednesday, February 8, 2017 at the U of A Student Union.

9.0 CALL TO THE PUBLIC

MEC Commissioners made announcements of various activities and events.

10.0 ADJOURNMENT – PAT WIEDHOPF

Motion to approve: George Favela

Second: Jennifer Sprung

Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.