



MINUTES – MEC RETREAT
Saturday, August 6, 2016, at 7:45 a.m.
University of Arizona Student Union, 1303 E. University Blvd.,
Tucson, Arizona.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Bill Ardern, Dennis Barger, Leshawn Bowen, James Cook, Jen Darland, George Favela, Steven Freeman, Molly Gilbert, Jessica Kull, Teri Laguna, Alexander Lewis, Paul Lovelis, Rafael Meza, Dr. Daisy Rodriguez Pitel, Jennifer Sprung, Dr. Alan Storm, Dr. June Webb-Vignery, James Wiltbank, Patricia Wiedhopf.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Dr. Linda Arzoumanian, Dr. Mary Jan Bancroft, Dr. Kent Barrabee, Dr. David Doré, Richard Elias, Deborah Embry, Javier Herrera, Luis Manjarrez, Beth Matthias Loghry, Jo Riester, Regina Romero, Dr. Kasey Urquidez.

NON-COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Mayor Jonathan Rothschild, Dr. Andrew Comrie, Ed Nossem, David Rodriguez, Felicia Ramirez, Frannie Neal, Jacob Contreras, Anahi Vasquez, Jennifer Flores, Linda Jensen, Dr. Eugenia Favela, Dr. Mary Belle McCorkle, Jennifer Flores, Johanna Duffek, Martha Lee, Zulena Fragosa, Kimberly Ward, Greg Ward.

SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS:

Dr. David Baker, Flowing Wells USD; Mr. Calvin Baker, Vail School District; Ms. Angel Canto, Nogales USD; Dr. H.T. Sanchez, Tucson USD.

MEMBERS OF THE MEC'S YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL/TUCSON TEEN CONGRESS: Aiselyn Anaya, Ev Essif, Brennen Feder, Patrick Derrig, Nia Moran, Madeliene Zheng,

STUDENTS REPRESENTING DISTRICT SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS:

Steven Gracia – Amphi USD, Amphi High School
Julio Zamorano – Amphi USD, Amphi High School

Sophia Rankin – Catalina Foothills USD, Catalina Foothills HS

David Bracamonte. Flowing Wells USD, Flowing Wells High School

Skylar Tilden – Marana USD, Marana High School;
Annessa Lopez, Marana USD, Mountain View High School

Lucia Lopez – Nogales USD, Nogales High School
Adrian Lopez, Nogales USD, Nogales High School

Adriana Godoy, TUSD, Rincon High School
Eli Miller, TUSD, Rincon High School

Jasmine Aguilar - SUNNYSIDE USD, Desert View HS
Patrick Robles – SUNNYSIDE USD, Desert View HS

Ali Abdulameer, TUSD, Tucson High School
Eddica Yslas, TUSD, Tucson High School
Prashamsa Raut, TUSD, Tucson High School
Eli Miller, TUSD, Tucson High School

Austin LeBlanc – Vail School District, Vail Academy High School
Liam Gannon - Vail School District, Vail Academy High School

1.0 GREETINGS – PAT WIEDHOPF

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m.

1.1 CALL TO ORDER – PAT WIEDHOPF

1.2 ROLL CALL – PAT WIEDHOPF

Roll call was conducted; a quorum was established.

1.3 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – PAT WIEDHOPF

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

2.0 WELCOMING REMARKS

MEC Chair Pat Wiedhopf welcomed the Commissioners, Panelists, YAC/TTC members, student school superintendent representatives, and other attendees to the U of A Student Union.

DR. ANDREW COMRIE, PROVOST, UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

University of Arizona Provost Dr. Andrew Comrie expressed his pleasure at being in attendance at the Retreat.

Dr. Comrie commented that what the MEC does is incredibly important; and acknowledged the students in attendance that came directly out the Tucson area school districts; he also acknowledged the MEC’s other efforts during the entire year. Students come to the U of A do well because of the education that they get in our schools. Dr. Comrie also said that administrators, sometimes we get a little jaded by the stats, and pushing the boulder up the hill every day; but that the very same challenges that you all face in your schools and in your districts, are the same ones we have here. “We really try to make sure that when you come to the U of A, that we are positioned for success...as you go through step by step it becomes manageable”. The U of A has an incredible set of support systems that try to do their very best to ensure success, just as you

(administrators) do in your districts. Dr. Comrie thanked the school district administrators for all of the hard work that they are doing, and said that the U of A will inherit all of that hard work. In a month from now Dr. Comrie will go to Florida to watch the launch of the Osiris Rex Space Mission – attending the U of A affords the possibility to work on projects such as this, as well as many other academic opportunities. There are all kinds of students that are associated with that mission. You can have not only classroom experiences, but also real-world experiences and a world-class education both inside and outside the classroom. We should not lose sight of the fact that really, we are all part of one big system – from pre-birth onwards all the way through the K-12 system, to training teachers and professors, we are here to make sure that people who have the ability and skills can really succeed. We are here to literally change the world, and it is deeply gratifying to teachers who hear back from students about their later accomplishments.

MAYOR JONATHAN ROTHSCHILD, CITY OF TUCSON

Mayor Rothschild expressed his thanks for being invited to deliver opening remarks, and said that he was particularly pleased and heart-warmed to see all of the student attendees, because really what this is about is the students, getting them aware of the issues, and prepared to take on the issues. He also thanked the MEC for their continual work of getting students who might not otherwise be aware of how to get to college, and of developing young leadership.

Four years ago (Phoenix) Mayor Stanton and Mayor Rothschild formed a State Education Roundtable, and did that because they saw a void of leadership in the Legislature – Mayors can serve as people who can advocate to our citizens, and were funded mainly by the Helios Foundation. One of the principal issues in our state is getting young people through high school and on to college. As a result, this year Helios launched a \$5.1 million initiative to get all (juniors) the ACT Test, ensure that it is delivered to them and that they take it, and named the MEC as one of the partners to get that done. The Mayor said that he looked forward to hearing the conversation, as well as the conversation about education funding. One of the keys is that, if you can get this funding, is to effectively utilize it so that you can go back and make the case that you are using it right and can use it again. It is critical that the Superintendents and the MEC deliver on this funding source that has been given to us.

The other thing that the MEC has done so well for years is to take the young folks that are here today and develop them into new leaders. Mayor Rothschild related that he had the great privilege of attending the Democratic National Convention, and some of the important work was done away from the Convention Floor. One of the places he happened into was the New American Leaders Project, which is a national organization that takes first-generation young Americans and teaches them how to run for office – the MEC's mission is very much the same – taking oftentimes first-generation Americans, or families who have never been to college, and getting those students into college, which makes a big difference in our country. The offshoot of that is the leadership program which you have merged into that. Right now in Arizona, about 70% of the available jobs require a postsecondary education of some kind, so that work that you are doing can be critical to that young person's life, changing lives, which is a very important thing to do.

Mayor Rothschild also briefly touched on Wallet Hub, which did a study that concluded that Arizona has the 4th least-effective education system in the United States – whether you believe the study or not, there’s no question that there is work to be done. Money isn’t the solution to every problem, but it helps. Regarding the (panel) conversation later today about continued funding for education, including Proposition 123 – every person that the Mayor talked to about the topic has said that after 123 has to come “456”. He also touched on TUSD’s Steps to Success program. Sometimes the smallest programs can have the largest effects.

3.0 INTRODUCTIONS – PAT WIEDHOPF

Due to time constraints and the large number of attendees, all were asked to state their name, their title, and what it is that brought them to the MEC Retreat.

4.0 PANEL DISCUSSION: HELIOS EDUCATION FOUNDATION COLLEGE KNOWING & GOING INITIATIVE; EDUCATION FUNDING / PROPOSITION 123
MODERATOR:

Dr. Alan Storm, MEC Commissioner representing School Superintendents

PANELISTS: Dr. David Baker, Flowing Wells USD; Mr. Calvin Baker, Vail School District; Ms. Angel Canto, Nogales USD; Dr. H.T. Sanchez, Tucson USD.

PLEASE NOTE: The LINK TO THE VIDEO OF THE COMPLETE PANEL DISCUSSION IS: <https://youtu.be/9WxuE3pVKWw>

Due to space considerations for these minutes we cannot include an entire transcript of the panel discussion.

5.0 BUSINESS MEETING – PAT WIEDHOPF

5.1 Approval of June 2016 Financial Report

NOTE: We will vote on approval of the July and August 2016 Financial Reports at the September 21st MEC meeting.

Motion: Jennifer Sprung

Second: Leshawn Bowen

Motion carried unanimously.

5.2 Approval of April 20, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Paul Lovelis

Second: Jennifer Sprung

Motion carried unanimously.

5.3 Appointments

Approval of Reappointment of Dr. Kasey Urquidez, representing the University of Arizona:

Motion: Jennifer Sprung

Second: Paul Lovelis

Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Reappointment of Dr. Alan Storm, representing School Superintendents:
Motion: Jennifer Sprung
Second: Paul Lovelis
Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of appointment of Jessica Kull representing Teachers Grades 5-9, Arizona Education Association
Motion: Jennifer Sprung
Second: Teri Laguna
Motion carried unanimously.

We are awaiting word from Sun Corridor and Educational Foundations for replacement Commissioners.

6.0 STATE OF THE MEC – DR. JUNE WEBB-VIGNERY

Dr. Webb-Vignery thanked the University of Arizona for hosting the Retreat, and presented on the current state of the MEC. The Power Point presentation described the MEC's background and programs; mission, philosophy underlying the MEC's development, guiding ideals, and how the MEC accomplishes these ideals.

MEC Program Coordinator Ed Nossem presented on the youth programs, including the Youth Advisory Council/Tucson Teen Congress, including the YAC/TTC's history, mission, and accolades; Tucson Mayor, City Council, and Pima County Board of Supervisors visits to YAC/TTC meetings; Annual Teen Town Hall; The Key to Employment for the 21st Century Symposium; Civic Engagement Day at the State Capitol; LULAC Youth Leadership Conference & Career Fair; and proposed activities for 2016-2017.

Regional College Access Center Coordinator David Rodriguez presented on the RCAC's history and goals; Student Ambassador Program; Helios Education Foundation support; AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteers; the Helios College Knowing & Going Initiative, and other RCAC activities.

A video presentation of the Helios Education Foundation's statewide College Knowing & Going Initiative was also shown.

7.0 BREAK

8.0 BREAKOUT SESSIONS

The attendees broke into three separate sessions for discussion and planning:

- a. Education Funding – Jen Darland
State Education Funding-Proposition 123
- b. Youth Advisory Council/Tucson Teen Congress – Paul Lovelis
2016-2017 Activities; Peer canvassing for issues; COT and BOS Engagement; Member Expansion; Social Media issues
- c. Regional College Access Center – Pat Wiedhopf
Helios Education Foundation CKG Initiative; AmeriCorps Student Ambassadors

9.0 SMALL GROUP REPORTS:

9.1 EDUCATION FUNDING:

The Education Funding Committee discussed future actions moving forward after the passing of Proposition 123. The notes from the Breakout Session are as follows:

We (AZ) are #1 (in the U.S.) only because we've cut the most, \$28 Billion
What to do now that Proposition 123 has passed?

- Stop cutting taxes and draining the general fund by funding charters, etc.
- Reinvest in education and school programs
- Building maintenance and school facilities

AZ Schools Now / Classrooms First continues the conversation. Legislature proposes ideas but all ideas will fail if we can't recruit and retain quality teachers. Next meeting 8/09/2016.

Governor is not interested in new funding streams.

Many groups are waiting to see the results of the election on the Legislature to take action. Even with some potential changes there are still many anti-public education legislators remaining that wish to do harm to education funding.

What do we want?

- Reinvest in recruiting and retaining quality teachers
- Reinvest in quality programs CTE / JTED

How do we deal with/counter teachers leaving and/or retired teachers choosing not to teach? (When a 2-year program can get \$40,000 vs. 4-year degree in teaching \$30,000) -

How can we educate the public to correctly support education funding? Letting people know what the classroom looks like...smaller class sizes, teachers' salaries -

Encouraging the legislature to explore creative funding sources like excise tax on selling excess electricity to other states -

The legislature doesn't have any sense of what effect poverty has on a school or on a classroom -

Next Steps:

- Support reinvestment and recruitment and retention of teachers
- Find creative people to speak out on Op-Ed's / PSA's
- Students / Nogales community / raising awareness of the need for funding and what that means to a teacher/school/counselor
- Keep focus on state base level funding, not additional programs / funding that might phase out or have strings

- Stay away from programs that take funding away from General Fund (STO, Charters)

9.2 YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL/TUCSON TEEN CONGRESS

The YAC/TTC Breakout Session was conducted by MEC Secretary Paul Lovelis and assisted MEC Commissioner Jennifer Sprung.. The group consisted of YAC/TTC members and student representatives from Amphitheater, Catalina Foothills, Flowing Wells, Marana, Nogales, Sunnyside, Tucson, and Vail Unified School Districts.

After the Introductions, the group was presented a history of the YAC/TTC The group was then briefed on upcoming YAC/TTC activities for 2016-2017. The 2016-2017 YAC/TTC applications were distributed to the school superintendents' student representatives; they were asked to bring their completed applications to the first YAC/TTC meeting on Wednesday, September 7th.

Students were asked to describe some of the issues that they would like to see addressed. These were:

- Not enough variety of courses/classes; need more teachers of certain subjects
- School counselors advising students to attend Pima CC rather than encouraging universities, both in-state nor out-of-state - feeling "shot down"
- (RCAC Student Ambassadors can help with this problem; not every student is ready to attend university at high school graduation)
- 50% of U of A Scholarships go unused
- School counselor exit interviews from students are appreciated
- Cafeteria food is bad; nutrition important
- More school activities are needed
- Campus security issues
- Disciplinary issues/actions SRO's across the board in schools – how do WE want it to look – ethnicity disparities

An online discussion board was suggested for these issues, as well as educational sessions outside of YAC/TTC meetings

Activities for the coming year will include:

- Raise awareness of issues that are present all over the City & County that students wouldn't be aware of at their schools; sound out your peers at school and elsewhere
- Raise awareness of the importance of the YAC/TTC to the community as a great experience for future leaders
- Establishment of effective Face Book page / Social Media for communication and recruitment, with proper oversight
- Research and engagement in Tucson Mayor & Council and Pima County Board of Supervisors meeting agendas – attendance at meetings during Call to the Audience and/or as agendized to provide youth input on relevant issues
- New officer elections (President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, and Corresponding Secretary), September 7th, 2016; as well as MEC Youth Commissioner
- Formation of committees to work on specific activities

- Visits to YAC/TTC meetings from elected officials (Dates TBD)

EVENTS:

- MEC / League of Women Voters Pima County Superintendent of Schools Candidates Forum – Wednesday, September 21, 2016, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. The YAC/TTC is a Co-Sponsor of this event. A representative of the Pima County Superintendent of Schools will attend the September 7th YAC/TTC meeting to present on the Superintendent's position and responsibilities.
- Teen Town Hall (Friday, October 21, 2016) – goal of 250 student attendees; get the word out early to fellow students via word-of-mouth, social media, school district on-line postings, and at pep rallies; encourage school principals and administrators to attend; follow-up on invitations. Suggestions for community leader attendees will be solicited and the MEC office will issue the invitations to them. The event will be recorded for reference of issues raised, that will then be taken to the State Legislature on Student Advocacy Day in the Spring of 2017. The aim is to expand the impact of the event.
- Key to Employment for the 21st Century Symposium (Wednesday, February 8, 2017) – YAC/TTC members will suggest exhibitors that will enhance the event and act as hosts
- Student Civic Engagement Day Wednesday, March 1, 2016) – training by local legislators will be arranged for January 2017. Committees will be formed to formulate talking points. The aim this year is to present more forceful arguments to the legislators, backed up by hard data and personal stories. Committee members will initiate contact with the legislators' offices, to be followed up by the MEC office.
- League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Youth Leadership Conference & Career Fair (March 2017) – YAC/TTC members will suggest workshop topics and committee members will volunteer at the event.
- Selection of Crystal Apple School Counselor & Youth Honorees – Committee will select from nominations
- Selection of Outstanding Teen Citizens – Committee will select from nominations
- Selection of Goal One: Graduate! Poster Contest Winners – Committee will select from submissions

9.3 REGIONAL COLLEGE ACCESS CENTER

Motion to solicit \$15.00 donations for the College Knowing & Going Initiative Reception for School Counselors & Student Ambassadors

Motion: Jennifer Sprung

Second: James Cook

Motion carried unanimously.

The Regional College Access Center Committee discussed current and future activities, including the Helios College Knowing & Going Initiative, AmeriCorps Student Ambassadors, and the CKGI Reception for school counselors and AmeriCorps Ambassadors. The notes from the Breakout Session are as follows:

College Knowing & Going Reception / Kickoff

Goal: Bring everyone together; Goals – CKG; Collective energy between districts

Date: (Thursday, September 29th, 2016, 4:00-6:00 p.m. was ultimately decided)

4:00-4:30 p.m. – Reception
4:30 – 5:00 p.m. – Presentation
5:00-6:00 p.m. – Network
Invitations: U of A/Pima CC Representatives
Mayor Rothschild & Richard Elías – Welcome messages – 2 minutes
Presenters: Counselors, students, RCAC Staff
19 High School Reps
One minute per speaker
Two minutes per district – submit updates in writing (counselors)
Updates on College Knowing & Going
Data/Goal/Strategies/Last year's data
ECAP – measurements/completion
Each district take one measurement
ECAP/FAFSA/ACT/College application

Reception Location: MEC

Budget: Minimal MEC Commissioner contributions

Chairs – rent – TUSD option

Food/Drinks: Pat Wiedhopf – water, tea; June Webb-Vignery – cookies;

Martha Lee – wings

CTE JTED program (catering) – Alan Storm

Napkins/utensils??

Microphone – Ed Nossem

Invitations: Email / phone calls

Helios crew

Student Ambassadors

Counselors

Mayor – all regions, chambers

Richard Elías

Media – NPR? TUSD/Sunnyside

Superintendents

RSVP List

Counselor Award

Mayor FAFSA Kickoff

U of A Rep / Pima / ASU / NAU / GCU

Advisory Group

How to measure ECAP score; ACT data/scores

Goal: Baseline/Reaching towards/How to get there

#Applications last year

Applications this year

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

Motion to approve: Dr. Alan Storm

Second: Jennifer Sprung

Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.