

**Metropolitan Education Commission  
Executive Board Meeting  
Thursday, September 1, 2016, 7:30 a.m.  
MEC Office, 930 E. Broadway Blvd., Tucson, AZ.**

**MINUTES**

**Attendance:** Members present: Dr. June Webb-Vignery, Pat Wiedhopf, Bill Ardern, Paul Lovelis, George Favela, Deborah Embry  
Members absent: Dr. Kasey Urquidez  
Non-members present: Edward Nossem, Felicia Ramirez, Rhonda Fure

**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 AUGUST 4, 2016 MEETING MINUTES – PAT WIEDHOPF**

Motion to approve: George Favela

Second: Deborah Embry

Motion approved unanimously.

**5.0 MEC RETREAT – PAT WIEDHOPF**

The MEC Retreat took place on Saturday, August 6, 2016 at the University of Arizona Student Union Tucson/Catalina Rooms, from 7:45 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

The Welcome was presented by U of A Provost Dr. Andrew Comrie and Mayor Jonathan Rothschild. The Mayor's strong leadership and involvement are much appreciated; he mentioned that he was happy to see so many students in attendance representing a broad array of school districts.

Participating Helios CKGI district superintendents, including Nogales, attended and presented the panel discussion, which was moderated by Dr. Alan Storm. The panel discussion was videotaped and is available from the MEC office.

Jen Darland facilitated the Education Funding Breakout session; Paul Lovelis facilitated the YAC/TTC Breakout, and Pat Wiedhopf facilitated the RCAC Breakout.

We had 19 student representatives from school districts in attendance (Amphi, Catalina Foothills, Flowing Wells, Nogales, Marana, Sunnyside, TUSD, and Vail), along with most of the current YAC/TTC membership.

**6.0 COOPER CENTER PROPOSAL – PAT WIEDHOPF**

Tucson Unified School District has contacted the MEC to be the Fiscal Agent for an Angel Charities grant to support the expansion/renovation of the University of Arizona's Cooper Environmental Center, and a budget has been drawn up that covers the MEC's

administrative overhead. The MEC Executive Director would oversee the project. The MEC could benefit through the YAC/TTC's involvement with Cooper Center activities. There is a 10-year Deed of Trust which TUSD will sign. A contract has been drafted, which the MEC Executive Board discussed; the provision regarding Angel Charities restrictions on other MEC fundraising has been resolved; the TUSD attorney has sent a letter stating that the MEC's status as a pass-through will not keep the MEC from any separate fundraising activities. They have indicated that the MEC's participation as fiscal pass-through is very important.

There have been some recent personnel changes at TUSD; meanwhile the U of A is moving forward.

## **7.0 OFFICE OF THE PIMA COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT CANDIDATE FORUM – PAT WIEDHOPF**

The Office of the Pima County School Superintendent Candidate Forum will take place on Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at Pima Community College Downtown Campus Amethyst Room, 122 N. Stone Ave., at 6:00 p.m. This Forum Co-Sponsored by the MEC and the League of Women Voters of Greater Tucson, and is in partnership with the Arizona School Administrators Association; Arizona School Boards Association; Southern Arizona Leadership Council; MEC Youth Advisory Council/Tucson Teen Congress; Tucson Education Association; and Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce.

We will hold the MEC business meeting at 5:00 p.m. in the Copper Conference Room, which is adjacent to the Amethyst Room. The Forum will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Our YAC/TTC members will also be in attendance; this Forum will serve as their Regular Meeting.

We will be inviting elected officials, school superintendents, school board members, and the general public to attend the Forum.

As there is currently construction on Stone Avenue, parking is accessible at the north parking lot off of Drachman St., or the west parking lot off of Speedway Blvd. and queen avenue, west of Stone Ave. you may want to give yourself some extra time to negotiate traffic in the area. The PCC district office has suggested using Main Avenue in order to bypass Stone Avenue, which is experiencing traffic backups at Speedway Blvd.

## **8.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **8.1 Collaborations – Dr. June Webb-Vignery**

The Pima County Interfaith Council is planning a forum focused on education with the Children's Action Alliance. Dr. Webb-Vignery attended the planning meeting..

The MEC's College Knowing & Going Reception will take place on Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at the MEC office. Mayor Rothschild, Pima County Supervisor Richard Elias will deliver welcoming remarks. The school district superintendents, school counselors, and student ambassadors involved in the CKG Initiative have been invited, as well as MEC Commissioners, who have been asked to make small donations to the catering fund. Santa Rita High School's JTED Culinary Program will cater the event.

David Rodriguez is being honored at a College Access Arizona event in Phoenix on Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>.

The Community Schools Executive Board met; Dr. Webb-Vignery attended and reported that they are writing a new grant, and moving from the Mayor's office to Higher Ground, and working with Sunnyside USD.

Paul Lovelis and Ed Nossem attended a planning meeting for the U of A Festival of Books at make Way for Books' the YAC/TTC will be enlisted as volunteers at the event.

### **8.2 Budget - Bill Ardern**

Rhonda Fure from Beach Fleischman, P.C. presented on the MEC's 2015-2016 Audit; they have issued an Unqualified Opinion, and everything is in good order.

Motion to accept the 2015-2016 Beach Fleischman Audit Report:

Motion: Bill Ardern

Second: George Favela

Motion carried unanimously.

We have received the City of Tucson and Pima Contracts and have commenced billing.

### **8.3 Crystal Apple Awards Luncheon – Dr. June Webb-Vignery**

We have reserved Friday, April 28, 2017 at the Desert Diamond Casino & Hotel for next year's event, and the catering contract has been signed. The Lifetime Achievement Committee met on August 24<sup>th</sup> to select the 2017 Honoree. The Lifetime Achievement Honoree is Dr. Eugenia Favela; the Education Advocate Honorees are Jeretta Douglas and Ruth Solomon. The Crystal Apple Luncheon Committee will convene in the near future to begin planning for the event.

We plan to have a special page in the event program dedicated to Dr. Linda Arzoumanian saluting her for her service as Superintendent of Schools.

### **8.4 Issues – George Favela**

We will be watching for further developments on Proposition 123.

### **8.5 RCAC – David Rodriguez**

The CKGI is moving forward rapidly; David Rodriguez, Frannie Neal and Felicia Ramirez have visited school sites to arrange trainings and other logistics. They are receiving great feedback from the school counselors. We will be recording and reporting data on ECAP's, ACT scores, and FAFSA completions. We will have a new AmeriCorps replacement for Frannie Neal, through the Northern Arizona University AmeriCorps office.

### **8.6 Appointments – Deborah Embry**

Sun Corridor has appointed George "Monty" Vance, an executive at Northern Trust Bank, to represent economic development on the Commission, replacing Guillermo Figueroa.

A Youth Commissioner will be voted on at the September 7<sup>th</sup> YAC/TTC meeting.

### **8.7 YAC/TTC – Paul Lovelis**

Most of the current YAC/TTC attended the MEC Retreat, along with many student school superintendent representatives who indicated that they would like to join the YAC/TTC. They will be invited to the September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. At the Retreat we discussed additional activities for the 2016-2017 year involving the Tucson Mayor & Council and Pima County Board of Supervisors meeting agenda

items, the youth can provide input into the discussions through Call to the Audience or as agenda items. We have also discussed inviting local state legislators and a school board member to attend a YAC/TTC meeting, in addition to Mayor, City Council, and Board of Supervisors members. We will also try to get some more diverse political representation at the Teen Town Hall, which will take place on Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at Catalina High School Auditorium.

**8.8 Key to Employment Symposium – Dr. June Webb-Vignery**

The 2017 K2E will take place on Wednesday, February 8, 2017 at the UA Student Union. MEC staff met with K2E Coordinator Johanna Duffek on 7/06/16 to begin the planning process. We are awaiting word from Samsung on a Sponsorship.

**9.0 ADJOURNMENT – PAT WIEDHOPF**

Motion to approve: Bill Ardern

Second: Deborah Embry

Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 a.m.