



MINUTES – MEC RETREAT
Saturday, June 8, 2019, at 8:00 a.m.
University of Arizona Student Union, 1303 E. University Blvd.,
Tucson, Arizona.

1.0 Call to Order/Greetings

1.1 Meeting called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Paul Lovelis, MEC Chair.

1.2 Roll Call

Members present: Joshua Ashton, Arlene Benavidez, Monica Brinkerhoff, James Cook, Kendra Davey, Melanie Donaldson, Dr. David Doré, George Favela, Steve Freeman, Teri Laguna, Alexander Lewis, Paul Lovelis, Patrick Robles, Dr. Daisy Rodriguez Pitel, Devon Scheitrum, Rex Scott, Jennifer Sprung.

Members absent: Buck Crouch, Richard Elias, Daniela Gallagher, Javier Herrera, Steve Holmes, Dr. Da'Mond Holt, Jon Lansa, Rafael Meza, Regina Romero, Dr. Kasey Urquidez, Dustin Williams, Pat Wiedhopf, James Wiltbank.

Non-members present: Edward Nossem, Felicia Ramirez, Gina Valencia, Aleksandra Lott, Aiselyn Anaya, Julia Bacchus, Tammy Bui, Roxanne Dewar-Murphy, Dr. Eugenia Favela, Maria Federico Brummer, Lisa Hansen, Dr. Soaring Hawk, Marissa Dicochea, Ed Dunin-Wasowicz, Lupita Gamez, Selena Llamas, Gabriel Loya, Janet Major, Milana Marshall, Rudy McCormick, Jennifer Miranda, Carolyn Owens, Yusuf Rahman, Meg Riley, Jeff Sales, Ryan Sermon, Tanisha Tatum, Catherine Tornbom, Guillermina Torres, Nubia Valentino, Dr. June Webb-Vignery, Ann Yellott.

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

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

2.0 Business Meeting

2.1 Approval of May 15, 2019 Meeting Minutes:

Motion: Steve Freeman

Second: Jennifer Sprung

Motion carried unanimously.

2.2 MEC Appointments

Motion to approve Daniela Figueroa for City of Tucson Social Service Agencies Serving Youth MEC Commissioner appointment: Jennifer Sprung

Second: Teri Laguna

Motion approved unanimously.

3.0 Acknowledgements

MEC Chair Paul Lovelis acknowledged the community and education leaders in attendance.

4.0 Introductions

The attendees introduced themselves and their organizations and stated one reason that they are involved with the MEC.

5.0 Retreat Purpose and Objectives

MEC Chair Paul Lovelis briefly presented on the purpose and objectives of the MEC Retreat - to gather information from Commissioners and Partners to help Executive Board create a 3-year strategic plan effective starting in 2019-2020; to make 2019-2020 a transformational year; to focus on bringing attention to our local needs and outreach to stakeholder groups to form community-wide education advocates, both youth and adults; who we are as a Commission; and to identify MEC advocacy priorities for Tucson and Pima County.

6.0 Executive Director's Report

MEC Executive Director Arlene Benavidez presented on the importance of the individuals attending and their commitment to the MEC; the format of this year's Retreat being on educational advocacy; the value of the information gleaned from MEC Retreats; the 2018 Retreat outcomes and suggestions and how they unfolded during this year; the successful reformatting of the YAC Teen Town Hall; addition of Virtual College Advising to RCAC services; and statewide collaborations to expand our education advocacy activities.

Education advocacy and sustainability are going to be our focus for 2020. Year One and Year Two (of Arlene's tenure as MEC Executive Director) were transitional years – the first year involved a lot of automation and technology upgrades, which was attributed to the MEC's move into the Santa Rosa Recreation Center. Year two focused on the quality, depth, and impact of our programs.

Year three will be about transformation – focusing on and assessing local needs, taking ownership of what is going on in our community and what we have influence over; the Strategic Plan and sustainability; and our 30-year Celebration.

7.0 Assessment Activities

The table setup allowed for a diversity of perspectives at each of the tables for assessments, recommendations, and priorities, which will be used by the Executive Board and finalized by the Commission. The operative questions were: What does Pre-K to post-secondary education currently look like in our local community, i.e., City of Tucson and Pima County? Where do we see strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats? Attendees at each table performed their own SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) Analyses. The tables reported out on their conclusions.

8.0 Break

9.0 Advocacy Recommendations

The attendees engaged in a Think, Pair, Share Activity - using the information gathered for the SWOT activity; the table groups broke up into groups of 2 or 3 people; these smaller groups completed the Think, Pair, Share Worksheet to narrow down the table group's recommendations. The results were shared with the attendees.

10.0 Advocacy Priorities, Goals, and Objectives

The groups discussed how to prioritize the many needs identified and the recommendations provided, referring to Priority Pyramid Worksheets. The groups reported their results to the attendees.

11.0 Advocacy Action Items and Commitments

The groups reported the results of their discussions. These results will be compiled by MEC staff and made available upon completion.

The MEC needs input to assist in our education advocacy and strategic planning; in order to gauge future involvement, a Poll Pledge link was utilized.

12.0 2020 Vision

We need a clear “2020” vision for the next 30 years; clarity starts from within ourselves and the organization. The main questions to be addressed are:

Who are we? What do we stand for? How can we best support our local community to have access to a quality and affordable education from pre-K to post-secondary? How can we lead and contribute to local and statewide educational advocacy efforts? How do we inspire our Commissioners, Partners, and Community to become engaged and come alongside the MEC to advocate for the education of youth in the City of Tucson and Pima County? How do we live out our slogan - Our Voice, Our Community, Our Future - in Tucson and Pima County? The answers to these questions will set the foundation for a year of transformation for the Metropolitan Education Commission.

13.0 Next Steps

The MEC Executive Board will produce a Strategic Plan Draft in July; which will be presented to the Commissioners for approval & launch in August. We will also be reviewing Coordination and Collaborations activities, with a focus on Education Advocacy. The 2020 Census should give us some useful data relative to the City and County. We plan to move forward with the establishment of Early Childhood Education and JTED Commissioner positions. Copies of the 2019-2020 MEC Calendar of Activities (Meetings & Events) were distributed at the Retreat for the attendees’ reference. This year will be the MEC’s 30th Anniversary; plans are underway to celebrate.

14.0 Adjournment

Motion: George Favela

Second: Monica Brinkerhoff

Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.