



Our Voice ♦ Our Community ♦ Our Future

MEC Executive Board Meeting
Tuesday, October 8, 2019, 8:15 A.M. – 9:15 A.M.
1080 S. 10th Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85701

MINUTES

Members present: Arlene Benavidez, Paul Lovelis, Rafael Meza, Monica Brinkerhoff, Jim Cook, George Favela
Members absent: Rex Scott, Dr. Daisy Rodriguez Pitel
Nonmembers present: Ed Nossem

1.0 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:24 a.m.

2.0 Pledge of Allegiance

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

3.0 Roll Call

Roll call was conducted; a quorum was established.

4.0 Approval of September 10, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve: George Favela

Second: Rafael Meza

Motion carried unanimously.

5.0 Appointments

The YAC voted in a new youth commissioner - Milana Marshall will be voted upon by the MEC next week. We still need to fill the vacancies left by the resignations of Da'mond Holt (Tucson Urban League) and Melanie Donaldson (Arizona Education Association, Teachers Grades 5-9). Further exploration needs to occur to fill the City Council Commissioner. It was discussed when to proceed with changing the current Sun Corridor position to JTED; the decision was to wait until the new City Council is in place, in January. Jim Cook shared that he got a letter from the City that he is ineligible to serve as a voting member since he has been a City appointed member for 8 years.



Arlene and Paul will look into the rule and decide with Jim about what next steps should occur.

6.0 Financial Report

Arlene Benavidez presented the September financial report. The statement of financials will be ready by the end of the week to be presented to the MEC next week. We have submitted Pima County billings for July and August. Now working to assess the remainder of the fiscal year, specifically, how to cover personnel and what changes will need to occur to pay for salaries and continue operations at the current level. Arlene is working with the accountant on fiscal reports by quarter. The operating budget is being closely monitored by Arlene and the accountant. Arlene reported that there have been some changes at Earn to Learn, and that they are now offering similar services to the RCAC. Arlene met with David Rodriguez, the new Executive Director of Earn to Learn, to discuss the similarities and how to reduce confusion. Arlene expressed concern that this may be a future threat to Helios funding. Board members suggested that Arlene explore future partnership opportunity with Helios, and to take time to clearly map out what all organizations that do similar work and where there might be duplication as well as what gaps MEC fills. There is value to have everyone in the same room for this conversation. It was also suggested that Arlene and Paul Lovelis meet with Pima County Supervisor Elias and Councilwoman Regina Romero to provide an update, and request letters of support.

7.0 Education Advocacy

Paul and Dr. Daisy Rodriguez Pitel met to talk about their roles as Chair and Vice Chair and also discussed how to better engage the Commissioners, especially in light of not having a quorum at the last meeting. Daisy and Paul proposed to spend a significant amount of time at the next meeting to provide the Commissioners with time to explore what makes them passionate about education, and to look at whether the time of the meeting needs to change. Arlene believes that the core function of the commission is to advocate for education- even above fundraising. She feels it is important to have discussions about advocacy and that MEC should be at the forefront of education advocacy efforts. Paul suggested brainstorming with the Commissioners about what the organizations and groups they represent need related to advocacy. Jim suggested the MEC provides a “curated” list of advocacy issues, and a “call to action” prompt to engage commissioners in advocacy.



8.0 Operations and Programs

Motion to approve agenda: George Favela

Second: Monica Brinkerhoff

Motion carried unanimously.

9.0 Approval of October 16, 2019 Commissioner Meeting Agenda

Motion to approve agenda: Jim Cook

Second: George Favela

Motion carried unanimously.

10.0 Adjournment

Motion to approve: Monica Brinkerhoff

Second: Rafael Meza

Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.