

METROPOLITAN
E D U C A T I O N
C O M M I S S I O N

Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors

Pursuant to A.R.S. 38.431.02, notice was given on the July 9, 2024, to the officers of the Metropolitan Education Commission and to the public, that **the Metropolitan Education Commission Executive Board was to hold a Zoom meeting on Thursday, July 25, 2024, convening at 12:00 p.m.**

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chair Mark Hanna at 12:05 p.m.

Present are Commissioners and Board Members Mark Hanna, Leslie Ferre, and Rocque Perez.

2. Programs and Services Update

2.1. Peer Coach Program

2.1.1. MEC and Arizona Serve have renewed the number of student recruits at high schools and districts represented among them.

2.1.2. Orientation and training began on July 11, with guest appearances from Pima County Supervisor Rex Scott and Pima County Superintendent of Schools Dustin Williams.

2.1.3. For the year ahead, MEC and Arizona Serve's Peer Coaches will be partnering with the FAFSA Peer Coaches for their initial training at the Arizona College Readiness Symposium, where MEC will be chartering a bus to take school counselors and other peer programs too.

2.2. Teen Town Hall

2.2.1. Commissioner Rocque Perez shared the Teen Town Hall's move from Constitution Day on September 17 to a Democracy Day on November 13, which is the week of Pima's anniversary, to accommodate elected schedules and separate from the Youth Peace Conference. Invitations to elected officials, school administrators, colleges and universities, and employers have been extended or are forthcoming.

3. Amendment to Commission Membership and Bylaws

3.1. Resolution amending the commission's membership composition

3.1.1. Commissioner Rocque Perez shared that a resolution will be adopted by the Pima County Board of Supervisors to reduce membership from 39 to 29, setting terms from four years to two years, and distinguishing officers as the Board of Directors. The County's resolution also afforded the MEC Board of Directors to enact a transition plan. Commissioner Rocque Perez shared a proposed transition plan informed by an adoption of focus areas in the form of MEC Resolution No. 2024-01.

3.1.2. The transition of membership is as follows:

3.1.2.1. Confirms removal of representation type from Commission and therefore an end to term for Karen Tam, Alexander Lewis, and Leila Williams.

3.1.2.2. Confirms removal of representation type but extends the opportunity to move into new representation type and term renewal for Treya Allen as

- at-large member for historically marginalized communities (Term: 8/24/2025), Marla Franco as at-large member (Term: 8/24/2026), Dave Mason as school principal (Term: 8/24/2025), Kathy Prather as an employed affiliate of JTED (Term: 8/24/2025) and Leslie Ferre as an educator for children ages 11-13 (Term: 8/24/2025).
- 3.1.2.3. Confirms the retention of representation type and with need to stagger terms, sets new term end dates for Emily Ross as a representative of the University of Arizona, Irene Robles-Lopez as a representative of Pima Community College, Mark Hanna as an at-large member, Alejandro Tavera-Reye as an enrolled learner, and Jose Gastelum as a school district superintendent, all with terms ending 8/24/2025. Terms may be renewed for two years, with an 8-year service limitation.
 - 3.1.2.4. Extends Commissioner seats to Adriana Grijalva as an enrolled learner and UA Student Body President, Sharon O'Brien as a representative of an agency serving youth and as executive director of literacy connects, Julie Euber also as a representative of an agency serving youth and as CEO of SARSEF, Gina Valencia as a representative of an agency serving youth and as a director of development for United Way of Southern AZ, Rich Nikel or an appointee on his behalf as a representative of a state-wide agency and CEO of Education Forward AZ, Teresa Hill as an at-large member and CEO of Tucson Values Teachers, and both Michael Crow, ASU President, and Jose Luis Rivera, NAU President, as presidents of regional universities.
 - 3.1.2.5. Recommends to the Pima County Board of Supervisors that they appoint Kelle Maslyn, Assistant Director at the Pima County Economic Development Department and extends the term of Matthew Schmidgall, Senior Public Health Adviser at the Pima County Health Department.
 - 3.1.2.6. Recommends to the City of Tucson Mayor and Council that they appoint Lara Hamwey, Director of Parks and Recreation, and Barbara Coffee, Director of Economic Initiatives, or members of their team.
 - 3.1.3. The adoption of focus areas is as follows, informed by the Teen Town Hall report and to be supported by the composition of the new commission:
 - 3.1.3.1.1. College and Career Readiness
 - 3.1.3.1.2. Youth Advocacy and Civic Leadership
 - 3.1.3.1.3. Educator Support, Development, and Celebration
 - 3.1.3.1.4. Reading Literacy
 - 3.1.3.1.5. Mental Health and Wellness
 - 3.1.4. Motion to adopt the resolution by Commissioner Mark Hanna and seconded by Leslie Ferre.

4. Financial Review and Approvals

4.1. Approval of 2024/2025 budget

- 4.1.1. Executive Director Rocque Perez has proposed two budgets, one inclusive of a program coordinator with a reduction to programming, and one inclusive of a program assistant focused on the college access network with an increase to programming. If proceeding with a program assistant, we would attempt to utilize the allocation as a partner share to hire under the Arizona Serve service model with AmeriCorp, however, if unable, we would proceed as a Federal Work Study employee which would allow for the university to reimburse 50% of payroll expenses assumed by MEC.
- 4.1.2. Commissioner Mark Hanna and Commissioner Leslie Ferre expressed needing more time to review the budget but agreed to tentatively approve for purpose hiring and operational spending, but will give final approval at the next meeting

- of the Board.
- 4.1.3. Motion to tentatively adopt the budget by Commissioner Ferre and seconded by Commissioner Mark Hanna.

5. Approval of [5.29.24 Meeting Minutes.pdf](#) of the Board of Directors.

6. Adjournment

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02, notice was given that a meeting will be conducted at the time and date set forth above. Questions or requests for reasonable accommodations were directed to Rocque Perez, Executive Director for the Metropolitan Education Commission, by calling (520) 462-3806 or emailing rocque@metedu.org.