

Meeting Agenda and Minutes of the Metropolitan Education Commission

Pursuant to A.R.S. 38.431.02, notice was given on the 17th day of March 2024, to the members of the Metropolitan Education Commission and to the public, that the Metropolitan Education Commission would hold a virtual meeting on **Wednesday, April 17, 2024, 4-5:30 p.m. via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6355015436>**

Meeting ID: 635 501 5436

1. Call to Order
 - a. Called to order by Chair Hanna on Apr 17 at 4:04 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance; Land Acknowledgement
 - a. Pledge of Allegiance led by Chair Hanna and land acknowledgement led by Vice Chair Allen.
3. Roll Call
 - a. Roll call by Chair Hanna
 - b. Present: Treya Allen, Leslie Ferre, Irene Robles-Lopez, Dustin Williams, Alexander Lewis, Mark Hanna, Alejandro Tavera-Reyes, Michael Wilkerson, Allison Kuester, Rocque Perez.
 - c. Attendance in excess of 8 commissioners therefore constituting a quorum.
4. Approval of March 20, 2024 Meeting Minutes
 - a. **Motion to approve the [March 20, 2024 Minutes](#) by Commissioner Hanna and seconded by Commissioner Williams. Present commissioners all in favor.**
5. Updates
 - a. Youth Advocacy Training
 - i. On Saturday, April 6, fifteen students participated in Youth Advocacy Training in preparation for their meetings with legislators on Civic Engagement Day. They underwent facilitated training to help shape their personal narratives and identify core interests at mind to shape their advocacy as individuals and as two seperate groups.
 - ii. Pima County Board Supervisor Sylvia Lee and City of Tucson Council Member Lane Santa Cruz joined us at the Santa Rosa Center to have informative discussions and to provide feedback on their approaches.
 - b. Civic Engagement Day
 - i. Tomorrow, Rocque Perez, Mark Hanna, Treya Allen and a volunteer, Caryn Paye, are taking 15 students to the capitol for a full schedule of engagements, including a tour of the House building, meeting with Mariana Sandoval, House LD-23, introduction to Governor Hobbs, a tour of the Capitol Building, meeting with the Communications Director for House Democrats, and a meeting with a lobbyist.

6. Operations

a. Crystal Apple Awards

- i. MEC received 50 submissions for the 2024 award categories that are still being reviewed by Commissioner Perez, June Webb-Vignery, Kelle Maslyn and Commissioner Lewis.
- ii. Commissioner Perez proposed a consolidation of the University Advocate and Community College Advocate award to Outstanding College Advocate Award due to only one substantial nomination between the two. Commissioner Allen opposed this proposal to ensure continuity of the separate categories in the future. Present commissioners all in agreement with Commissioner Allen.
- iii. There is unlikely to be a reception or an event, but awards will be delivered to schools come the week of May 6. A call to join in delivery closer to May.

b. Adoption of Aspirations, Goals and Programming Schedule for 2024-25 AY.

- i. Commissioner Perez recommended that the Commission table its discussion of aspirations and goals until a retreat in August 2024. **Motion to table for discussion at retreat in August 2024 by Chair Hanna and seconded by Commissioner Ferre. Present Commissioners all in favor.**
- ii. Commissioner Perez shared he has met with various elected and appointed officials, including the Mayor's Office, Vice Mayor Kevin Dahl, Council Member Santa Cruz, Supervisor Scott, Supervisor Grijalva; who all shared similar understanding of the areas of opportunity and historical strengths. Primary concerns are diversity of funding and advocacy and in order to build he recommends a solidified direction for the next year.
- iii. Commissioner Perez presented on the signature events orchestrated over the last year and proposed a full schedule of programs for the next academic / fiscal year:

1. Signature Events

a. Constitution Day - September 17, 2024

- i. Mission: Create a safe environment that inspires well-informed citizens, engagement, and a commitment to democracy; share municipal employment opportunities and recruit for a Youth Civic Leaders Fellowship.
- ii. Description: A venue for students to learn about and engage with elected and appointed officials from varying levels of government. Through informative sessions and Q&As about governance, students will leave with an understanding of how city, county, state, and federal levels serve their citizens, and take home a pocket-sized Arizona and U.S. Constitution.

b. Transform the Youth Advisory Council / Tucson Teen Congress into a Youth Fellowship - October 2024 - April 2025

- i. Mission: Transforming the Youth Advisory

Council, a Youth Civic Fellowship would aim to empower young leaders in Tucson and Pima County by equipping them with the knowledge, skills, and opportunities necessary to effectuate meaningful civic engagement and leadership through structured learning experiences and opportunities to apply their knowledge and advance their professional interests.

- ii. Description: The Youth Civic Fellowship would invite students from Tucson and Pima County to develop their civic leadership skills through community projects such as the Teen Town Hall, structured learning sessions, and mentorship from a network of seasoned leaders to enhance their ability to create change.
 - c. Key to Employment - Proposed Oct 21 - 22; Nov 12 -15, 2024
 - i. Subject to name change
 - ii. Working with community organizations and municipal offices to explore a joint effort to minimize the duplication of events.
 - iii. Through a new iteration of the summit, continue to create a dynamic space that inspires students to pursue post-secondary pathways most applicable to their interests in Tucson, Pima County and the greater state of Arizona.
 - d. Teen Town Hall - Proposed Jan 21-28; Feb 17-19, 24-26, 2025
 - i. The Teen Town Hall, facilitated by the Youth Civic Fellows, would continue to empower their peers in Tucson and Pima County by providing a forum to voice concerns, engage with community leaders, and influence local policy and initiatives.
2. Candidate and Community Forums
- a. Propose to host two separate candidate forums for Pima County Attorney and Pima County Sheriff.
 - b. Hosting forums in June or July for candidates running for the Pima County Attorney and Sheriff seats provides an excellent opportunity to gauge their positions on issues affecting youth and education.
3. Fall Celebrations
- a. Engaging with national, state, local, or professional occasions can be an effective way for the Metropolitan Education Commission to highlight its initiatives, form partnerships, and reach broader audiences. Some notable days and periods relevant to education for engagement:
 - i. International Literacy Day - Sept 8, 2024
 - ii. Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI) Week - Typically observed in the middle of Hispanic

- Heritage
 - iii. National STEM/STEAM Day - November 8
 - iv. Constitution Day - September 17
 - v. Astronomy Day - Dates vary, observed twice a year: once in the spring and again in the fall
 - vi. American Education Week
 - 4. Culmination of the Academic and Fiscal Year
 - a. Crystal Apple Awards in larger configuration with opportunity for greater visibility and to fundraise.
 - iv. **Adoption of schedule recommended by Commissioner Perez, motion to adopt schedule by Chair Hanna and seconded by Commissioner Ferre. Present Commissioners all in favor.**
- c. Reduction of Space and Costs Associated with Operations in Santa Rosa Center
- i. Chair Hanna shared that the Commission is expecting a contract renewal for the next fiscal year but a reduction in funds and entering back into a competitive process for funds is a possibility.
 - ii. Commissioner Perez shared that in lieu of budget concerns and as already planned, the Commission has optimized tools to reduce spending going forward. These changes include:
 - 1. Google Workplace account (\$292 monthly, \$3504 annually) has been brought into Google for Nonprofits and are now receiving the service for free.
 - 2. Zoom for Education account (\$1800 annually for 20 licenses) expired on April 14. On April 15, MEC migrated to Zoom Business Plus, in addition to zoom phone (\$774 annually for 2 licenses). MEC is ending service with Cox Business Voice (\$482 per month, \$5784 annually) at the end of April, but will keep Cox internet (\$135 monthly, \$1620 annually).
 - iii. Commissioner Perez will discuss with the board on an approach to the gradual reduction of space in the Santa Rosa Center, working towards a complete move out.
 - iv. Optimizations and a move to remote would eliminate rent and internet, allowing for \$18,726 in spending on programs and capacity building.
7. New Business
- a. Vacancies and Appointments
 - i. Due to time limitations the commission did not discuss vacancies and appointments. Note by Commissioner Perez the board will convene to discuss the approach at a later date.
8. Adjournment
- a. **Motion to adjourn by Chair Hanna, seconded by Commissioner Williams. Present Commissioners all in favor.**
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Agendas were made available to the public at the Metropolitan Education Commission website at metedu.org and at the office 1080 S. 10th Avenue, Tucson, Arizona, 85701. Persons with a disability were given ample opportunity to request accommodation. Other requests, if any, could be made to info@metedu.org.