

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

Minutes of the Commission Meeting

Thursday, August 29, 2024

Pursuant to A.R.S. 38.431.02, notice was given on August 22, 2024, to the members of the Metropolitan Education Commission and to the public, that **the Metropolitan Education Commission would hold a Zoom meeting on Thursday, August 29, 2024, convening at 4:30 p.m.**

1. **Call to Order** **Mark Hanna**
Meeting called to order at 4:40 p.m. by Commissioner Hanna with a Quorum of 10 out of 12 current Commissioners. Commissioners present included Alejandro Tavera-Reyes, Dave Mason, Dustin Williams, Irene Robles-Lopez, Jose Gastelum, Leslie Ferre, Mark Hanna, Matthew Schmidgall, Rocque Perez, and Treya Allen. Commissioners not present were Kathy Prather and Sylvia Lee.

2. **Welcome and acknowledgement of change in the composition of the Commission** **Rocque Perez**
 - 2.1. New Composition of the Commission
 - 2.1.1. Commissioner Perez shared an update in the membership of the Commission, reducing it by 10 seats to a total of 29 this year, with an intended further reduction to 22 seats next year.
 - 2.1.2. While this reconfiguration is aimed at increasing efficiency and focusing on specific areas of interest, the Tucson Metro Teen Town Hall, which was held on February 9, 2024, involving students from ten schools across four districts, inspired the arrival of several new commissioners who can lend their expertise in areas of college & career readiness, youth civic leadership, arts & literacy, educator support & celebration, and mental & physical wellness.
 - 2.2. Acknowledgement of returning Commissioners and approval of prospective Commissioners
 - 2.2.1. Returning Commissioners include Alejandro Tavera-Reyes, Dave Mason, Dustin Williams, Irene Robles-Lopez, Jose Gastelum, Kathy Prather, Leslie Ferre, Mark Hanna, Matthew Schmidgall, Rocque Perez, Sylvia Lee, and Treya Allen.
 - 2.2.2. Prospective Commissioners include Adriana Grijalva, Gina Valencia, Jake Blumenthal, Kelle Maslyn, Lane Santa Cruz, Marla Franco, Michael Wilkerson, Rich Nikel, Robert Ramirez and Sharon O'Brien.
 - 2.2.3. Among prospective Commissioners, Jake Blumenthal expressed interest in joining the Board of Directors, with experience as a

wealth and portfolio analyst with a finance background.

- 2.2.4. *Motion to appoint all prospective members to the Metro Education Commission made by Commissioner Mark Hanna and seconded by Commissioner Leslie Ferre. All voted in favor.*

3. Amendment of the Bylaws

3.1. Amendment to Article IV: Board Of Directors, Section 4: Qualification Of Directors

- 3.1.1. An amendment to the Bylaws was proposed to the Commission by Commissioner Perez, who notified the Commission seven days prior in accordance with existing bylaw amendment measures.
- 3.1.2. The proposed amendment is to Article IV: Board Of Directors, Section 4: Qualification Of Directors, to specifically remove the text requiring “Each director shall have served as a member, in good standing, of the Metropolitan Education Commission for one year prior to appointment.”
- 3.1.3. Commissioner Perez explained that this requirement is not stipulated in the Commission’s authorizing documents of the Pima County and the City of Tucson, and prevents a new member from joining the Commission’s Board of Directors and in that moment prevents Commissioner Blumenthal from coming onto the Board.
- 3.1.4. *Motion to approve the presented Bylaw Amendment by Commissioner Leslie Ferre and seconded by Commissioner Dave Mason. All voted in favor.*
- 3.1.5. *Motion to appoint Commissioner Jake Blumenthal to the Board of Directors, as Treasurer, made by Mark Hanna and seconded by Alejandro Tavera-Reyes. All voted in favor.*

4. Direction of programs, opportunities for Commissioner involvement

4.1. Pima College Access Network

- 4.1.1. Commissioner explained that in alignment with the Teen Town Hall, Achieve 60AZ goal and priorities for action, and the Pima County Prosperity Initiative, the MEC is centralizing select programs under a reconfiguration of the Regional College Access Center as the Pima College Access Network. This shift is undertaken with the intention of positioning the Network as the means to foster an educational continuum that empowers learners to become college-ready.
- 4.1.2. The Network through existing and new programs, will connect students, educators, and the community to opportunities that inspire growth, foster resilience, and cultivate a commitment to service. Guided by the Metro Education Commission, our mission is to enhance individual and collective prosperity by empowering educators and preparing students for success in their educational

- journeys and beyond.
- 4.1.3. Programs to integrate with the Network include the Peer Coach Program and the prospective Prosperity Partners program, while the Youth Civic Fellows, Teen Town Hall, and Tucson Young Professionals Teacher Membership and Mentorship, will remain under the umbrella of the MEC.
 - 4.2. Youth Civic Fellows, Teacher Membership & Mentorship, and EmpowerED Awards
 - 4.2.1. Commissioner Perez explained the Youth Advisory Council is shifting to a more structured experiential learning program for cultivating young civic leaders, as Youth Civic Fellows, undertaking activities including workshops, volunteer opportunities, and public presentations.
 - 4.2.2. Commissioner Perez introduced a partnership with Tucson Young Professionals to sponsor 40 memberships to K-12 educators, and facilitated mentorship programs for 15 early career educators, pairing them with legacy educators, administrators, and community officials.
 - 4.2.3. Commissioner Perez explained the intention of the EmpowerED Awards, carrying over the Crystal Apple Awards and the new Southern Arizona College Catalyst Cups under the umbrella of a single evening.
 - 4.3. Teen Town Hall
 - 4.3.1. Commissioner Perez shared that the 30th Annual Teen Town Hall will be held on November 13, 2024, following the Pima County's 160th anniversary. In light of this significant milestone, the event will be held at the Pima County Historical Courthouse. This year, the Teen Town Hall will aim to inspire civically informed and engaged young people in Tucson and the greater Pima County.

5. Observances for recognition by the Commission

- 5.1. Oct 17 as Arizona Serve Day for the Eradication of Poverty
 - 5.1.1. Commissioner Perez explains that MEC Resolution #2024-002 recognizes October 17 as Arizona Serve Day for the Eradication of Poverty, in alignment with the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty of the same date, and urges the Pima County Board of Supervisors and City of Tucson Mayor and Council to do the same. Arizona Serve's mission is to eradicate poverty and its placement of AmeriCorp members within organizations and government within Pima County, with the largest number of members being within the Metro Education Commission, deserve our recognition and continued partnership.
 - 5.1.2. *Commissioner Hanna motioned to adopt MEC Resolution #2024-002, recognizing October 17 as Arizona Day for the Eradication of Poverty, seconded by Commissioner Ferre. All voted in favor, with the exception of Commissioner*

Robles-Lopez, who had to leave early.

6. Approval of 4.17.24 Commission Minutes of Meeting. **Mark Hanna**

6.1. Meeting Minutes Approval

6.1.1. Motion to approve minutes for the 4.17.24 Meeting of the Commission made by Commissioner Hanna, seconded by Commissioner Treya Allen. All voted in favor.

7. Adjournment **Mark Hanna**

Meeting adjourned by Chair Hanna at 5:42 p.m.

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02, notice was hereby given that a meeting would be conducted at the time and date set forth above, and on any subsequent date or dates to which this meeting or any hearing which is a party thereof may be continued. Questions, requests for reasonable accommodations or a copy of the agency could have been directed to Rocque Perez, Executive Director for the Metro Education Commission, by calling (520) 462-3806 or rocque@mectucson.org.