



Notice of Commission Meeting and Agenda

Pursuant to A.R.S. 38.431.02, notice was hereby given on October 1, 2024, to the members of the Metropolitan Education Commission and to the public, that the **Metropolitan Education Commission would hold a Zoom meeting on Wednesday, October 9, 2024, convening at 4:30 p.m.** Meeting ID: 872 2663 33216. Join the meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87226633321?from=addon>
Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87226633321?from=addon>

1. Call to Order

Mark Hanna

Called to order by Mark Hanna at 4:34AM, including the Pledge of Allegiance and Land Acknowledgement. Commissioners present included Rocque Perez, Mark Hanna, Leslie Ferre, Dave Mason, Irene Robles-Lopez, and Matt Schmidgall. Additionally present were Michael Wilkerson, Robert Ramirez, Rich Nikel, Kelle Maslyn, and Sharon O'Brien, who are confirmed members pending loyalty oaths from Pima County and the City of Tucson. Irene Robles-Lopez and Sharon O'Brien left the meeting following item 3.

2. Program Update

Rocque Perez

2.1. Teen Town Hall

Commissioner R. Perez discussed the anticipated run of show for the 30th Teen Town Hall on November 13, 2024, inviting up to 15 students from select schools to engage with community resources, institutions of higher education, and elected officials at the state and local level. Thanks was extended from Commissioner R. Perez and M. Hanna to Vantage West as our presenting sponsor and Education Forward Arizona as one of two anticipated partner sponsors. \$1,000 of the sponsorship from Vantage West and \$500 from Education Forward Arizona will be raffled to two student participants with a confirmed application and acceptance to a post-secondary institution.

More on the Teen Town Hall is [viewable, here](#).

2.2. Youth Civic Fellowship

Commission R. Perez discussed the conversion of the Youth Advisory Council into a Youth Civic Fellowship, now accepting applications. The fellowship is multi-tiered, with Senior and Junior Fellows. Senior Fellows will receive an education award upon completion of service hours, however at this time, Junior Fellows will not receive an education award. All fellows will receive certificates and commendations for their service by various elected officials.

More on the Youth Civic Fellows is [viewable, here](#).

2.3. Monthly Educator Recognitions

Commissioner R. Perez discussed that in building upon the legacy of our annual Crystal Apple Awards, we are additionally recognizing one educator each month, for the next six months, ahead of the May 6, 2025 Empower(ED) Evening. We are now accepting nominations specific to educators.

More on the Educator of the Month Award, [viewable here](#).

- 2.4. Early Career Educator Membership and Mentorship Program
Commissioner R. Perez highlighted the collaboration with Tucson Young Professionals (TYP), affording 40 memberships to early career K-12 educators. Additionally, affording 15 of those members the opportunity to apply for a facilitated mentorship program matching admitted members with legacy educators, administrators, and other established professionals.

More on the TYP + PCAN collaboration, [viewable here](#).

3. Resolution on UA Safety and Wellbeing of Students

- Commissioner R. Perez shared concerns relative to the recent murder of a Pima Community College student, while on the University of Arizona campus. This concern included the notification system, UA Alert, which was delayed in notice given to students on the transpiring incident, the sentiments from local law enforcement on the non-dismissal of classes the day following, and the sentiments by local law enforcement leadership. Commissioner R. Perez highlighted the demand for wellness assistance in lieu of incidents like these, but the limited support for these resources. He continued to highlight the growing concern among prospective students in choosing to not go to the University of Arizona, when choosing which post-secondary institution to pursue, and accrediting that choice to the financial circumstances of the university and the increase in violence on campus. Further, losing prospective and current students has implications on our local economy.
- Commissioners I. Robles-Lopez, R. Nikel, and M. Wilkerson questioned the impact and historical responses from the Metropolitan Education Commission on incidents like these, in addition to responses on other local matters relative to education. Commissioner R. Perez shared that the Commission has, beyond recent history, weighed in on issues relative to education ranging from funding for education, to the establishment of specific programs at the college or university, and acknowledgement of various programs.
- Commissioner M. Hanna asked if there were concerns on whether the Commission might harm our relations with the City or County in adopting this resolution to which Commissioner R. Perez confirmed no reservations or anticipated harm. Commissioner K. Maslyn weighed in and assumed most County Board Supervisors would not take issue with this resolution.

Motion to approve by Commissioner M. Wilkerson and seconded by Commissioner Dave Mason. All voted in favor, none in opposition, and none abstained.

4. Resolutions regarding local observances

4.1. Current

- 4.1.1. On October 8, 2024 the City of Tucson Mayor and Council adopted the Commissions recommended proclamation of October 17, 2024 as Arizona Serve Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Peer Coaches, a counselor, and Arizona Serve staff joined in this occasion.
- 4.1.2. On October 15, 2024, the Pima County Board of Supervisors is slated to adopt the Commission's recommended proclamation of October 17, 2024 as Arizona Serve Day for the Eradication of Poverty. AmeriCorps members under Arizona Serve, in addition to other host sites, including the Pima College Access Network under the Metro Education Commission, will be present.

4.2. Anticipated

- 4.2.1. Commissioner R. Perez will work on a resolution recommending the proclamation of Nov 8 as Tucson STEM Day, for review by the Commission, and passage by the MEC Board of Directors at a later date.
- 4.2.2. Commissioner R. Perez will work on a resolution recommending the proclamation of Dec 2, as Pima County Special Education Day, for review by the Commission, and passage by the MEC Board of Directors at a later date.

5. **Establishing a policy committee**

- 5.1. Commissioner R. Perez expressed an interest in establishing a subcommittee to review and update the Bylaws of the Commission. Commissioner M. Hanna added his interest in this endeavor, while Commissioner R. Nickel recommended that we consult a lawyer to help in modernizing the Bylaws. Commissioner K. Maslyn and R. Perez agreed to discuss this with Commissioner and Pima County Board Supervisor S. Lee, as a formal ask to the County Attorney's office. This item will be presented for action at the next meeting of the Commission.

6. **Approval of ■ 1.) 8.29.24 Commission Meeting Minutes.pdf of the Commission.**

Mark Hanna

Motion to approve minutes by Commissioner Rich Nickel and seconded by Commissioner Alejandro Tavera-Reyes. All voted in favor, none in opposition, and none abstained.

7. **Adjournment**

Mark Hanna

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner R. Ramirez and seconded by Alejandro Tavera-Reyes. All voted in favor, none in opposition, and none abstained.

Meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

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 and requests for reasonable accommodations or a copy of the agency could have been directed to Rocque Perez, Executive Director for the Metropolitan Education Commission, by calling (520) 462-3806 or rocque@mectucson.org.