METRO EDUCATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting

Friday, August 22, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.
Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams
Meeting ID: 273 556 140 331 9.

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of the Metropolitan Education Commission Board of Directors, the Metropolitan Education Commission, and the general public that a public meeting will be held at the time and location set forth above. This meeting is formally noticed as a meeting of the Board of Directors. A quorum of the full Commission may be present. If a quorum of the full Commission is established, the body may take up and act on items that fall within the jurisdiction of the full Commission. Questions, requests for reasonable accommodations, or requests for a copy of the agenda may be directed to the Metropolitan Education Commission by emailing admin@mectucson.org.

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1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m. by Commissioner Vasquez. Commissioners Williams, Perez, Gastelum, Silva, Blumenthal, and Franco were present. Commissioners Scott, O'Brien, Ramirez, Urquidez, and Robles-Lopez were absent. With seven of the twelve active Commissioners in attendance, a quorum of the whole Commission was established.

2. Consent Agenda

Items will be considered collectively unless a Board Member requests separate consideration.

2.1. Authorizations for Appointments, Term Renewals, and Non-Renewals
2.2. Approval of 2023 990 Tax Filing
2.3. Authorization for Account Holder Changes, Fund Transfer, and Account Closure

Commissioner Perez explained the items before the Commission for consideration and opened the floor for questions. Commissioner Williams asked for clarity of the current banking configuration to which Commissioner Perez explained the former chair of the Commission was still on the bank account and both the principal officer and treasurer should be added as primary account holders. Commissioner Perez requested Item 2.1 "Authorizations for Appointments, Term Renewals, and Non-Renewals" be considered apart from the consent agenda in tandem with the Item 3.3. "Adoption of Resolution No. 2025-005". Commissioner Vasquez motioned to pull 2.1 for consideration alongside 3.3 and approve the consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Silva, with unanimous approval by the Commission.

3. New Business

3.1. **Election of Co-Chairs and Vice Chair**

Commissioner Perez explained with the vacancy left by former Commissioner Mark Hanna, the Commission required a Chair. With the bylaws as last amended, they allowed for the holding of elections in which the Commission could appoint a pair of Co-Chairs. With his departure from the Commission as its Executive Director, Commission Perez recommended his appointment as its Co-Chair alongside Commissioner Perez. Commissioner Franco took a moment to give remarks as to her interests in the

Commission and capacity to lend support to Commissioner Perez during this transition. Further, Commissioner Perez recommended the appointment of Commissioner Urquidez as Vice-Chair, given her former experience as vice president for enrollment management and dean of undergraduate admissions at the University of Arizona, and current role as senior director with ACT. Commissioner Blumenthal motioned to appoint the three as so, seconded by Commissioner Silva, with unanimous approval by the Commission.

3.2. **Program Updates**

3.2.1. Peer Coaches, Teen Town Hall and Southern Arizona College and Career Night

Commissioner Urquidez joined the meeting, increasing the total Commissioners present to eight.

Commissioner Perez shared the slated holding of the Peer Coach Orientation on September 3, which will welcome 61 Peer Coaches and 18 Peer Coach Advisors in the inaugural cohort under a shared model in collaboration with the Arizona Board of Regents. Commissioner Perez additionally, shared the Teen Town Hall will again be held at the Pima County Historic Courthouse and Joel D. Valdez Library on September 17, coinciding with Constitution Day, and welcoming over 100 students from numerous high schools to engage with officials, community agencies, and postsecondary institutions. Further, the Southern Arizona College and Career Night will be held in collaboration with the Tucson Unified School District on September 23, at the Tucson Convention Center.

3.3. **Evolution As Southern Arizona Education Council**

3.3.1. Adoption of Resolution No. 2025-005

- The proposed amendments to City Resolution No. 15453 and County Resolution No. 1990-178, attached under Resolution No. 2025-005 as *Exhibit A*, for coinciding approval.
- The requested Authorizing Document for adoption by Santa Cruz County, attached under Resolution No. 2025-005 as *Exhibit B*, for coinciding approval.
- The outlined Strategic Imperatives for Academic and Civic Empowerment, attached under Resolution No. 2025-005 as *Exhibit C*, for coinciding approval.

Commissioner Perez shared that over the past year, he has engaged in discussions with both current and prospective affiliated municipalities regarding the history and progression of the Commission under its current leadership. These conversations have included schools, districts, nonprofits, and investors who have expressed a shared interest in establishing a unified body that not only acknowledges educational disparities across Southern Arizona but is committed to actively addressing them.

In consultations with Santa Cruz County officials—including Board Member John Fanning and Superintendent of Schools Alfredo Velasquez—as well as Pima County leaders such as Board Chair Rex Scott, County Administrator Jan Lesher, and Economic Development Director Heath Vescovi-Chiordi, all parties indicated their willingness and enthusiasm to move forward.

Commissioner Perez further noted that, with a renewed investment from Pima County, an increased commitment from the City of Tucson, and growing interest from local philanthropic partners, the Commission is well-positioned for continued growth under a refreshed name, clarified mission, and bold strategic imperatives.

Commissioner Perez requested item 2.1 Authorizations for Appointments, Term Renewals, and Non-Renewals from the consent agenda be considered and approved in tandem with this item.

Commissioner Perez motioned to approve Resolution No. 2025-005 and coinciding exhibits A, B, and C, with item 2.1, seconded by Commissioner Vasquez, with unanimous approval by the Commission.

3.4. **Finances**

3.4.1. Approval of Budget as of August 20, 2025

Commissioner Perez moved to approve the Budget as of August 20, 2025, seconded by Commissioner Blumenthal, with unanimous approval by the Commission.

4. **Adjournment**

Prior to adjournment, Commissioner Perez introduced Flor De Liz Matus, whom will join the Commission as its Director for College Access. Additionally, he welcomed Commissioner Urquidez to introduce herself. Commissioner Perez thereafter motioned to adjourn at 9:58 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Williams, with unanimous approval.