Southern Arizona Education Council

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Pursuant to A.R.S. 38.431.02, notice was given on January 16, 2026, to the members of the Southern Arizona Education Council Executive Committee and to the public, that the Executive Committee would hold a Teams meeting on Monday, January 26, 2026, convening at 9:00 a.m. The public may join the meeting here.

1. Call To Order

   Meeting called to order at 9:10am by Kasey Urquidez. Present: Karla Silva, Jake Blumenthal, Jennifer Vasquez and Rocque Perez (Non-Voting). Not Present: Marla Franco.

2. Evolution of the Metropolitan Education Commission
   a. Review of Membership Roster
      - Approval of Proposed Membership Roster

        Mr. Perez presented the roster outlining active membership as of January 2026 and vacant seats, which informed a memo for submission to the City of Tucson Clerk and Pima County Clerk of the Board. No action was taken.

   b. Approval of Proposed Membership Transition
      - Memo on Membership Following Organization Evolution

        Mr. Perez presented the proposed memo for submission to the City of Tucson Clerk and Pima County Clerk of the Board. With no questions, Mr. Perez invited a motion to approve. So moved by Mrs. Urquidez and seconded by Ms. Silva. Motion carries with unanimous vote in favor.

   c. Approval of Appointment Recommendation by County Superintendent of Schools
      - Memo on Appointment of Andrea Estolano

        Mr. Perez presented the proposed memo for submission to the City of Tucson Clerk and Pima County Clerk of the Board. With no questions, Mr. Perez invited a motion to approve. So moved by Mrs. Urquidez and seconded by Ms. Silva. Motion carries with unanimous vote in favor.

3. Program and Financial Reports
   a. Review Of 2025-2026 Quarter 1 and 2 Program Report
   b. Approval of Budget Report as Of 1.20.2026
   c. Approval of Amended Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

   Mr. Perez presented the already submitted program report for quarter 1 and 2 of 2025, delivered to the City of Tucson and Pima County. Mr. Perez recommended discussion 3(B) and 3(C), simultaneous to discussions of the Chief Executive Officer Contract. Action was tabled until after item 4 has been discussed.

4. Chief Executive Officer Contract
   a. Discussion on Return of Rocque Perez, Following City Appointment
   b. Approval of New Contract Through Fiscal Year
      - Previous Contract Signed 2.04.2024, Extended Through FY 24/25
      - Recommended New Contract, Effective Data of Approval

        Mr. Perez presented his prior employment contract and outlined its initiation in Spring 2024, its extension from Spring 2025 through the end of Summer 2025, and its termination as a result of his resignation to accept appointment as a Council Member with the City of Tucson, a role he held through December 2, 2025.

        Mr. Perez further explained that, pursuant to subsequent action by the Executive Committee, he was eligible to return to employment under the prior contract terms following the conclusion of his City Council service; however, reemployment required formal action by the current Executive Committee. He presented a proposed new *employment contract that is more comprehensive in scope, including clearly defined responsibilities, indicators of success, an annual performance review process, and updated compensation terms. The proposal also includes funding for health benefits structured as a bi-weekly payment, consistent with prior practice.*

Mrs. Urquidez inquired about the amount of the bi-weekly health benefit payment. Mr. Perez confirmed that it was approximately $180 per pay cycle and separate from gross bi-weekly wages. Mrs. Urquidez further inquired whether a comparative compensation analysis had been conducted relative to other nonprofit organizations. Mr. Perez responded that while the proposed compensation is marginally higher than salaries at organizations with comparable operating revenues, it reflects the expanded scope of the President & CEO role, including executive leadership responsibilities and formal liaison duties with the City of Tucson and Pima County, which exceed the scope of the former Executive Director position.

Ms. Silva confirmed that the proposed contract term would be one year in duration.

Mr. Blumenthal stated that the proposed contract was more comprehensive and aligned with the organization's needs, and that it fit within the proposed budget amendment. Revisiting agenda items 3(B) and 3(C), Mr. Perez explained that the proposed budget amendment accounts for increased revenues since the initial budget adoption and that updated salary and payroll tax figures reflect both payroll actuals from the prior two quarters and projected costs through the remainder of the fiscal year.

Mr. Perez deferred to the Executive Committee for further action.

Ms. Silva motioned to approve item 4(B), the proposed employment contract. The motion was seconded by Mr. Blumenthal and passed unanimously.

Mr. Blumenthal motioned to approve items 3(B-C), the Budget Report as of January 20, 2026 and the Amended Budget for Fiscal

Year 2025–2026. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Vasquez and passed unanimously.

5. Adjournment

   Motion to adjourn by Mrs. Urquidez and seconded by Ms. Silva. Passed with a unanimous vote in favor. The meeting adjourned at 9:43 a.m.