



Southern Arizona Education Council

Meeting Minutes

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02, notice was given on September 17, 2026, to the members of the Southern Arizona Education Council, and to the public on September 21, 2026, that a virtual meeting of the Southern Arizona Education Council, and its Executive Committee would be held on

Tuesday, October 13, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

These minutes summarize proceedings of the Southern Arizona Education Council and its Executive Committee during the duration of this virtual meeting.

1. Call To Order

Chair Marla Franco called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Rocque Perez confirmed nine council members were present, constituting a quorum of the Southern Arizona Education Council. Present were Rocque Perez, Marla Franco, Sharon O'Brien, Jennifer Arenas-Cardenas, Jennifer Vasquez, Jennifer Allen, Karla Silva, Lane Santa Cruz, and Irene Robles-Lopez. Not present were Dustin Williams, Kasandra Urquidez, and Marcus Castillo.

Among the nine council members present, three were Executive Committee members, constituting a quorum of the Executive Committee. Present were Marla Franco, Jennifer Vasquez and Karla Silva. Not present was Kasandra Urquidez.

Throughout the meeting, some items were reserved for action by the full Southern Arizona Education Council, while others were reserved for action by the Executive Committee. Items were identified by the applicable acting body as appropriate.

Chair Franco moved to the Consent Agenda.

2. Consent Agenda

Consideration and possible action by the Southern Arizona Education Council to collectively approve the following items unless a member requests that an item be considered separately:

- 2.1. Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - 2.1.1. 9.3.2026 - Council Meeting [[Minutes](#)]
- 2.2. Approval of Filings, Financial Activities & Reports
 - 2.2.1. Arizona Corporation Commission 2026 Annual Report [[Filing as of 9.27.26](#)]
 - 2.2.2. Statement of Financial Activity [[Report as of 9.30.2026](#)]
- 2.3. Approval of Quarter One Program Report
 - 2.3.1. Activities 7.1.26 - 9.30.26 [[County Submittal](#)]
 - 2.3.2. Monthly Expense Reports and Invoices [[July](#)] [[August](#)] [[September](#)]

Chair Franco listed items for review on the consent agenda and deferred to Rocque Perez to speak on these items briefly. Mr. Perez only highlighted the inclusion of a quarterly activities submittal to Pima County, at the recommendation of members in the September meeting. Other submittals to the County include monthly expense reports and invoices from July through September. Chair Franco expressed appreciation for the addition of these items and noted the significant program progress undertaken during quarter one and encouraged thorough review of the activities submittal.

With no member requesting to consider items separately, Chair Franco welcomed a motion to approve the consent agenda. So moved by Karla Silva and seconded by Sharon O'Brien. With no further discussion, a unanimous vote in favor occurred. Chair Franco moved to continuing business.

3. Continuing Business

- 3.1. General Election Ballot Measures
 - 3.1.1. Consideration and possible action or approval of a resolution, concerning positions of support or opposition on 2026 General Election ballot measures affecting educational systems and the welfare of learners, educators, and the institutions that serve them. [[Draft Resolution](#)]

Chair Franco deferred to Mr. Perez to summarize the exact version before the Council, what it would authorize, and the comparative differences to the last iteration. Mr. Perez highlighted that outside the context of any particular election, the Education Council's

work includes advocating for adequate and equitable educational resources and for decision-making that enables schools, districts, and local government to respond to the needs of their students and communities; and voters in the November 3, 2026 General Election will encounter statewide and local ballot measures concerning schools, postsecondary education, youth-serving institutions, and other matters relevant to the youth and families under the purview of the Education Council's mission. The Education Council recognizes its joint City–County origins, its receipt of public support, and the importance of ensuring that Education Council resources and communications are not used to support or oppose any ballot measure. The resolution would authorize an “Education Is on the Ballot” webpage and related communications to help residents identify and learn about the measures including:

Prop. 320 – School District Budgets; Instructional Expenses; Operational Spending

Prop. 142 – Preferential Treatment; Discrimination; Prohibited Acts

Prop. 318 – Interscholastic and Intramural Athletics; Biological Sex

Prop. 430 – Pima Community College General Obligation Bond

Prop. 427 – Pima JTED General Obligation Bond

Prop. 423 – Vail USD Maintenance & Operations Override Continuation

Prop. 428 – Sahuarita USD Maintenance & Operations Override Continuation

Prop. 429 – Tanque Verde USD Maintenance & Operations Override Continuation

Prop. 422 – Reid Park Zoo Tax Reauthorization

Mr. Perez noted that the difference in the resolution presented to date compared to the iteration from the last meeting shows that the purpose of the initiative is to inform voters of education related measures to appear on their ballot, not to persuade them how to vote. Mr. Perez further noted this proposal excludes language relative to the Pima County expenditure cap, given the less explicit ways existing language would communicate the impact on education related spending.

Chair Franco appreciated the new approach. Mrs. O’Brien also expressed appreciation for this approach. Jennifer Allen expressed understanding of this approach, including the matter of the Pima County expenditure limit, but noted the ways in which the failure to pass this measure would lead to decision making that could negatively impact

education related spending. Mr. Perez noted with voter language not explicitly mentioning this outcome, it would be hard to incorporate.

With no further discussion, Chair Franco welcomed a motion to approve the consent agenda. So moved by Karla Silva and seconded by Sharon O'Brien. A unanimous vote in favor occurred. Chair Franco moved to program updates.

3.2. Program Updates

3.2.1. Southern Arizona College and Career Night

3.2.2. Teen Town Hall

3.2.3. 20 Under 20

Chair Franco deferred to Mr. Perez to discuss program updates. Mr. Perez noted that the Southern Arizona College and Career Night on September 29, 2026, welcomed 120 college, career and community exhibitors, engaged by 1,226 students and family members. The Teen Town Hall is slated for November 16, 2026, with the opportunity for engagement during dialogue circle breakout sessions. Invitations are going out this week. 20 Under 20 is slated for December 10, 2026, with nominations opening this week. With no further reporting, Chair Franco moved onto New Appointments and Organizational Action by the Executive Committee. With ongoing discussion no longer requiring general membership of the Education Council, Chair Franco welcomed members to regain time or continue on. Chair Franco proceeded to the new item.

3.3. New Appointments and Organizational Action by the Executive Committee

3.3.1. Consideration and possible action making new appointments to the Southern Arizona Education Council. [Memo]

With no new appointments for consideration and possible action, Chair Franco moved onto consideration and possible action on the previously tabled final and corrected fiscal year 2026-2027 budget.

3.3.2. Consideration and possible action by the Executive Committee to approve the previously tabled final and corrected fiscal year 2026-2027 budget, tentatively approved 7.14.2026. [[Tentative Approved Item](#)] [[Prior Proposed Final Budget Item](#)] [[New Proposed Final Budget Item](#)]

Chair Franco deferred to Mr. Perez to present the item. Mr. Perez noted that the prior proposed final budget item that was provided in the last meeting was done so

incorrectly and led to tabling of the item. The new proposed final budget item now presented in this meeting accounts for the actual anticipated end of year balance. Mr. Perez further explained that the deficit in the net revenue stated in the prior proposed item was representative of the yet to be reimbursed funds from Pima County for activities performed July through September 2026, as a part of the 2026/2027 fiscal year. Chair Franco expressed appreciation for comparative insights. With no further discussion, Chair Franco welcomes a motion to approve the item. So moved by Karla Silva and seconded by Jennifer Vasquez. A unanimous vote in favor occurred.

Chair Franco proceeded to adjournment.

4. Adjournment

Chair Franco adjourned the meeting at 9:36 a.m.