

METROPOLITAN  
EDUCATION  
COMMISSION

**Resolution No. 2024-001**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE METROPOLITAN EDUCATION COMMISSION BOARD OF DIRECTORS ESTABLISHING A TRANSITION PLAN FOR MEMBERSHIP PURSUANT TO COMMISSION AMENDMENT BY THE PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

WHEREAS, the Pima County Board of Supervisors, at their meeting on August 13, 2024, is anticipated to approve an amendment to the composition of the MEC, the terms of commissioners, and the governance structure; and

WHEREAS, this amendment necessitates a transition plan for current members to ensure continued effective operation of the MEC; and

WHEREAS, the MEC Board of Directors is committed to a transition plan contingent on the successful adoption of the anticipated Pima County Board of Supervisor resolution; where such a transition plan positions the Commission to terminate select membership types, adjust the terms of specific Commission seats to allow for proportional transitions year to year, invite new members, and adopt meaningful focuses for the Commission as a whole.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Education Commission as follows:

**SECTION I: Notify commissioners of membership changes**

1. Current Membership Changes:

- Karen Tam (member representative of the Asian American community), Alexander Lewis (member representative of the Native American community), and Leila Williams (member representative of the disability community) are notified that their membership type upon which their service as a Commissioner is contingent upon will be removed, subject to the anticipated amendment.
- Treya Allen (member representative of the African American community), Marla Franco (member representative of the Hispanic community), Dave Mason (member representative of the Tucson Chamber of Commerce), Kathy Prather (member representative of the Sun Corridor), and Leslie Ferre (member representative as a teacher for grades 5-9) are similarly notified, but with the extension of an opportunity to transition into new seats as follows:
  - Treya Allen: At-large member representative of historically marginalized and excluded communities (Term end date: 8/24/2025)
  - Marla Franco: At-large member (Term end date: 8/24/2026)
  - Dave Mason: School principal (Term end date: 8/24/2025)
  - Kathy Prather: Employed affiliate of JTED (Term end date: 8/24/2025)
  - Leslie Ferre: Educator for children ages 11-13 (Term end date: 8/24/2025)

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## 2. Terms Adjustment:

- Emily Ross (University of Arizona), Irene Robles-Lopez (Pima Community College), Mark Hanna (At-large member), and Jose Gastelum (school district superintendent) are notified of the amendment and the establishment of a transition plan. Their new term end dates are as follows:
  - Emily Ross: 8/24/2025
  - Irene Robles-Lopez: 8/24/2025
  - Mark Hanna: 8/24/2025
  - Jose Gastelum: 8/24/2026
  - Alejandro Tavera-Reyes: 8/24/2025
- Members subject to term end date changes may renew their terms for two years, but are subject to an 8 year continuous service limitation.

## **SECTION II: Extend invitations and recommendations for new members**

1. Extend invitations from the Board of Directors to fill at-large and regional university seats as follows:
  - Adriana Grijalva, University of Arizona Student Body President, as an enrolled learner between ages 16-21 (Term: 8/24/2024 - 8/24/2025)
  - Sharon O'Brien, Executive Director of Literacy Connects, as a member representative of a local agency serving young people and children (Term: 8/24/2024 - 8/24/2026)
  - Julie Euber, CEO of SARSEF, as a member representative of a local agency serving young people and children (Term: 8/24/2024 - 8/24/2026)
  - Gina Valencia, Development Director from United Way of Southern Arizona, as a member representative of a local agency serving young people and children (Term: 8/24/2024 - 8/24/2026)
  - Rich Nikel, CEO and President of Education Forward Arizona, or a supporting staff member of Education Forward Arizona, as an at-large member representative of a state-wide educational agency (Term: 8/24/2024 - 8/24/2025)
  - Teresa Hill, CEO of Tucson Values Teachers, as an At-large member (Term: 8/24/2024 - 8/24/2026)
  - Michael Crow, President of Arizona State University, to assume the position of or appoint a representative for ASU (Term: 8/24/2024 - 8/24/2026)
  - Jose Luis Rivera, President of Northern Arizona University, to assume the position of or appoint a representative for NAU (Term: 8/24/2024 - 8/24/2026)
2. Extend a recommendation to the Pima County Board of Supervisors to fill county seats as follows:
  - Invite the Pima County Board of Supervisors to appoint or invite the supporting staff of:
    - Kelle Maslyn, Assistant Director of Economic Development (Term: 8/24/2024 - 8/24/2026)
  - Invite the Pima County Board of Supervisors to extend the appointment term of:
    - Matthew Schmidgall, Senior Public Health Adviser (From original term of 8/15/2022-12/31/2024 to new term end, 8/24/2025)
3. Extend a recommendation to the City of Tucson Mayor and Council to fill city seats as follows:

- Invite the City of Tucson Mayor and Council to appoint or invite the supporting staff of:
  - Lara Hamwey, Director of Parks and Recreation (Term: 8/24/2024 - 8/24/2026)
  - Barbara Coffee, Director of Economic Initiatives (Term: 8/24/2024 - 8/24/2026)

### **SECTION III: Adopt focus areas informed by historical programming and Teen Town Hall**


1. College and Career Readiness
  - a. College and Career Access Center: Provides advising, workshops, and resources to help students navigate post-secondary education, improve FAFSA submission rates, and enhance career readiness.
  - b. College Access Network: Facilitates inter-organizational communication and service delivery among community organizations, secondary schools, and higher education institutions.
  - c. Peer Coaches: High school students who assist their peers with college applications, financial aid, scholarships, and career planning.
  - d. College Catalysts: High schools from each county in Southern Arizona recognized for notable improvements to FAFSA completion, celebrated at the annual Crystal Apple Awards.
  
2. Youth Advocacy and Civic Leadership
  - a. Youth Advocacy Fellowship: Develops young leaders through advocacy, servant leadership, and civic participation. Fellows gain insights and experiences to enhance their community impact.
  - b. Class at the Capitol: Provides students with firsthand experience in state government, allowing them to engage with legislators and learn about the legislative process.
  - c. Teen Town Hall: An annual event where students engage with elected officials and peers to discuss important issues, additionally exploring academic programs offered at colleges and universities, and career tracks from community employers, with a focus on public service, fostering informed citizenship and local involvement.
  
3. Educator Support, Development, and Celebration
  - a. Crystal Apple Awards: Celebrates outstanding contributions in education, honoring educators, student leaders, and community partners who enhance educational experiences.
  - b. Tucson Young Professionals (TYP) Memberships: Provides 40 sponsored memberships for teachers aged 21-45, with 15 of these selected to join a mentorship program where early career teachers are matched with more established teachers or administrators for a 14-week facilitated professional development.
  
4. Reading Literacy
  - a. Promoting Literacy Programs and Partnerships: Implements programs and partnerships aimed at improving reading literacy among students.
  - b. Pima County Literacy Week and Tucson Read Aloud Day: Establishes events where MEC bulk purchases books for reading sessions between elected officials/community leaders and the metro area's youth.
  
5. Mental Health and Wellness

- a. Facilitated Trainings and Workshops for Educators: Hosts workshops on how to serve youth and navigate the complexities of student wellness, awarding a certification post-completion.
- b. Training for Peer Coaches: Equips peer coaches with the tools and knowledge to navigate the complexities of their own mental health and wellness and that of their peers.


**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the complete roster of proposed changes is attached herewith.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Metropolitan Education Commission Board of Directors on this 25th day of July 2024.

**Executive Director**

  
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Rocque Perez

**Board Chair**

  
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Mark Hanna

**Attachments:** Proposed Commission Transition Roster

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## Proposed Commission Transition Roster At-A-Glance

Appointee	Type	Appointer	New Start	New End
Dustin Williams	Ex-Officio (non-voting)	Seat subject to election	-	-
Rocque Perez	Ex-Officio (non-voting)	Seat subject to employment	-	-
Sylvia Lee	Board Supervisor	Pima County Board of Supervisors	8/24/2024	8/24/2025
Matt Schmidgall	Pima County Health	Pima County Board of Supervisors	-	8/24/2025
Kelle Maslyn	Pima County Economic Development	Pima County Board of Supervisors	8/24/2024	8/24/2025
Lane Santa Cruz	Mayor or Council Member	City of Tucson Mayor and Council	8/24/2024	8/24/2026
Lara Hamwey	City of Tucson Housing and Community Development	City of Tucson Mayor and Council	8/24/2024	8/24/2026
Barbara Coffee	City of Tucson Economic Initiatives	City of Tucson Mayor and Council	8/24/2024	8/24/2026
-	Educator for children ages 5-10	Pima County Superintendent	8/24/2024	8/24/2025
Leslie Ferre	Educator for children ages 11-13	Pima County Superintendent	-	8/24/2025
-	Educator for youth ages 14-18	Pima County Superintendent	8/24/2024	8/24/2026
Adriana Grijalva	Enrolled learner between ages of 16-21	MEC Board of Directors	8/24/2024	8/24/2025
Alejandro Tavera-Reyes	Enrolled learner between ages of 16-21	MEC Board of Directors	-	8/24/2025
Dave Mason	School Principal	MEC Board of Directors	-	8/24/2025
Jose Gastelum	Public School District Superintendent	MEC Board of Directors	-	8/24/2026
Kathy Prather	Employed affiliate of JTED	MEC Board of Directors	-	8/24/2025
Sharon O'Brien	Local agency serving young people and children	MEC Board of Directors	8/24/2024	8/24/2026
Julie Euber	Local agency serving young people and children	MEC Board of Directors	8/24/2024	8/24/2026
Gina Valencia	Local agency serving young people and children	MEC Board of Directors	8/24/2024	8/24/2026
Treya Allen	At-large, historically marginalized/excluded communities	MEC Board of Directors	-	8/24/2025
Michael Wilkerson	At-large, religious community	MEC Board of Directors	-	8/24/2026
Rich Nikel	At-large, state-wide educational agency	MEC Board of Directors	-	8/24/2025
Mark Hanna	At-large	MEC Board of Directors	-	8/24/2025
Marla Franco	At-large	MEC Board of Directors	8/24/2024	8/24/2026
Teresa Hill	At-large	MEC Board of Directors	8/24/2024	8/24/2026
Irene Robles-Lopez	Pima Community College	President of Regional Institution	-	8/24/2025
Emily Ross	University of Arizona	President of Regional Institution	8/24/2024	8/24/2025
Michael Crow	Arizona State University	President of Regional Institution	8/24/2024	8/24/2026
Jose Luis Rivera	Northern Arizona University	President of Regional Institution	8/24/2024	8/24/2026