

AGENDA MATERIAL

DATE 2-16-21 ITEM NO. RA7

Julie Castaneda

From: Ann W Nichols [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2021 8:56 PM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Support for Preschool Scholarships

CAUTION: This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Funding scholarships for children to attend quality preschool programs is a sound investment for our community. I'm a retired associate professor from the School of Social Work. One of the courses I taught included study of child development. Research has revealed the lifelong impact of brain development which occurs between birth and age 5. Children who grow up in a stimulating environment with a variety of learning opportunities develop strong brain structures for future education. In addition, preschool programs help children develop problem-solving and social skills that are helpful as they transition into K-12 schools. I'm confident that the County's commitment will attract other funding sources to expand these scholarships. Our children--and our community--will benefit from this investment!

Dr. Ann W. Nichols
4556 N. Flecha Drive
Tucson, AZ 85718

PER 16721807/GB/PCD/KCF-HD

Julie Castaneda

From: Marcia Klipsch [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 14, 2021 11:09 AM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Supporting funding for high quality early childhood education in Pima County

CAUTION: This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

To the Board of Supervisors and Mr. Huckleberry,

I support significant multi-year investment by Pima County in scholarships for high quality early childhood education.

· High-quality early childhood experiences mean that a child is more likely to succeed in school and in life. And that means not only better lives for these future adults, but significant savings for taxpayers. The short-term economic multiplier effect of local expenditure on high quality childcare is between 100% and 200%. The long-term return on investment has been projected to be between \$13 and \$17 for every dollar spent.

· Financial support to send their children to high quality early education is crucial to parents' ability to work. Without support, some families will be forced to place their young children in low-quality, perhaps even dangerous, care settings. Without access to high-quality safe childcare options some workers, mainly women, will be forced to remain out of the work force altogether.

· A huge proportion of all childcare is provided by small local business owners, many of whom are minorities and women, in centers and in individually licensed homes. Businesses are keenly aware of this need and they support childcare for their employees. In the current public health and economic crisis, providing access to affordable high-quality early education is a crucial step in our economic recovery.

We also know that children who attend high quality childcare are ready for kindergarten, achieve proper reading levels by third grade and math levels by fifth grade, and have an extremely high probability of graduating high school and become productive, tax-paying citizens. High quality childcare is the ticket out of poverty and the precursor to a successful life.

I urge you to support this effort with county funds and your heart.

Marcia Klipsch
1720 E. Entrada Nueve
Tucson, AZ 85718

01-10-2021 11:09 AM

JK



Connecting people of all ages to
a world of opportunities through
literacy and creative expression.

February 15, 2021

Pima County Board of Supervisors
33 North Stone Ave
Tucson, AZ 85701

Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors:

Literacy Connects fully supports Supervisor Rex Scott's measure directing Pima County to allocate ten million dollars for scholarships for high-quality early childhood education. We do so because access to high-quality early childhood education is directly related to our mission of "Connecting people of all ages to a world of opportunities through literacy and creative expression."

One of Literacy Connects' major programs, Reading Seed, is designed to empower children to become independent readers and, therefore, to become lifelong learners. Through partnering with over 30 high needs elementary schools, we have seen a direct connection between access to early childhood programs and the need for additional help and resources for students. Children who have had access to high quality early education are far less likely to need a Reading Seed tutor.

In addition, Literacy Connects is an organization that is committed to and dependent upon partnerships with schools, with community members, with local businesses, and with educators at all levels. Also, we have often worked closely with members of the Pima County Board of Supervisors. Supervisor Scott's statement underscored the need for collaboration to move this measure forward. We agree. Literacy Connects stands ready to be a deeply committed partner. Together we can promote equitable access to early education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt T. W.", written in a cursive style.

Matt Tarver-Wahlquist
Executive Director
Literacy Connects
(415) 794-1670
mtwahlquist@literacyconnects.org

RECEIVED
FEB 16 2021
PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

A handwritten mark, possibly a signature or initials, written in black ink.

Julie Castaneda

From: Tony Penn <tpenn@unitedwaytucson.org>
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2021 1:36 PM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Support for Rex Scott Proposal

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Dear Board of Supervisors,

United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona has long supported high-quality early childhood education as an important predictor of success in educational attainment.

Research supports the potential for high-quality preschool to help children be better prepared when they start kindergarten and is an essential component to successful educational attainment.

We feel Supervisor Scott's proposal for significant investments by Pima County in preschool scholarships for families in need can move us forward to a better educated, thriving, and more equitable community.

Thank you,



United Way of Tucson
and Southern Arizona

Tony Penn

President & CEO

United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona

Office: 520-903-3900 | tpenn@unitedwaytucson.org



RIWE BIEL GRIVE UNITEZID.

United for an educated, thriving and equitable community.

FEB 16 2021 09:03:39 AM PST
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Julie Castaneda

From: Lisette DeMars [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2021 4:32 PM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Re: Pima County scholarships for preschool

CAUTION: This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

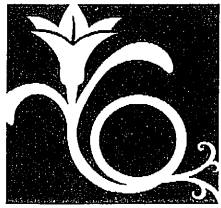
15 FEB 16 21 AM 07:53 PST
[REDACTED] SK

Good afternoon,

I am the proud aunt of two young children and I wanted to express my ecstatic support of funding preschool scholarships in Pima County. I have witnessed first hand how investing in the early years helps improve the odds of a child's health and academic success, it also helps support and grow our economy. Both my niece and nephew have had the privilege of attending preschool, one that opened in 1966 in fact and is currently in critical danger of closing. I have seen the impact it has had on their social and emotional skills as well as how the experience exposed them to exciting academic challenges. It also helped them gain access to early interventions which allowed them to be prepared for kindergarten. My sister is a speech therapist, my brother in law is a paramedic- even with a large and supportive family who lives nearby they needed childcare for the kids in order to work and serve the Tucson community. Most families need access to high quality affordable childcare in order to work and often childcare is provided by small local business owners, many of whom are minorities and women, in centers and in individually licensed homes. The early years are a sound investment- supporting businesses, workers, and the healthy development of the next generation. I am so proud to see the Pima County Board of Supervisors thinking strategically about where to invest as we rebuild our economy, thank you for prioritizing preschool scholarships as a part of the budget.

Best,
Lisette DeMars

P.S. Please share this email with County Manager Chuck Huckleberry. Thank you!



PRIMAVERA
FOUNDATION

February 15, 2021

Pima County Board of Supervisors
130 W. Congress Street, 11th Floor
Tucson, AZ 85701

RE: Early Childhood Education Program Scholarships: The Preschool Promise

Dear Honorable members of the Pima County Board of Supervisors,

As a strong community partner of Pima County, the Primavera Foundation supports the Preschool Promise and urges you to vote to appropriate \$10m in the coming 2021-2022 fiscal year to support high-quality early childhood education in the form of scholarships to three and four year-old children. Our hope is that you will commit a minimum of three year funding in order to show the true impact of investing in quality early learning opportunities for the most marginalized children across Pima County.

For more than 37 years, Primavera Foundation has provided a continuum of comprehensive community development programs providing pathways out of poverty through safe, affordable housing, workforce development, and neighborhood revitalization. While providing high-quality early childhood education is not part of Primavera's mission, we do see the impact this gap has had on the most marginalized and disenfranchised families with children across our community. The average cost for a three and four year-old to attend a full-day (full parental workday) high-quality early education program is \$836 per month. This cost is just not possible for low-income hard working families/families receiving disability. In fact Arizona is one of the most expensive states (39th of 50 for US and DC) for the relative burden of childcare costs for families. Every year we work with thousands of households in our continuum of programs where this gap in accessing high-quality early childhood education informs why so many families continue to struggle in poverty year after year. It prevents all adults in the family, but especially women and disproportionally single moms, from being able to work. The coronavirus pandemic has exponentially impacted this reality.

We ask you to take this critical step in ensuring Pima County works for everyone and that equity is at the center of everything we do, including providing high-quality early childhood education for hard working, marginalized families throughout Pima County.

In gratitude,

Peggy Hutchison
CEO, Primavera Foundation

FFH1629#00783PC0 KUF-HH
OK

Julie Castaneda

From: Nicole Allen [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2021 5:20 PM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Importance of preschool scholarship!

CAUTION: This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Good afternoon,

I am the proud parent of two young children and I wanted to express my ecstatic support of funding preschool scholarships in Pima County. I have witnessed first hand how investing in the early years helps improve the odds of a child's health and academic success, it also helps support and grow our economy. Both of my children have had the privilege of attending preschool, one that opened in 1966 in fact. One that after 54 of providing children amazing education, has been slated to close in May. I have seen the impact it has had on their social and emotional skills as well as how the experience exposed them to exciting academic challenges. It also helped them gain access to early interventions which allowed them to be prepared for kindergarten. We are lucky enough to be able to afford preschool for them, and by far it is the best investment we have made.

I am a speech therapist, and my husband is a paramedic- even with a large and supportive family who lives nearby they needed childcare for the kids in order to work and serve the Tucson community. Most families need access to high quality affordable childcare in order to work and often childcare is provided by small local business owners, many of whom are minorities and women, in centers and in individually licensed homes. The early years are a sound investment- supporting businesses, workers, and the healthy development of the next generation. I am so proud to see the Pima County Board of Supervisors thinking strategically about where to invest as we rebuild our economy, thank you for prioritizing preschool scholarships as a part of the budget.

Best,
Nicole Allen

P.S. Please share this email with County Manager Chuck Huckleberry. Thank you!

Julie Castaneda

From: Billy Peard [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2021 8:17 PM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Public Comment on Agenda Item #7

CAUTION: This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Good evening:

I am a Pima County resident and writing in support of passage of Agenda Item #7 on the Feb 16, 2021 BOS agenda.

I support including in the 2021/2022 county budget a \$10 million line item to establish a preschool scholarship program for 3 and 4-year-olds at or below 200% of the federal poverty line.

Best,
Billy Peard

[REDACTED]
244 E. Columbia St; Tucson, AZ 85714

PH 1621 AM 07:04 PCD K F BD
BK

Julie Castaneda

From: Elsmarie DeMars [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2021 9:09 PM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Regarding preschool scholarships

CAUTION: This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Dear County Supervisors,

I am a retired educator, mother and grandmother. My children had the privilege of attending a high quality preschool which prepared them for kindergarten and set the stage for the rest of their personal, academic and professional future. My grandchildren also attended preschool. The second grader reads at fifth grade level and loves learning; her four year old brother, still in preschool, is fascinated with books of all types and has begun to read.

I want to express my support for funding preschool scholarships in Pima County. As an educator I can tell you it was easy to distinguish children who had experienced preschool from those who had not. Research shows that a child's brain grows rapidly in those early years. Children who had had preschool experience were socially, emotionally and academically better prepared. They were ready to face the challenges of learning. Preschool also allowed children access to early interventions which meant that their needs were better met and services were provided in a timely matter. We educators know that children who attend high quality preschool are more likely to read at grade level by third grade, master math by fifth grade and need less remedial education and other support services. Every child should have access to high quality preschool. The difference is palpable, and it is measurable.

Working parents need access to high quality, affordable, childcare in order to work and restart the economy. Scholarships for low income children are necessary to help close academic gaps and, as many studies have concluded, the investment pays dividends during the lifetime of the child.

I urge you to consider the importance of voting "yes" to provide scholarships for low income families to attend high quality preschool programs as part of the budget.

Sincerely,

Elsmarie Heimpel DeMars

Please share this e-mail with County Manager Chuck Huckleberry,

Julie Castaneda

From: Diana Hill [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2021 11:24 PM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Support Preschool Promise

CAUTION: This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Hello,

High quality Early Childhood Education (HQECE) is an essential educational opportunity that changes lives and the future of Pima County. It provides a strong social and intellectual foundation for children under 5. It guides and support families to engage with their young children productively. And it contributes to our tax base by providing trustworthy care and education so parents can work. Particularly for financially stressed family, the support for their children gives them community support for their parenting and families' engagement with school.

With HQECE everyone wins!

Diana Hill, PhD
Sent from my iPhone

FFB1621M0Y04PCCLKU-00

