



# EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ROUNDTABLE MINUTES

March 30, 2022

The Education and Workforce Development Roundtable of the City of Mesa met electronically through a virtual platform on March 30, 2022, at 2:06 p.m.

## BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT

Councilmember Spilsbury, Chair  
Councilmember Heredia  
Dr. Lori Berquam  
Kevin Broeckling  
David DiDomenico  
Dr. Andi Furlis  
Dr. Shane McCord  
Rich Nickel  
Dr. Joe O'Reilly  
Katie Lohec Sondej

## BOARDMEMBERS ABSENT

Dr. Perry Berry  
Toni Morales Broberg  
Dr. Dawn Foley  
Sally Harrison  
Jonathan Schmitt  
Dr. Chad Wilson  
Vince Yanez

## STAFF PRESENT

Lisa Anderson  
Lisa Cartwright-Harris  
Natalie Lewis  
Lauren Lowe  
Holly Moseley  
Erin Romaine  
Sarah Tolar  
Alfred Smith

COUNCIL PRESENT  
None

### 1. Call meeting to order and welcome announcements from the Chair.

Chairperson Spilsbury welcomed the Boardmembers to the meeting. She excused Boardmembers Berry, Broberg, Foley, Harrison, Schmitt, Wilson, and Yanez from the entire meeting.

### 2. Take action to approve the Roundtable Meeting Minutes from February 9, 2022.

It was moved by Boardmember Berquam, seconded by Boardmember O'Reilly, that the February 9, 2022, Education Roundtable meeting minutes be approved.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES—Spilsbury-Heredia-Berquam-Broeckling-DiDomenico-Furlis-McCord-Nickel-O'Reilly-Sondej

NAYS – None

ABSENT – Berry-Broberg-Foley-Harrison-Schmitt-Wilson-Yanez

Chairperson Spilsbury declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

3. Update from Chair on purpose of meeting and hear a special introduction by City Staff.

Chairperson Spilsbury introduced Deputy City Manager Natalie Lewis to give a special introduction.

Ms. Lewis identified the reasons for establishing the Education and Workforce Development Roundtable were to strengthen the education continuum and the workforce pipeline in Mesa while working together to find a role for the City. She gave thanks and appreciation to the Board for their expertise, ideas, and feedback.

Ms. Lewis explained the selection process for the Education and Workforce Administrator position. She stated the process was highly competitive and attracted a lot of interest. She announced Sarah Tolar, Principal of Marcos de Niza School, was chosen for the role. She added Sarah is familiar with education policy, has many accomplishments in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and has her master's degree in secondary education. She is passionate about education and workforce and a Mesa native who is highly invested in the community. Ms. Lewis welcomed Ms. Tolar and thanked her for choosing Mesa.

Ms. Tolar expressed her excitement to be part of this unique and dynamic group supporting education. She affirmed this is a great opportunity to support, brainstorm, and collaborate on education.

Chairperson Spilsbury expressed her enthusiasm for what Ms. Tolar's voice will bring to education for the entire City.

Chairperson Spilsbury reported on February 9, most boardmembers attended a brainstorming process with facilitator Doug Griffin to identify key goals and priorities. She stated the purpose of this meeting is to dive into the identified goals and priorities. She added discussions will help finalize goals and priorities, so that cross-jurisdictional work can be focused on. She announced the group will go into breakout sessions and then come back together to share discussion and provide direction.

Ms. Lewis outlined the breakout room process of dividing members into three groups, each with a representative from the City to host and facilitate the conversation. She stated the process allows boardmembers to gain confidence in their strategic framework. She noted that information shared with staff helps to guide their work and contribute to future recommendations while giving clarity on high priorities.

Ms. Lewis recessed the board into breakout rooms at 2:17 p.m.

Chairperson Spilsbury reconvened the Education and Workforce Development Roundtable meeting at 2:42 p.m.

4. Discuss and provide feedback on the Evolving Strategic Framework – Feb. 9 Overview Summary and Workshop Results (attached) and participate in breakout groups to review and

propose modifications to the listed Collaborative Objective, Goal Statements, Identified Priorities and Highlighted to Performance Metrics in each of the following Strategic Focus Area goals:

- a. Early Learning through High School
- b. Post-Secondary Education
- c. Workforce Development

Boardmember Fourlis reported for the Early Learning through High School breakout group. She stated the group clarified the language to align with priorities and reviewed metrics to ensure the strategic focus matched. She noted Dr. McCord's comments stating he was impressed and pleased with the summary and believes the group is focused on the things that have the most impact on students and communities. She reported the group also had a great discussion regarding metrics including control and outcome.

Boardmember O'Reilly reported for the Post-Secondary Education breakout group. He highlighted the group's specific goals were to ensure 60% of adults have a post-secondary degree or industry certificate by 2030 and to work with students and adults to achieve priorities. He pointed out another goal is to graduate more workforce-ready students and working adults that have attended school but have not obtained a degree. He said the group will review enrollment data for students in institutions inside and outside of Mesa.

In response to a question from Chairperson Spilsbury on how to obtain statistics on students nationally, Mr. O'Reilly stated there is a National Student Clearinghouse Program that tracks students at 98% of colleges and trade schools in the country.

Boardmember Sondej reported for the Workforce Development breakout group. She indicated overall, the group was satisfied with the language around goals and priorities. She stated the dialogue opens opportunities to be specific and tangible to drill down on priorities and align next steps. She mentioned the group identified outreach opportunities which include attending stakeholder engagements, incorporating surveys and listening sessions, and gathering feedback. She commented the group discussed several companies and educational institutions that offer programs for upscaling, learning and changing careers. She stated the group will look at inventory and create a central site for the public, catered to each person based on their needs. She emphasized the importance of having a clear awareness of the existing resources that relate to workforce development. She noted the importance of ensuring the group is aligned and the next steps are tangible and achievable.

Chairperson Spilsbury recommended coordinating data from nonprofit groups for effective and efficient use of resources.

5. Hear reports from Roundtable members to summarize discussions and recommendations by strategic focus area goal.

Boardmember Berquam commented the K-12 population is changing due to the impacts of COVID. She recommended being mindful to ask students about their dreams and aspirations and emphasized the importance of their voices in the future. She stressed the impact that COVID is going to have on young people.

Boardmember Nickel recommended bringing in one student from each high school to attend and participate in the group's exercises and activities.

Chairperson Spilsbury concurred and emphasized the importance of hearing the voices of the youth. She recommended recruiting students from the schools in the Mayor's Youth Committee.

Boardmember Berquam recommended conducting the same exercises with underemployed adults. She explained these adults are barely getting by and do not have the bandwidth to do anything else. She added those groups could meet virtually if access is available. She recommended soliciting feedback from bus drivers and custodians.

6. Take action to approve the Roundtable's "Evolving Strategic Framework" and to include any agreed upon modifications.

It was moved by Boardmember DiDomenico, seconded by Boardmember Fournalis, that the Roundtable's "Evolving Strategic Framework" and to include any agreed upon modification be approved.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES—Spilsbury-Heredia-Berquam-Broeckling-DiDomenico-Fournalis-McCord-Nickel-O'Reilly-Sondej

NAYS – None

ABSENT – Berry-Broberg-Foley-Harrison-Schmitt-Wilson-Yanez

Chairperson Spilsbury declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

7. Review scheduling of upcoming meetings.

Chairperson Spilsbury reported there will be staff meetings in April and May to prepare recommendations for the Roundtable review. She announced the next meeting will be held on June 8, 2022.

8. Call to the public.

There were no public comments.

9. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Education and Workforce Development Roundtable meeting adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Education and Workforce Development Roundtable meeting of the City of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of March 2022. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

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HOLLY MOSELEY, CITY CLERK

lr/td