



## Early Childhood Education Task Force

December 14, 2015

The Early Childhood Education Task Force met at the Mesa Counts on College Access Center, 635 East Broadway Road, on December 14, 2015 at 1 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF PRESENT
Dr. David Luna, Chair	Paul Luna, Member	Natalie Lewis, Deputy City Manager
Rhonda Anderson, Member		Amy Trethaway, Mesa Counts on College Director
Jake Brown, Member		Niel Curley, Special Projects Manager
Mike Hutchinson, Member		Marrisa Ramirez-Ramos, City Council Asst
Dr. Anjum Majeed, Member		
Cynthia Melde, Member		
Linda McKeever, Member		
Allison Mullady, Member		
Nancy Salmon, Member		
Dr. James Zaharis, Member (Excused at 1:45 p.m.)		
Deanna Villanueva-Saucedo, Member		

Administer Oaths of Office for each member in attendance

Oaths of office completed by all members, except Paul Luna, who was absent and will complete as soon as possible.

1. Call to order and welcome by Task Force Chair and D5 Councilmember, Dr. David Luna.  
Call to order at approximately 1:00 pm by Chairperson Luna. Task force member Paul Luna was absent. Chair Luna provided a welcome and thanked the committee for their service.
2. Hear opening remarks by Mesa Mayor John Giles regarding task force purpose and City goals related to the connection of student success and Mesa’s workforce development.  
Mayor Giles welcomed the task force members to the meeting and thanked them for their service to the City of Mesa. Mayor Giles provided remarks regarding education in Mesa and discussed the City of Mesa’s support for the education of our residents leading to an educated workforce.
3. Hear a presentation and discuss Open Meeting Law by Deputy City Attorney Alfred Smith.  
Completed.
4. Hear introductions of Task Force Members, including expectations set by the Task Force Chair, citizen feedback forms/process and introduction of process facilitator and staff support team.  
Completed.
5. Task force members will participate in a facilitated discussion related to the following questions and topic areas. See handout information prepared for review and consideration during these topic area discussions.

- a. What does the Task Force Purpose statement: "Ensure Mesa's children arrive at kindergarten ready and able to learn" mean to you?
  - i. Arizona has a diverse demographic, language, health, adult skills,
  - ii. Consideration of time variable of school year and school day
  - iii. Consideration of enrichment activities (summer before/after Kinder)
  - iv. Parent education and their ability to help their children
  - v. Awareness of expectation and standards, what readiness looks like, Kinder now is very different than it used to look like
  - vi. Community resources, support, extended family, non-profits
  - vii. Early intervention and support
  - viii. Reading, writing, speaking, and listening standards since 2010, early learning standards (preschool) and infant and toddler guidelines (daycare)
  - ix. Basic needs: food, shelter, proper care
- b. **What do we know** about the state of preparing children for kindergarten as it exists in Mesa now? **How do we know it** (i.e. data sources, experiences, etc.)?
  - i. Dibels (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) scores (diagnostic) one data point administered in Kinder, baseline for gaps of the students
  - ii. Education attainment of parents, income: struggling, working poor
  - iii. Health (oral health)
  - iv. Where were the children prior to Kinder (daycare, preschool, care in the home, etc.) children with less of an experience prior to Kinder will have a lower score, factors: working poor/millennials/time, bonding and parent time
  - v. Tuition based programs in MPS
  - vi. Map: the type of facilities and cost relates to that of our population how many are going to these places, how many do we have and how many are within reach of the given population
  - vii. Every child needs parent engagement, not everyone needs the same, one loving adult person in the child's life
  - viii. Gap analysis of the research that is already there, pathways, how do we impact each pathway
  - ix. How do we meet people and kids where they are to provide opportunities and access
  - x. Child enters Kinder what should they know?
  - xi. Parent University program
  - xii. Non-profit Kinder, A New Leaf, Child Crisis Center, Family Resource Center, Mesa Public Library: inventory on programs that impact early learners
  - xiii. Socioeconomic areas of the COM that might be at greater risk
  - xiv. Special needs preschool students in the district, what are the resources outside of the schools that parents can go to, pediatricians, etc.
  - xv. Family resource centers in Mesa to help families navigate, challenge is how to get families to know about them
- c. Based on what you have heard so far, what additional questions, topics or research/data come to mind that would further the work of the Task Force?

- d. Based on what you know now, which topic areas will be most important to furthering the Task Force's work?
  - i. Top 5 things to focus on to have the biggest impact
    - 1. Under resourced families: where they are,
    - 2. Community awareness
    - 3. What does readiness mean, what do the children need to know
    - 4. Quality matters in whatever setting
    - 5. Early intervention
- 6. Confirm next meeting: January 8, 2016, 1 p.m. Mesa Counts on College Access Center.  
Completed.
- 7. Adjourn meeting  
Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.