

EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT **ROUNDTABLE ACTION MINUTES**

February 11, 2026

The Education and Workforce Development Roundtable of the City of Mesa met in The Studios at Mesa City Center, 59 E. 1st St., on February 11, 2026, at 1:33 p.m.

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT

Councilmember Heredia, Chair
Candice Copple, Vice Chair
Dr. Richard Daniel
Councilmember Duff
Marcie Hutchinson
David Loutzenheiser
Dr. Shane McCord
Bob Nelson (Designee for Sally Harrison)
Rich Nickel
Renee Parker (Designee for Dr. Matthew Strom)
Jenny Jackson Robinson
Jennifer Schwartz (Designee for Dr. Chad Wilson)
Matt Sexton (Designee for David Williams)*
Kristin Sorenson
Jessica Steadman (Designee for Dr. Joseph Foy)

BOARDMEMBERS ABSENT

Vince Yanez
Dr. Perry Berry

STAFF PRESENT

Lisa Cartwright-Harris
Holly Moseley
Rafaella Safarian
Sarah Tolar

(*Participated in the meeting through the use of video conference equipment.)

Chairperson Heredia conducted a roll call.

Chairperson Heredia excused Boardmembers Yanez and Berry from the entire meeting.

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

Chairperson Heredia called the meeting to order. He welcomed Designee Bob Nelson, Director of Communications at the Mesa Chamber of Commerce; Designee Renee Parker, Director of Community Partnerships at Mesa Public Schools; Jennifer Schwartz, Dean of Instructional

Programs at East Valley Institute of Technology; Designee Matt Sexton, Community Development Manager at Meta; and Jessica Steadman, Campus Manager and Director of Marketing at Benedictine University.

2. Introduce the new member appointed to the Education and Workforce Development Roundtable.

Education and Workforce Administrator Sarah Tolar displayed a PowerPoint presentation. **(See Attachment 1)**

Discussion only; no formal action taken by the Board.

3. Take action to approve the Roundtable Meeting Minutes from December 3, 2025.

It was moved by Boardmember Daniel, seconded by Boardmember Jackson Robinson, that the December 3, 2025, Education and Workforce Development Roundtable meeting minutes be approved.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES– Heredia–Copple–Daniel–Duff–Hutchinson–Loutzenheizer–McCord–Nelson–Nickel–Parker–Jackson Robinson–Schwartz–Sexton–Sorensen–Steadman

NAYS– None

ABSENT – Berry–Yanez

Chairperson Heredia declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

4. City staff to provide update regarding the progress of Arizona Institute for Education and the Economy initiatives. City staff to provide additional update on the childcare needs assessment task force project in partnership with First Things First.

Presentation and discussion only; no formal action taken by the Board.

5. Hear updates from Roundtable higher education representatives on priorities, challenges and initiatives regarding the support of post-secondary education outcomes in Mesa.

Presentation and discussion only; no formal action taken by the Board.

6. Hear presentation from Arizona Board of Regents on AZ Opportunity initiative.

- a. Discuss priorities, work and opportunities for City of Mesa’s engagement with AZ Opportunity.

Presentation and discussion only; no formal action taken by the Board.

(At 2:15 p.m., Chairperson Heredia excused Boardmember Sexton from the remainder of the meeting.)

7. Roundtable members share information regarding their involvement in recent and upcoming education or workforce-related events or programs.

Discussion only; no formal action taken by the Board.

8. Call to the public.

There were no public comments.

9. Call for future agenda items.

There were no future agenda items discussed.

10. Adjourn.

Without objection, the Education and Workforce Development Roundtable meeting adjourned at 2:38 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 11th day of February 2026. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

HOLLY MOSELEY, CITY CLERK

sr
(Attachments – 1)