

**CITY OF SURPRISE**  
**Education Sub-Committee Meeting**  
**16000 North Civic Center Plaza**  
**Surprise, AZ 85374**

**Wednesday, February 7, 2024 – 4:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Councilmember Hastings called the **Education Sub-Committee Meeting** to order at 4:01 p.m. at Surprise City Hall, Overflow Room, 16000 North Civic Center Plaza Surprise, Arizona 85374, on Wednesday, February 7, 2024.

**ROLL CALL**

Councilmember Jack Hastings, Chair, Councilmember Aly Cline, Vice Chair, Mike Hoover, Assistant Director of Economic Development, Committee Member, Seth Dyson, Human Service & Community Vitality Director, Committee Member, Donna Meuse, Human Resources Director, Committee Member.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**CURRENT EVENTS AND REPORTS**

None.

**STAFF REPORTS**

None.

**STAFF PRESENT**

Kirsten Hall, Economic Development Project Manager, Virginia Mungovan, Marketing and Communications Director, Michael Boule, Water Resource Management Director, Danielle Osborne, Community Initiatives Supervisor, Genevieve Martin Del Campo, Staff Liaison.

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

None.

**REGULAR AGENDA ITEM**

**1. Consideration and action to approve the November 16, 2023, Education Sub-Committee Meeting minutes:**

Councilmember Aly Cline moved to approve the November 16, 2023 Education Sub-Committee Meeting minutes, and Mike Hoover seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

## **2. Consideration and action pertaining to the Surprise Youth Scholarship Program:**

Danielle Osborne gave an overview of the Surprise Youth Scholarship Program.

Councilmember Jack Hastings commented that he loved this program and is very happy to see it returning for Surprise students to take advantage of available scholarships. He asked if the interview window could be expanded from one week to two weeks so no student would miss out on the opportunity for an interview. Danielle Osborn responded that the time frame can be expanded but that the department will also work with every student to ensure they can participate as their schedule allows.

Councilmember Aly Cline commented that although the 2.5 GPA criteria is considered passing and allows the student to graduate, she believed it was a little low. She further stated that she understood that every student should get a chance to apply if they meet the school and program criteria requirements. Councilmember Jack Hastings agreed and mentioned that the committee could potentially give more points to those with a higher GPA. Councilmember Cline agreed but stated that those with higher GPAs will likely be receiving other scholarship opportunities that those with lower GPAs may not. Seth Dyson asked if Councilmember Cline and Councilmember Hastings agreed to keep the 2.5 GPA baseline criteria. Councilmember Cline and Councilmember Hastings responded yes.

Danielle gave an overview of the marketing plan for the program and asked if the students applying for the program should only be Surprise residents, all students attending Surprise schools even if they are not residents, or if the program should include Surprise residents currently in college looking to further their education. Councilmember Cline and Councilmember Hastings both responded that it should be for Surprise residents who are high school seniors.

Donna Meuse commented that an Equal Opportunity Employer statement should be added to the application. The Committee Members agreed.

Donna asked if the program would be available to Surprise homeschooled students since there will be some information on the application they cannot provide. The Committee discussed ways the application could be completed for homeschooled students and which documentation could be provided. Councilmember Cline asked if information about this program could be advertised in the libraries. Danielle responded yes.

Danielle asked how the Committee would like to distribute the total amount available of \$20,000. Councilmember Hastings responded that he would prefer to keep the allocation amounts as flexible as possible. Donna asked if it could possibly hurt the program's interest if students did not know how much they could receive. Councilmember Hastings responded that providing a range could be beneficial. Mike Hoover agreed that listing a range could motivate students to apply. After

deliberation from the Committee, the agreed-upon listed range was \$1,000 - \$5,000 per student.

Donna asked if the information should clarify that these scholarship awards are only for tuition. The Committee agreed that it was a good idea. Councilmember Hastings mentioned that the award amounts distributed directly to the school will help guarantee that the money is only used for school-related expenses.

Mike Hoover gave an update for next fiscal year's funding toward this program.

Councilmember Aly Cline moved to approve the Surprise Youth Scholarship program, and Councilmember Hastings seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

### **3. Presentation and Discussion from Rio Salado College's RISE program:**

Jennifer Shaffer and Jill Caronia with Rio Salado gave an overview of the RISE Program.

Mike Hoover asked if there is an opportunity with this program to sponsor a class or classes at Ottawa if Ottawa students are interested, even though they are below the non-senior age group. Jennifer responded that there was a possibility and something that could be discussed further. She followed up that although the program is advertised toward the senior age group, any person of any age group is welcome to attend classes.

Councilmember Cline commented that she would like to invite Jennifer and Jill to her upcoming community meetings for a presentation on this program. She further stated that she would discuss a possible presentation of this program to the Mera Community.

### **4. Discussion pertaining to the Water Resource Management Department and Gateway Community College Scholarships:**

Michael Boule gave an overview of the Gateway Community College Scholarship Program. Virginia Mungovan gave an overview of the website and campaign associated with advertising the ten available scholarships.

Donna Meuse suggested that Gateway Community College be invited to the Employee Benefits Fair that will be occurring in May.

Councilmember Cline asked if Gateway Community College is attending the upcoming job fair. Seth Dyson responded that he does not believe so but would send outreach. He further stated that he would check if the event allows training providers as he does not want to cause a conflict.

## **OTHER BUSINESS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Surprise Youth Scholarship Program interviews.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

  
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Councilmember Jack Hastings, Chair

  
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Genevieve Martin Del Campo, Staff Liaison