



Minutes of the April 18, 2008 business meeting at Room West B and C 31st.
Floor, Riffe Building, 77 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio.

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners

Blanche Aviles Casey
Mary Santiago
V. Anthony Simms-Howell
Richard Romero
Phillip R. Barbosa
Humberto Gonzalez
Simon Rodriguez

Staff

Ezra C. Escudero

Guest attendance list

Attached

ABSENT

Chris Rodriguez - Excused
Michael G. Florez - Excused

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Romero called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

CALL OF THE ROLL

There were seven commissioners present constituting a quorum.

MOTION #1 - 04-2008

To approve the March 14, 2008 meeting minutes. Presented by Commissioner Gonzalez. Seconded by Commissioner Barbosa. Motion carried.

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CHAIR'S COMMENTARY

Chair Romero introduced the invited guest, former Senator, C.J. Prentiss, who made a presentation regarding the Closing the Gap in Education campaign. Information distributed is attached as **Exhibit A**.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Escudero will submit his report via email, due to pressure of time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive - Chair Romero informed that he would appoint Commissioner Mary Santiago as Interim Vice Chair since Commissioner Aviles Casey is the Treasurer.

MOTION #2 - 04-2008 - To name Commissioner Mary Santiago as Interim Vice Chair until Ramona Reyes is re-comes back. Presented by Commissioner Simms-Howell. Seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez. Motion passed.

Finance

Commissioner Aviles Casey reviewed the last financial report. Due to limited time, there was no current report.

Ohio's Emerging Diversity -

Commissioner S. Rodriguez reported that the Grassroots trainings put together by the Director and the Community Liaison have been a success. Most of the trainings have been completed except for Lorain that is scheduled for next week. Applications for grants are being received by the office. The amount available for these grants is \$80,000.00.

He also informed that the Legislative Day is Tuesday, May 6 and State Farm is the sponsor for the event. Legislators Kevin De Wine, Joyce Beatty and others will be the speakers.

Education - Chair Romero appointed Commissioner Gonzalez as Chair of the Education Committee.

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Workforce & Economic Development - No report. Chair Romero appointed Commissioner Barbosa as Chair of the Workforce & Economic Development Committee.

OLD BUSINESS - Director Escudero informed that in March the office got permission to hire the Legislative Liaison. He also informed that for this fiscal year, there is a 10% cut and for next fiscal year, instead of two part-time staffs, there will be one. No programs will be cut and no full staff positions will be eliminated.

NEW BUSINESS - Director Escudero informed that the report regarding SB360 is in the commission's website. In response to calls and email from concerned citizens, there is a town hall meeting to discuss this bill, on Tuesday, April 29 from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. Chair Romero expressed that he wants to appoint a committee to follow-up on this bill.

Director Escudero informed of a call received from a concern citizen about the announcement of the Matrícula Consular displayed in OLANet. He informed also that he is working with the Office of the Governor and the Attorney General's Office to address this issue, but as far as the announcements are legal and not be supported any specific group, they will continue to appear on the website.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

MOTION #3 - 04-2008 - To accept public commentary. Presented by **Commissioner ???**____Seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez. Motion carried. Public introduced themselves.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - Chair Romero informed that the next board meeting is on Friday May 16 in Columbus.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #4 - 04-2008 - To adjourn the meeting. Presented by Commissioner Gonzalez. Seconded by Commissioner Simms-Howell. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Richard Romero, Chair

Michael G. Florez, Secretary

ADDENDUM TO MINUTES

April 18, 2008

MOTIONS CARRIED

Motion #1 - 04-2008	To approve the March 14 minutes
Motion #2 - 04-2008	To accept public commentary
Motion #3 - 04-2008	To adjourn the meeting