

**Association of Migrant Educators of Texas**  
**Organizational Meeting**  
**March 21 & 22, 2006**

The first organizational meeting of the Association of Migrant Educators of Texas convened at 3:00 p.m. on March 21, 2006.

Mike McCallum welcomed everyone to this historic event. He gave a brief explanation of how this meeting came about. He asked everyone to introduce themselves.

**In attendance were:**

**Mike McCallum – Region 8 ESC**  
**Karen Whitaker – Region 8 ESC**  
**Ed Tweedie – Educational Technology Services**  
**Patsy Caudill – Region 11 ESC**  
**Will Ramos – Region 10 ESC**  
**Idalia Ibanez – Region 2 ESC**  
**Signe Reeves – Region 7 ESC**  
**Christina Villarreal – TEA**  
**Tomas Yanez – TMIP – Pharr, TX**  
**Marilynn Vierrege – Region 17 ESC**  
**Pat Meyertholen – TEA**  
**Jeff Goldhorn – Region 20 ESC**  
**Noemi Ochoa – Region 1 ESC**  
**Connie Guerra – Region 1 ESC**  
**Dorleen Hooten-Region 12 ESC**

Ed Tweedie, Educational Technology Services, offered his appreciation for being invited to participate in this process. His company is helping to support the effort to establish this organization to support migrant students, parents, and educators.

Mike McCallum presented his ideas on the purpose and the goals of this organization. He has a vision for this organization to participate in any or all of the following activities: scholarships for migrant students, quarterly newsletters, assistance with the migrant conference, and an advocacy voice for migrant students, parents and educators. There are a lot of decisions to be made and discussions to be held to decide where the money will come from and where the money will go. He suggested that some funds could come from corporate sponsorships.

Patsy Caudill, Region 11 ESC, expressed her support for this effort and said she was very excited about having an organization to expressly serve the migrant children, parents and educators of Texas.

Will Ramos, Region 10, said that he totally supports this effort as well as Idalia Ibanez from Region 2 ESC. The organization might be able to look closely at the needs of the migrant children and parents and be a resource to assist these families.

Signe Reeves, Region 7, said she is thinking along those same lines because she has recently worked with “Building Bridges” for the first time, and she has seen numerous needs that need to be addressed.

Christina Villarreal, TEA, said the agency is extremely excited about this effort, and she likes the fact that we are looking at the ACET (Association of Compensatory Educators of Texas) as a model for this organization. ACET is very important for TEA. They rely on them heavily to distribute information, and she sees that this organization could fill a similar role with the migrant program. She also asked that this group give some feedback to the TEA staff on what their role would be. They checked with their legal department as to what they are allowed to do with this organization, and they said they could participate in organization activities with no problem.

Pat Meyertholen, TEA, said she was especially excited about the newsletter issue. We used to have this with the NAME organization, but when the leader of this group died, the organization went away. We need this.

Marilynn Vierrege, Region 17, said she appreciated that Mike had taken a forward look at the legal aspects and organization of this group. She asked the question if a district’s migrant funds could be spent to pay the organizational fee to join this organization. The answer was “yes.” She also said she likes the idea of having statewide trainings to relieve the stress and pressure on the current migrant staff.

Jeff Goldhorn, Region 20, said he is relatively new to the migrant program. He was surprised at how little he actually knew about the program when he came on board. He sees the role of this group to be education of educators and the public and to serve as advocates for the migrant program.

Region 12 Consultant, Dorleen Hooten, said she sees the networking and the education of educators as the main focus of this organization.

Mike said people go to ACET because they are going to get good, valuable information. That is what we are going to have to do.

Noemi Ochoa, Region I, said she is excited about having a group that can help to build capacity among migrant coordinators and educators. She wondered if this organization could help in making training a requirement for teachers and administrators to help them understand the obstacles and the needs of the migrant students.

Mike said it would be great to offer scholarships for regular classroom teachers and administrators to attend migrant training.

Patsy Caudill said it was expressed in the evaluations of the last state conference that participants really liked the sessions dealing with rules and regulations and they thought the conference needed to be a day longer.

Connie Guerra, Region I, and the in-coming President of TABE (Texas Association of Bilingual Educators), said she had come back into the migrant program about 2 years ago. She felt this organization could really assist in developing leadership. We will be looked at and have to be ready to express the organization's position on rules and regulations as they come from the federal government. People will want to know where this organization stands on these issues. The organization needs to be very academically focused. How can we help teachers who have students who enter late and withdraw early? The school leaders must be educated about the program. Our students are a part of many different programs such as special education, bilingual/ESL, gifted-talented, etc. We have to empower other people to understand the migrant students and families. Our small circle of migrant advocates definitely needs to expand. The one thing she would like to say is that as an officer of the TABE organization, she needs to decline from serving as an officer of this organization.

Mike asked Ed Tweedie for his input. He said we should decide what it would take to spark administrators to make them want to come to this organization or to the organization's events.

Tomas Yañez, TMIP, said when looking at student scholarships so many of our kids do not get access to these opportunities. The migrant population is small compared to the regular student population, and they need assistance. So many times, our program has no voice. This organization could be "a voice" for this program and its beneficiaries. He wants this organization to continue to thrive even when he and the others on this organizational committee are gone from this program.

Mike said that many times we get comfortable in what we do in our jobs and our lives. He said he wanted Tomas to present the program he presented at a recent meeting showing the plight of just a few of our migrant students. It had a profound effect on his thinking regarding this group.

Mike McCallum said we need to elect a chairman to keep this ball rolling. We will need other positions filled as well. We will need a Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, etc. The proposed Bylaws are fairly extravagant and probably need to be simplified. We need people who are movers and shakers in the officer positions. We need a flyer to let people know who we are and why we are in existence.

Karen Whitaker asked Connie Guerra what officers were elected for TABE. She said the elected officers consisted of President, President Elect, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. They have appointed positions for parent representative, student representative, public relations, etc.

Mike stated that ACET's officers consist of a President, President-Elect, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and 20 Regional Directors. The 20 Regional Directors are very important. They keep the ball rolling with input from all across the state.

Mike wanted to know if we could go ahead now and appoint some positions to take office until elections could be held in November.

Christina Villarreal said she would like to comment that these students matter, and we have to let schools know they matter even though they are not their own student group in AYP or State Accountability. There are also no state issued requirements for working with this population.

Karen Whitaker suggested we have a flyer or a booth at ACET to let people know this is coming. We will look at doing this. Ed Tweedie said we could use their booth space if we need to.

Mike said we need a set purpose and goals. We have to put this together to keep this rolling so it doesn't die when we leave here. We all need responsibilities. We will all be counting on each other. We need to come up with key people to serve on the committee.

Will Ramos said that we need to develop a mission statement.

Pat Meyertholen suggested we break into small groups and brainstorm ideas for the mission of the organization. We can then come back together and develop our ideas.

We will start in groups of three or four to brainstorm ideas for verbiage for the purpose or a mission/vision statement of the organization.

The group broke into groups of three or four and worked on possible mission/vision statements for the AMET organization.

Blake Powell, an Austin Attorney, has offered to let us use his office as a collection point for AMET membership information. They would bundle information and forward it to the appropriate organization personnel.

Each group shared a brief reading of their proposed mission statements. Each will elaborate more in the morning on the important points of the mission statements.

Patsy Caudill moved that Mike McCallum remain in the Chairman's position since he already has the contacts with the lawyers and businesses to keep the process going. The committee agreed. He accepted the position.

We will continue this meeting at 8:00 a.m. in the morning with a working, continental breakfast.

The meeting (day 1) adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

## **Day 2 (March 22, 2006)**

The meeting convened at 8:00 a.m. with a continental breakfast.

The day 2 list of participants is the same as for day 1 with the addition of Blake Powell of the Austin school law firm of Powell & Leon, LLP serving as legal counsel for the organization.

As a continuation from the previous day, each of the breakout groups wrote the mission/vision statement they had developed on a chart tablet. Each group's efforts were then posted on the wall.

They were as follows:

**Group 1: Patsy Caudill, Will Ramos, Ed Tweedie, Idalia Ibanez**  
**The mission of the Association of Migrant Educators of Texas is to promote awareness, advocacy and education to develop leadership on behalf of the needs of our migrant population.**

**Group 2: Tomas Yañez, Christina Villarreal, Signe Reeves**  
**The purpose of the AMET is to provide awareness to all educators on the unique challenges and barriers migrant students must overcome to succeed.**

**.Awareness .Advocacy .Capacity Building**  
**.Leadership .Service to Migrant Students**  
**.Support for Migrant Educators**

**Group 3: Jeff Goldhorn, Marilynn Vierrege, Pat Meyertholen**  
**This mission of AMET is to passionately foster understanding and build capacity related to the Migrant Education Program through advocacy and leadership at local, state and national levels.**

**Group 4: Mike McCallum, Dorleen Hooten, Connie Guerra, Noemi Ochoa**  
**The purpose of AMET is to actively advocate for the migrant students and their families, and provide the necessary resources, provide leadership to Educators, and serve as a voice for the migrant education program.**

Marilynn Vierrege stated that at her region they used the word "passionately" in their mission statement, and their group felt that we should use that word as well or something similar. She wants it to convey that this is more than just words.

Jeff Goldhorn said we should develop a mission statement as opposed to a vision statement because a mission statement is timeless while a vision statement needs to be revisited every 3-5 years. Our organization's purpose is a concrete idea.

Will Ramos said he wholeheartedly agreed. We don't want the organization to change years down the road when the current educators are no longer in the picture.

Patsy Caudill said this should be a statewide organization, not localized. It should serve "all" migrant students.

Tomas Yanez suggested that membership numbers might be an issue because this group of students is a relatively small number related to other student groups.

Connie Guerra, Region I, said that many of the students in "other" groups are also migrant, so she can encourage teachers of ELL students to support the cause of the migrant students.

Mike said he would like to visit with the Commissioner when this organization gets off the ground and have her talk to the 20 ESC Directors to get the word out about this organization.

Christina Villarreal said the Commissioner was responsible for additional migrant personnel at the agency. She has been extremely supportive.

Pat Meyertholen stated that the California migrant program has 200,000 migrant students, but their students mostly stay in California. The Texas migrant program is about half the size; however, the students move all over the country, so our program affects many other states. She feels that many migrant staff from other states will join this organization to benefit from our level of knowledge.

A discussion was held on the topic of how we get the information about AMET to regular classroom teachers? We send most information to migrant contacts and federal program directors. We need to get the information to more people.

Noemi Ochoa stated that they ask districts to bring teams that include at least 3 teachers. But we also need a shift in the sessions being offered because 85% of those coming to the conference are recruiters and NGS staff.

Connie Guerra stated that beginning this year they will have sessions dealing with curriculum and assessment, so classroom teachers will have sessions that will affect them. They will not feel left out.

Patsy Caudill stated that we need education for school staff that do not understand the migrant program or those issues specific to migrant students.

Connie said she would like to offer sessions that explain the roles of different education staff in relation to migrant students. Everyone agreed that this was an excellent idea.

Mike introduced Blake Powell of Powell and Leon law firm. They are offering their assistance to develop this organization. Mr. Powell provided a brief background of how he came to be involved in this process.

He shared a sample “Articles of Incorporation.” He explained the steps to file these articles. There is a \$25 filing fee. We must also establish non-profit status. We must file an annual income tax return. We should have an annual audit of the books, and to truly be a state-wide organization we should also involve a director from each of the 20 regions. He stated that he truly believed in what this organization is doing.

Mike asked Mr. Powell about setting up the fiscal year. Mr. Powell suggested January 1-December 31. That is what most organizations use. Mike asked, “Where do we go from here?” Mr. Powell said we should move forward with filing the Articles of Incorporation and obtaining non-profit status.

Mike asked for a motion to file the Articles of Incorporation.

Will Ramos, Region 10 ESC, made a motion to file the Articles of Incorporation and to seek non-profit status for the AMET organization.

Tomas Yanez asked for discussion. Is there a conflict with the TAMS organization? Mr. Powell said there should be no problem with a conflict as many organizations serve similar clientele.

Mike asked for a second. Noemi Ochoa seconded the motion.

Mike opened the floor for further discussion. There was none.

There was a unanimous vote in favor of filing the Articles of Incorporation and seeking non-profit status.

Mr. Powell led the group through the Articles of Incorporation to ensure accurate content. As a non-profit organization, we are NOT exempt from sales tax.

Point by Blake Powell:

If you are setting up a scholarship program, you should have a committee that handles all scholarship activities.

In order to read the proposed “Articles of Incorporation,” the group took a short reading break.

Discussion on the “Articles of Incorporation”:

Do we want a central mailing point or information collection point? This was decided to be a good decision. The mailing address will be the office of Powell and Leon.

It was moved by Patsy Caudill to make Karen Whitaker of Region 8 ESC the secretary. The motion was seconded by Pat Meyertholen. No discussion was needed. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Pat Meyertholen to accept the "Articles of Incorporation" as modified with the address change. The motion was seconded by Will Ramos. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

A discussion was held on the Bylaws of the Association of Migrant Educators of Texas on the following points:

Establishing a Quorum – Is 50% a good percentage to use for establishing a quorum? There might need to be a clause stating if someone misses a certain number of meetings within a specified time period, they would be replaced. What about written proxies? We might want to allow board members to send a written proxy. Discussion followed. What about allowing board members to participate via telephone? It was decided that if we can't get 50% of the board members in attendance, the meeting date will be changed.

Term Limits – Discussion was held on the "eight year" term limitation. Connie Guerra stated that the leader of the organization would not need to be the leader for 8 years; however, if we are talking about all of the "Board" that is fine. The 8 years is approved.

Offices- Discussion was held on the offices to have in the organization. The offices will be: President, President-Elect, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer (After the first year, we will have Immediate Past President). Parliamentarian will be an appointed position appointed by the President and the President-Elect.

Other committees could be: public relations, scholarships/grants, membership.

Scheduled Meetings – There will be two required meetings – one in November and one in May.

The title of "Chairman" will be changed to "President" - The Office of President will be filled each year by the President-Elect voted on in the previous year by the voting membership. The initial "President," Mike McCallum, will serve the remainder of this year and an additional year. A "President-Elect" will be elected for the 2006-2007 year and will take office as "President" in the 2007-2008 year.

A voting booth will be set up with voting ballots at the state conference.



Discussion was held on voting membership – Membership fee will be included in the state conference registration fee. Is there a problem with giving them automatic membership? Blake Powell stated that this is not a problem, but we will let them sign something if they do not wish to be an active, participating member.

The following officer nominations were made by the committee: Noemi Ochoa, Vice-President; Will Ramos, Treasurer. Connie Guerra moved that these officers be approved as nominated. Jeff Goldhorn seconded the motion. No discussion was requested. The committee voted unanimously in favor of the nominated officers.

With consent of this committee, Karen Whitaker will take the minutes and complete a draft copy of the proposed bylaws and will send them to the founding committee members for approval and then will forward them to Blake Powell for final corrections.

The membership year for AMET will be November 1 to October 31.

Tomas Yañez suggested that we might be able to utilize seed money from the conference registrations to help with initial organization expenses. We could pay those funds back as the organization becomes solvent. This was only a suggestion and was not presented to the group as a motion.

Discussion was held on the difference between vision and mission statements.

June 27-29 is the Migrant ID&R training. We will try to meet again then if possible. Christina will check for a room.

TEA staff will not be voting members of the committee. They will be ex-officio members.

Karen Whitaker will combine the 4 proposed mission statements into one statement and will e-mail it to founding committee members for approval.

Christina Villarreal requested that the organization work to maintain a good, working relationship with TEA. They will only be able to participate in the conferences upon request to present certain, specific information.

Discussion was held on printing brochures for potential donors and potential membership.

Patsy Caudill will work towards a logo when the name is approved and will try to work towards a brochure once the content is approved.

Pat Meyertholen will check into the process of obtaining a specific domain name.

Patsy Caudill suggested we go to companies who are receiving a lot of business from the schools in each of our regions.

Mike McCallum stated that we have to go back to our respective regions and sell this organization. We will be doing a lot of coordinating through e-mail. We need to sell the conference. Attendees will be automatic members.

It was suggested that we could get counselors to attend if we had CPE's offered.

Mike asked for last comments from attendees.

Founding committee members will start asking for donations for start up capital.

A listserv will be established and information will be forthcoming.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

OFFICIAL MINUTES