

State Council for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

Minutes

March 16, 2015

Members in Attendance: Dr. Jerry Guess, Ron Harder, Jeremy Lasiter, Dr. Phillis Nichols Anderson, Dr. Tony Thurman, Dr. Janice Walker, Stephanie Koonst for John Steele

Meeting location: Arkansas Department of Education, Four State Capitol Mall, Little Rock, Arkansas

Others in Attendance: General Stephen Hogan, Barbara Cockrell, Suzanne Knowles, Ken Griffin, Gary Watkins

Call to Order:

Jeremy Lasiter called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Minutes:

Mr. Lasiter asked for a motion to approve the December 8 minutes. Mr. Harder made the motion to approve, Dr. Guess seconded, and the motion carried.

Presentation:

Mr. Lasiter introduced the Executive Director of the national Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3), General Stephen Hogan. General Hogan, who has served 30 years in the Army, noted that the last time he came to Arkansas he parachuted in. He declared this entrance more civilized.

General Hogan received six Permanent Changes of Station (PCS) while his children were in school. With the aid of a PowerPoint, he discussed the key academic issues affecting military children and a rule, personal collaboration, or suggestion that addresses each issue.

Compact Content:

- Enrollment, which generally deals with records and immunizations, is going well
- Graduation-excellent collaboration between sending and receiving states is taking place to make sure students can graduate on time
- Placement, which concerns things like AP classes and GT, needs more collaboration between sending and receiving states
- Eligibility for extracurricular activities also needs more collaboration between states

National Committee:

- Comprised of a rule-making body, four standing committees, and an executive committee of seven
- The primary audiences of the national committee are: state legislatures, military families, state councils, and agencies of impact (e.g. education lawyers, athletic associations, groups of guidance counselors)

Parent's Perspective:

Mr. Lasiter introduced Barbara Cockrell. Ms. Cockrell has three daughters. Their family was transferred to North Carolina and Missouri over the course of her husband's military service. She talked about the issues she faced, particularly with placement. She noted that schools are usually cooperative, especially when they find out about the Compact. This is an issue that should be addressed, however, as she found out that not everyone in a school district knew about the Compact. She urged the Council members to work on educating the people that are working directly with parents, particularly those responsible for enrollment. She praised the Interstate Compact for helping to ease the transition for military kids and expressed her gratitude.

General Hogan noted that the Department of Defense has the responsibility to inform service members about the Compact, and the national committee is working with them. Ms. Koonst mentioned the Family Readiness Center could put the message out to new families arriving in Arkansas. Mr. Lasiter thanked Ms. Cockrell for her comments.

Month of the Military Child:

Mr. Lasiter informed the members that April is the month of the Military Child. The Council discussed ideas to promote it within the state. Dr. Guess offered to have his communication team work with the Arkansas Department of Education's (ADE) communications team.

Website:

Mr. Lasiter discussed the new page on ADE's website. Council members thought it looks good but wondered if there was a way to make it more prominent.

Next Meeting:

The Council is required to meet once a quarter. Mr. Lasiter proposed the month of June. Brittany Kincaid will email possible dates to the members.

Future Meeting Dates: TBD-June
Meeting adjourned at 1:49 p.m.
Recorded by Brittany Kincaid