

Arizona State Council on the Education for Military Children

January 9, 2013 @ 10:00 a.m.

State Land Building

Board of Pharmacy Conference Room, Room 120

1616 W. Adams St., Phoenix, AZ 85007

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chair Rebecca Gau, Maxine Daly, Dr. Ronda Frueauff, Colonel Gregg Williams, Jerry Proctor, Colonel Nathan Mooney, Colonel Reed Young, Colonel Robert Kuckuk, Major General Hugo Salazar, Nicola Winkel, Tom Tyree, Representative Ethan Orr

Members Not Present: None

Staff Present: Dale Frost and Ryan Owens

Call to Order & Introductions

Chair Rebecca Gau called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m., provided welcoming remarks and introduced the purpose of the first meeting, which was to present and find solutions to education-related problems faced by our military families. Members and Staff introduced themselves. Chair Gau gave a brief overview of member communication as it relates to Open Meeting Law.

Presentation: MIC3 Website and Key Components of the Compact

Chair Gau introduced Brigadier General (Ret.) Norman E. Arflack with the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) to review the MIC3 Website and Key Components of the Interstate Compact on Education Opportunity for Military Children (Compact). Brigadier General Arflack discussed the MIC3 website, Organization Structure, and the Compact as shown in the presentation.

- **Question and Answer with Brigadier General Arflack:**

Brigadier General Arflack was asked about moving from a member state to a non-member state, and what does and does not transfer over. Brigadier General Arflack responded that MIC3 is actively trying to get the additional seven non-member states to adopt the Compact, and that it is the Department of Defense's (DoD) mission to make this happen.

Brigadier General Arflack was asked about how to find information about non-member states. Brigadier General Arflack advised that on the MIC3 website there is a map showing member and non-member states. He also advised that the seven non-member states are as follows: Arkansas, New York, Montana, Minnesota, Oregon, Idaho, and New Hampshire. Washington, D.C. is also not a member of the Compact.

Chair Gau asked Brigadier General Arflack about the top two or three issues related to transferring between member and non-member states. Brigadier General Arflack responded that the top three issues are entrance and exit exams, communication and intramural sports.

Brigadier General Arflack was asked if there are any interactions from overseas DoD schools transferring stateside, and if so, how the commission involved with those transfers. Brigadier General responded that legally they cannot be a part of the Compact, but the commission has

entered into a memorandum of understanding and agreement with the DoD to honor the Compact in every way they can.

Presentation: Report from the Acting State Commissioner

Chair Gau introduced Maxine Daly with the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) to present her report as Acting State Commissioner of the Compact. Commissioner Daly discussed what the Compact does and does not cover and Education and Career Pathways (ECAP).

- **Question and Answer with Commissioner Daly:**

Commissioner Daly was asked if there is a reconciliation or appeal process related to graduation requirements. A Member mentioned that graduation requirements are statewide. Commissioner Daly responded that districts have the authority to appeal if it goes beyond the local school. Brigadier General Arflack also mentioned that related to graduation, Article 7 of the Compact highlights the ability to go back to the sending state to receive the high school diploma.

Commissioner Daly was asked about whether education problems are becoming less of a problem as educational requirements become more standardized throughout the country, and how it is still affecting extracurricular activities and sports. Commissioner Daly responded that one of the issues is the eligibility of a student. Students have to maintain a certain grade point average to play sports, and where local schools draw that line for eligibility is an issue. Another Member added that there are military resources, and services have centers and school liaison officers (SLOs) to assist in bridging the gap to help reconcile issues.

Commissioner Daly was asked what the expectation is in terms of awareness of the Compact – if it is incumbent on the families themselves to know about the Compact or if there is an expectation of the school districts to know about the Compact. Commissioner Daly responded that it should be part of the role of the Council to look at how the state disseminates information through the schools and the military. She explained that the Council needs to identify sources that can assist in spreading awareness, ensure that Arizona is in compliance with the Compact and that we are providing the necessary services to the children.

Discussion: Information Dissemination

Chair Gau introduced Dale Frost with the Governor's Office. Mr. Frost addressed communication questions which were discussed between Members. The following questions were addressed;

- To what extent do military families know about the Compact?
- Does every duty post have a SLO?
- What is the level of communication among SLOs?
- How are the SLOs connected between the states?
- What is the biggest communication problem with SLOs?
- Has any information on the Compact ever been on an agenda for the Arizona School Administrators (ASA) or the Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA)?
- What other stakeholders on the education or military side need to come to the table for communication conversations?
- How can we improve the communication so that families know to go to the SLOs before they make choices on schools?

In the interest of time, Chair Gau suggested having an additional communication meeting with the SLOs, and asked that Council move forward to the next agenda item.

Discussion: Process to Identify and Develop Solutions, and Brainstorm Key Issue Areas

The Council identified the following issue areas:

- Communication
- Athletics/Intramural Sports
- Eligibility for Extracurricular Participation
- Free Unofficial Transcripts and Records
- GPA Calculation
- Information Dissemination Prior to Transferring
- Arizona Education Standards – Incoming/Outgoing
- Student Data
- Special Education Enrollment
- Students with Disabilities (Section 504)
- Residency Form

Call to the Public

Jeanette Mooney, a military spouse, discussed issues regarding benchmarks and local school districts as it relates to mathematics classes. Ms. Mooney explained that the problem of transferring credits has come up with families on base. Ms. Mooney expressed the desire of military leadership's spouses to assist the Council in any way they can.

A member of the public suggested that in addition to military spouses being present, all the SLOs from around Arizona should be invited to attend future Council meetings. Chair Gau suggested members of the public that are interested in attending future meetings should email staff to be added to an email distribution list.

Next Steps

Chair Gau proposes September 25, 2013 as the next meeting date. The Members determined the duration of the next meeting should be extended from two hours to three hours. Chair Gau advised that Members and other interested parties would be contacted with regards to additional meetings on specific topics in compliance with Open Meeting Law.

Adjourn

With no further business before the Council, Chair Rebecca Gau adjourned the meeting at 12:33 p.m.