

Arizona State Council on the Education for Military Children

December 18, 2013, 9:00 a.m.

State Capitol, Executive Tower

2nd Floor Conference Room

1700 West Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chair Rebecca Gau, Maxine Daly, Colonel Robert Kuckuk, Nicola Winkel, Representative Ethan Orr, Colonel Reed Young, Brigadier General Michael McGuire, Tom Tyree, Colonel Gregg Williams, Maxine Daly on behalf of Karla Phillips

Members Not Present: Nathan Mooney

Staff Present: Dale Frost

Call to Order & Introductions

Chair Rebecca Gau called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m., roll call was taken establishing a quorum and welcoming remarks were made to provide the purpose of our meeting. A motion was made for approval of the January 9, 2013 meeting minutes and was approved by the council unanimously. Members and staff introduced themselves and welcomed Maxine Daly back to the council on behalf of the Superintendent.

Overview of the Compact and the Council's Role

Chairman Gau began presentation with a review of *Interstate Compact on the Educational Opportunity for Military Children* and ARS §15-1911 *Authority to enter compact*. The compact has been adopted by 46 states and is designed to resolve educational transition issues for military children affected by deployment orders. She gave an overview of the key components within the compact, using as examples a review on Educational Records, Kindergarten/First Grade Entrance Ages, and Extracurricular Activities. Maxine Daly was asked to provide an example of issues being dealt with by the commission. She responded most cases are resolved at a local level, with a total of three reaching Arizona Department of Education last year; 2 were resolved with open communication directly with the schools. A third matter was resolved by communicating directly with the superintendent within that school district. She went on to say families deployed often experience difficult and emotional scenarios. The development of sensitivity and experience with military children and their rights within the school

administration will cultivate a smoother transition and communication line for the families and the administrators. Maxine Daly added by self-identifying with school counselors the families would increase their opportunity of their needs being recognized.

Discussion Regarding the Council's Informational Website

Chairman Gau moved ahead in the agenda in flow with the current discussion, introducing Dale Frost for a presentation of the Arizona compact web site proposal. In the first meeting, a discussion of how best to disseminate compact information and the benefits of its enactment was established. An Informational website hosted by the Arizona Department of Education will be developed in part with the Governor's Office. Dale referenced a slide show of what the site could look like and what information should be contained. Feedback was received from the council members regarding the suggestions. Tom Tyree asked the question is there is a way to make a specific school resource list as a link. In one of the slides there was a link to a site which contains this information, although it was not as direct for linking the school liaison officers to the particular area of the schools. The site does provide families with the opportunity to review individual schools by location in the valley and what services they offer. The challenge being the broad nature of a search tool to cover all school districts and the maintenance of such a tool may not be comprehensive. Moving forward in the website reference materials, an administrative procedure for school district needs to be drawn up as a universal model to allow uniform procedure in accordance with the law will be brought into discussion in the near future. Establishing such a procedural document will assist school administrators in how Arizona should handle transitions in a fair and streamlined manner. Dale asked if there were concerns from the council to move forward with a beta version of the website which he hopes to launch before the first meeting in 2014. There were no general concerns voiced. Jerry Proctor asked if it would be appropriate to add a feedback section to the site, which would allow families to state how the compact helped them or give information regarding their particular issues. The council agreed this recommendation should be included in the website if possible.

MIC3 Report from the Acting State Commissioner

Maxine Daly was introduced to give the report from the commission and an update on the MIC3 conference which was attended by Karla Phillips on November 19th. She stated the Arizona Department of Education has agreed to host the council website. Karla gave her a summary of the national MIC3 meeting; Maxine mentioned this meeting is open to anyone who would like to cover their own cost of attending. Key issues were athletics, Special Education and smooth transitions for those affected families. She stated the importance of sending records in advance especially for those families, but for the military families as a whole.

Specifically; for families with special needs, advance records would give administrators the ability to evaluate an individual's needs and ensure the resources were available to them at a particular school. Representative Ethan Orr brought up the question if there was a matrix available to determine what schools offer in regard to special educational needs. There was not any specific resource known by anyone present. The Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) was brought into the discussion with regard to athletes; it is believed their involvement is key to bring better communication and understanding of how athletes are affected by the transition between schools. The rules of eligibility are not uniform state to state not just in athletics but in other extra-curricular activities. Chairman Gau raised the question if the AIA should be invited to our next meeting, there was strong agreement it would be a benefit to the council with hope they would learn something from the council as well. Maxine continued there are many states that go to their commission for resolution, while Arizona seems to be doing well handling theirs on a local level. She feels the website will be great for dissemination of information so the military families can learn and know their rights, as well as administrators to establish better communication with the local districts and continue to use the commission for the purpose of compact regulation. Colonel Kuckuk opened discussion to the identifier issue, in specific regard to impact aid. He suggested a school should get the aid to accommodate the children they educate. Dale stated the State of Arizona is not mandating the identifier but they are not prohibiting it. The schools can collect the info at a cost to themselves. Concerns about tracking of data and state intervention may be something for future discussion. Representative Ethan Orr recommended reaching out to superintendents and the Arizona School Board Association (ASBA) to obtain feedback on the identifier issue during this legislative session. Maxine pointed out the further questions with regard to data collection and public concerns of being treated as a sub group will need to be included in these discussions. Chairman Gau reiterates we need to stay in line with that the compact entails and stay within policy. Dale Frost suggested we have two sample district documents, one with and one without the identifier. By the next council meeting the governor's office will have reached out to the ASBA for feedback regarding the identifier issue and will report to the council.

Discussion Regarding Information Dissemination

Chairman Gau stated the council has covered our dissemination topics throughout the meeting and asked if any member had additional information to add. Overview of what is on the table would be webinars, booths at educational conferences. A focus on the compact and how it functions should be the goal for all outreach. Maxine noted the council should be reaching out to the registrars at schools and going to functions such as the conferences is an excellent way to extend our scope especially though the Arizona School Administrators Association (ASA).

Next Steps/Call to the Public

Chairman Gau opened discussion to the council, all objectives were met. The floor was opened to the public; there was no public in attendance. Discussion on next meeting will be ideally scheduled in the spring of 2014. Tom Tyree recommended a performance test of the website may be beneficial before the next meeting. A suggestion of a live demo being performed at the next council meeting was also presented and agreed to. Upon development and actual progress of the beta version before the next meeting that can be revisited. Maxine Daly announced the next MIC3 Annual meeting is scheduled for November 2014 and is open to the council.

Next Steps:

Beta Version of informational website

Scheduling for dissemination of Compact information to each target audience

Link to school resources on informational website research

Outreach:

ASBA - Model School Board Administrative Procedure for Military Children
Student identifier issue

AIA - discussion on transitional issues for military children in athletics

ASA - Open communication lines to extend information and education on
Compact to school registrars.

Adjourn

This meeting was adjourned unanimously at 10:45 a.m.