

**MINUTES OF THE INTERSTATE COMMISSION ON EDUCATION FOR MILITARY CHILDREN  
HELD IN LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 13-15 NOVEMBER 2011**

PRESENT	Mark Needham	Kentucky	Chairperson Vice Chair Treasurer
	Kathleen Berg	Hawaii	
	Pam Deering	Oklahoma	
	Mike Reed	Alabama	
	LTC Grant Sullivan	Alaska	
	Maxine Daly	Arizona	
	Cheryl Serrano	Colorado	
	Laura Anastasio	Connecticut	
	Susan Haberstroh	Delaware	
	Bob Buehn	Florida	
	Sam McGowen	Illinois	
	Tom Beasley	Iowa	
	Ronald Walker	Kansas	
	Rodney Painting	Louisiana	
	Mary Gable	Maryland	
	Col Dan Leatherman	Michigan	
	Judene Blackburn	Missouri	
	Tim Callicutt	New Mexico	
	David Phillips	North Carolina	
	LTC Davina French	North Dakota	
	Tom Rutan	Ohio	
	Rosemarie Kraeger	Rhode Island	
	Loren Scheer	South Dakota	
	Mark Bounds	South Carolina	
	Deanna McLaughlin	Tennessee	
	Larry Shumway	Utah	
	Mark Oettinger	Vermont	
	Anne Wescott	Virginia	
	Greg Lynch	Washington	
	Col James Runyon	West Virginia	
	Shelley Weiss	Wisconsin	
	Rick Masters	General Counsel	
	BG (R) Norman Arflack	Executive Director	Secretary
IN ATTENDANCE	Charles Patterson	Military Impacted Schools Association	
	David Splitek	Military Child Education Coalition	
	Candace Wheeler	National Military Family Association	
	Kathy Facon	DoDEA	

ITEM	ACTION
<p><b>ITEM 1 – WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER</b></p> <p>1. The meeting was called to order and the roll was taken was taken by General Arflack. 31 of 39 states were present.</p>	

2. Mark Needham opened by asking for all Commissioners and Ex-Officio members to give a short brief of their position and duties.

3. Following introductions Mark Needham gave a brief opening address. The meeting was then placed into Executive Session.

### **ITEM 3 – EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT**

4. General Arflack briefed on the role of the National Office, its background and gave an overview of how we work with and fit into the CSG organization. He emphasized the importance of the budget to him and how, along with John, they maintain a constant oversight of where the budget stands at any point.

5. General Arflack mentioned that the National Office is involved in ensuring that dues are paid in a timely manner and that finding the right point of contact is essential to help facilitate the process. He also spoke about the partnership with DoD and trying to get the remaining states on board. General Arflack has also been out to a number of States to sit on their State Councils as well as attending various national meetings.

### **ITEM 4 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

6. A motion was made to approve the minutes from the 2010 National Meeting which was passed by unanimous consent.

### **ITEM 5 – COMMITTEE REPORTS**

7. **Compliance Committee**. Mike Reed mentioned that it had been a quiet year with no issues requiring the committee to meet and make rulings and that he felt the matters were being dealt with satisfactorily at the school/district level.

8. **Rules Committee**. The chairman opened by giving a preamble on the proposed rules changes. This was also the start of the public comment period. There were 3 comments in writing that were copied to all members of the commission. Susan Haberstroh explained that they would be discussing the proposed rule change on dues first.

#### **9. Dues**

- Proposed: Dues to be changed from assigned to reside to be effective with FY14.
- Proposed: The dues floor of \$2000.00 to be effective FY14.
- Proposed: The dues ceiling \$60000.00 to be effective FY13.

a. Susan Haberstroh made a motion to revise the dues rule from assigned to reside. **Motion Passed.**

b. Susan Haberstroh motioned that the dues should be changed to reflect a ceiling of \$60000.00 to be effective FY13 and that a minimum floor of \$2000.00 is adopted to be effective FY14. **Motion Passed.**

10. **Kindergarten.** Susan Haberstroh explained that the next proposed change was rule 3.102. Application for transfer of student records and enrollment. Susan made a motion as follows:

***“In the case of a kindergarten student the enrolled student must have attended class for at least one school day in the sending state in order to continue enrollment in kindergarten in the receiving state”.***

a. Cheryl Serrano commented that she understood kindergarten was a very passionate area for many families. She wanted to remind everyone of the intent of the compact and that it was to try and level the playing field with non-military children and not to give them an advantage that a non-military would not normally have had.

b. Bob Buehn from Florida tabled a friendly amendment to this rule which reads:

***“In the case of a kindergarten student the enrolled student must have attended class for at least one school day in the sending state and will be allowed to continue enrollment in kindergarten in the receiving state”.***

Susan Haberstroh accepted this motion as a friendly amendment, seconded by Tennessee.

c. Candace Wheeler spoke on this matter saying that while she understood the intent was to make sure that military families were not going around the rules, her concern with putting this into the rules was that families would elect to stay behind in order to fulfill this one day requirement. This would result in an additional burden on families, as well as further separation.

d. Anne Wescott spoke on this matter and opposed the amendment. She talked on how the current rules had been working very well in Virginia. She mentioned that Virginia felt it was just a handful of children this affected and this is who the compact was supposed to be helping. The Virginia State Council was happy with the way in which the current rules were worded.

e. Kathy Facon mentioned that DoDEA had instituted a process whereby a copy of the PCS orders is required to be placed into the enrollment procedure.

f. Mary Gable agreed with the commissioner from Colorado. She spoke on the matter and stated that she felt the intent was not to go above and beyond for the student but to ensure they are not disadvantaged. She stated that many schools have allowances where children can be tested which she supported.

g. Shelley Weiss suggested that there should be another extended timepiece in order to allow the matter to be discussed with a wider audience and that the 30 day period was insufficient for a matter of this importance.

h. Kathy Berg mentioned that the Hawaii DOE has been trying for a number of years to change the date of kindergarten enrollment from Dec 31<sup>st</sup> to about August. She expressed her surprise that many of the military were prepared to split up families in order to send back children to attend one day at kindergarten.

11. Larry Shumway, Utah, made a motion to table this ruling for a period of 12 months and referring the matter back the rules committee, seconded by South Carolina. The motion was passed, 20-11.

12. **Training Committee**. Kathy Berg opened by thanking Shelly Reed, who has now retired, for her work as the chair for this year. One of the first and biggest projects of the year was the orientation manual and she passed on her thanks to John Matthews for his work on this project. Other projects that have been going on were the revisions of the brochure. The one pager which has been finalized. The staff also produced a magnet and a coin. Kathy reminded everyone that the publications were available on the website.

General Arflack commented that the staff had been involved in attending military appreciation days or other such venues. We have been able to interface with military families and make ourselves available for questions. He stated that the staff had been invited to the Quad A in Nashville, in Apr 2012 to in order to mingle with military families and extend our outreach.

Mark Needham emphasized the importance of using the National Office and obtaining the advertising materials.

13. **Finance Committee**. Pam Deering started by giving a breakdown of the finances as they stand. Pam commented that the trend shows that the organization is operating just below the projected budget for FY11. Pam Deering gave a detailed explanation of each of the spreadsheets explaining the changes subsequent to the new rules change that had been adopted. The Executive Director along with John Matthews had previously prepared a number of spreadsheets in anticipation of each of the possible outcomes.

The Executive Director then spoke about the management of our account which is controlled by the fiscal affairs at the Council of State Governments. He went on to state that it is monitored closely on a monthly basis by both himself and John Matthews. General Arflack went on to give a more detailed explanation of expenditures for FY13.

Following further comment Mark Needham expressed that there may be moves by the finance committee in 2012 for ways to look at reducing our overall income but that we needed to ensure that in this era of military decline we did not cut this too much and leave ourselves short.

**Larry Shumway asked for a motion to amend the current budget under the expenditure for Advertising and Promotions to be increased from \$7500.00 to \$25000.00 for the FY12 Budget. Motion Passed**

**Mark Needham made the motion to adopt the current budget for FY12 as presented and with the previously passed amendment. Motion Passed**

**ITEM 6 – BREAKOUT SESSION REPORTS**

**14. Breakout Session 1 – Greg Lynch**

This group discussed the proposed kindergarten rule change asking if it was necessary and should the final decision be based on entrance readiness assessment as opposed to age.

They talked about how DoD could help to promote the Compact suggesting this may be achieved through the various services education systems. They also discussed how to connect better with organizations that promote military connected families.

**15. Breakout Session 2 – David Phillips**

The discussion centered on the kindergarten issue initially and they agreed with the comments from session 1, that if the language was amended in such a way as not to offer parents the option of the 1 day attendance then it would be more appropriate.

The next topic was introduced by Tom Rutan who asked that the training committee to look at ways in which we could have some uniformity amongst local schools with end of course exams and requirements for graduation and the award of credits.

They also discussed the National Guard and suggested that the Compact needed to take more interest in this area, not only with Inter but also Intra-state matters and what we could do to assist these personnel.

**16. Breakout Session 3 – Cheryl Serrano**

The group talked about kindergarten and had examples of how people were trying to game the system for their benefit. They discussed the intent of the compact and how it was never intended to address what would have been.

The other major discussion point was that they felt that parents would like everything to be the same; starting dates, testing, graduation requirement etc. Whilst everyone agreed this was unlikely, they felt that with the introduction of common core standards and consortiums, the standards and assessments would be similar across most states.

**17. Breakout Session 4 – Kathy Berg**

This group suggested that the kindergarten issue was a molehill amongst many mountains and that the feeling was they should leave the current ruling as it was.

The group talked about using the website more and having links to other relevant organizations on the site. There were suggestions also that the website included a password protected area for commissioners.

The group discussed Guard and Reserve and that maybe we could include members of the National Guard and Reserve on the commission somehow.

A suggestion was also made that the website had a list of some key national education groups such as State Superintendents, Superintendents, Principles of Elementary/Secondary and Middle levels, PTA and School Counselors.

### **Discussion**

Kathy Facon informed the room that DoDEA had set up a council similar to the way in which the commission organizes theirs. This will assist in the coordination between schools and districts to ensure they are complying with the rules of the Interstate Compact.

They have a DoD representative who is appointed.

### **ITEM 7 – ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS**

18. The following nominations were made and passed for the election of new officers:

**Chairman:** Mark Needham

**Vice Chair:** Kathy Berg

**Treasurer:** Pam Deering

### **ITEM 8 - COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

19. The chairman then spoke on the committee assignments for the forthcoming year, outlining which commissioners were assigned to which committee.

### **ITEM 9 – OLD BUSINESS**

20. Nil.

### **ITEM 10 – NEW BUSINESS**

21. Anne Wescott raised an issue about reciprocity. She asked if the commission could compile a list which would show what states have exit exams/end of course tests and if so what they consisted of. Mark Needham requested this information is obtained and provided by the National Office.

22. Larry Shumway suggested that the committee look at possibly electing a chair elect in the future. Rick Masters stated this would be a matter for the Executive Committee to discuss post conference.

Mr Shumway also recommended that he felt it would be more beneficial if there were more activities aimed at expanding the leadership of commissioners to assist with running of State Councils.

23. Candace Wheeler suggested that any proposed rule changes should be promulgated earlier in order to give commissioners more time to look at them and discuss with their respective State Councils. Mark Needham agreed and said that the Executive Committee would be looking at this.

**ITEM 11 – COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS**

24. **Finance Committee:** Pam Deering thanked her committee for their initial input and mentioned that they may look at possibly doing an audit in the forthcoming year.

25. **Rules Committee.** Mary Gable spoke about Kindergarten as this was the biggest issue amongst her committee. She expanded by stating whilst they did not have a significant suggestion at this time they would look into what individual states were doing, was it an issue? They were also going to collect information on age for Kindergarten and if the rule needed language change or not, if it did what might this be.

Mary Gable mentioned that they also discussed and talked about National Guard matters and Interstate and Intrastate issues.

26. **Compliance Committee.** Mike Reed requested that all commissioners forward summaries of all issues that they may have had to address and forward them to the National Office and then this would be disseminated to all Commissioners.

27. **Training Committee.** The committee discussed compiling a strategic communication plan looking at military families, school personnel and state councils. They also talked about the possibility of mentoring or having a buddy system with new commissioners.

**ITEM 12 – NEXT MEETING**

28. The committee voted that the venue for the 2012 annual meeting would be in Charleston, SC, 15-17 November 2012.

**ITEM 15 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Having no further business to conduct the meeting was adjourned.



Richard Pryor  
Administrative Assistant MIC3

Copy to:

All personnel listed on Page 1