

RULES COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 7, 2020

PRESENT	Mary Gable Kathleen Berg Daniel Dunham Darrell Floyd Susan Haberstroh Deanna McLaughlin Douglas Ragland Ben Rasmussen	Maryland Commissioner Hawaii Commissioner Virginia Commissioner Designee Oklahoma Commissioner Delaware Commissioner Tennessee Commissioner Alabama Commissioner Utah Commissioner	Chair
STAFF	Cherise Imai Lindsey Dablow	Executive Director Training and Operations Associate	Secretary
ABSENT	Cindy Hunt	Oregon Commissioner	

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

1. Committee Chair Mary Gable (MD) called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM EDT. Training and Operations Associate Lindsey Dablow called roll and a quorum was established.

ITEM 2 – AGENDA AND MINUTES

2. Chair Gable asked the Members for an update both personally and from their state regarding the COVID-19 situation, especially anything education related. Following the open forum Commissioner Darrell Floyd (OK) motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Ben Rasmussen (UT). Motion carried.

ITEM 3 – OLD BUSINESS

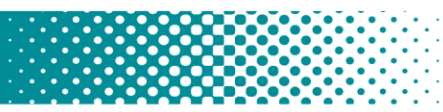
3. **Policy Development and Review** -. The Chair reviewed changes to the Policy Development and Review document made at the February 18, 2020 Committee meeting. The Members had no additional changes to *Article I* or *II*, so the Chair discussed *Article III. Policy*.

4. *Article III, A.1.* was corrected to reflect “Committee” instead of “Commission”. *Section B.1.* was corrected to reflect the Executive Committee would designate the proposal to a Standing Committee not the National Office. Commissioner Designee Daniel Dunham (VA) asked for clarification on the development of the policy draft document and Commissioner Kathy Berg (HI) recommended inserting “policy proposal” into *Section A.1.*

5. In *Article III, C.* Commissioner Susan Haberstroh (DE) suggested adding language to demonstrate a quorum was present at the Committee meeting prior to voting on any proposed policy or amendment to an existing policy.

6. The Committee discussed several topics and their inclusion into the document. Commissioner Deanna McLaughlin (TN) requested feedback from the Committee regarding language that the original sponsor be included throughout the process to provide background information on the initial intent or purpose of the proposal. The Committee also discussed public comment periods for policies, best practices, and efficiency. **[OPEN ITEM]**

ITEM 5 – NEW BUSINESS



7. **Grade Point Average (GPA) – Discussion** - Chair Gable yielded the floor to Commissioner McLaughlin for explanation. Commissioner McLaughlin was requesting guidance on creating a Rule or policy that states when a high school senior transfers to a new school that the receiving school assign additional points for honors, dual credit, or advanced placement course if the sending school has not done so already. The intent is to level the playing field for military children regarding overall GPA and class ranking for graduation.

8. Commissioner Designee Dunham commented that Virginia addresses this issue regularly because some of the state's schools do not have an International Baccalaureate program or the school doesn't offer the same AP course. He stated that not every school offers Honors so students cannot receive special or additional credit for those classes. He concluded his comments acknowledging the complexity and challenge of implementing a universal GPA.

9. Commissioner McLaughlin stated the parent could research what the uniform grading policy is in the receiving school system where the family will settle once the permanent change of station (PCS) takes place and then work with the sending school to note on the transcript how the classes would be weighted based on the sending school's grading system to negate the issue. She stated that this became an issue for the Tennessee state council 18 months ago, especially the issue with class ranking so Tennessee's state council wanted to get feedback and best practices from other states.

10. Commissioner Floyd, as a superintendent and principal in both Texas and Oklahoma, cautioned against trying to mandate GPA. He explained the issue is not a new one or one specific to military-connected students.

11. Commissioner Berg stated educating stakeholders about how colleges and universities view GPA and how it is treated by those institutions is a best practice that should be used to help students and parents understand the situation. Commissioner Designee Dunham supported her comments and detailed how Virginia's state council invited an Admissions Officer from Virginia Tech to address the council and provide information on how college entrance applications are analyzed and how colleges and universities consider many factors, including course rigor, prior to making their decision.

12. Commissioner McLaughlin thanked the Committee for their feedback. Chair Gable concluded the discussion stating Maryland has 24 local school systems and there is not consistency where grading is concerned. Commissioner McLaughlin stated the next course of action for Tennessee might be to explore legislative options within their general assembly.

ITEM 6 – ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM EDT.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lindsey Dablow
Training and Operations Associate, Secretary