

Oklahoma Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

Minutes

9:30 AM CST

Thursday, June 23, 2022

Virtual (Zoom)

On Thursday, June 23, 2022 at 9:30 AM the Oklahoma Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children Commission met virtually via Zoom. Dr. Darrell Floyd Compact Commissioner called the meeting to order. Roll was called and the group did the flag salute over Zoom.

Dr. Floyd and members reviewed the agenda for the June 23, 2022 meeting. A motion was made by Pam Huston with a second by Lynn Cordes to approve the agenda for the meeting today.

Dr. Floyd read the minutes from June, 23, 2021 meeting. A motion was made by Lynn Cordes with a second by Judy Mott to approve the minutes from 2021.

Dr. Floyd had everyone go around and introduce themselves to the group.

Dr. Floyd provided an overview of the MiC3 Compact. The goal of the Compact is to replace the widely varying policies affecting transitioning military students. The Compact leverages consistency. It uses a comprehensive approach that provides a consistent policy in every school district and in every State that chooses to join. The Compact addresses key educational transition issues encountered by military families including enrollment, placement, attendance, eligibility and graduation. Children of active duty members of the uniformed services, National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders, and, for one year after leaving the service, members or veterans who are medically discharged or retired are eligible for assistance under the Compact. The Commission Rules were approved and adopted at the annual business meeting in November 2009. The Rules complement the language of the Interstate Compact and may not conflict with it. These rules are not designed to address every issue arising under the Compact, but allow room for flexibility to make reasonable changes or clarification as the need arises through amendment, advisory opinions, and training opportunities. Dr. Floyd also mentioned that MiC3 Compact has one Compact Commissioner in every state.

Dr. Floyd stated the MiC3 has an annual meeting and that will be in person in October. Dr. Floyd also sits secondarily on the Rules Committee as well and they meet virtually two or three times a year to see if any rules need to be revised.

Dr. Floyd mentioned that OK Purple Up! Designation is in April for the Month of the Military Child. Lawton Public Schools and Enid Public School are Purple Up school districts and that effort is growing across the nation. Purple Up compliments MiC3 recognizing the military children.

Dr. Floyd mentioned that the OK Council Membership and talked about who is on this committee and how they get appointed. No revisions for this meeting today, but the OK Council will need to make some revisions.

Dr. Floyd stated the topic of including the National Guard to be a part of MiC3 will be discussed at annual business meeting. Originally MiC3 was for full-time military and we may officially add the National Guard in the future. Timmy Higgins stated that Vance Air Force Base has a large number of reserves coming in out of the base. Judy Mott stated Altus Air Force Base constantly has National Guard members being deployed and activated to fulltime. Elizabeth Suddath from OKSDE stated her husband is with the National Guard and he also recently just got back from being deployed as a fulltime activate member. Dr. Floyd said they will keep pushing the issue.

Dr. Floyd stated sometimes everyone on the MiC3 committee does not know the cases that come through in Oklahoma and he read through three of the cases listed here:

CASE #1

Art V-Placement & Attendance: Educ Program Placement (Compact related) - Sept 2021

Background: A 9th grader was enrolled in an AP Computer Science at the sending school and placed in the same course in the receiving school. The parent was dissatisfied with the AP teacher and provided multiple examples, including the right and need for students to have instruction from skilled teachers. The parent claimed the student was being moved to a different and non-AP course without their permission as they felt it was punishing the student for reporting the teacher - and the student's character was being smeared. The second issue the parent had was the student was in a Dual Credit program in the previous school and was told the student would not be able to enroll in the receiving school's Concurrent Credit program, which is open only to Junior and Senior level students.

Resolution: Convened a call with the Commissioner and school principal, who clarified the student was going to be moved to the same AP course, just taught by a different teacher. The principal stated the student was never going to be placed in a lower-level class and was unsure why the parent claimed this. The principal also clarified the student is eligible to earn college credit under the Concurrent Enrollment program. The principal sent an email to the parent explaining the above and reported later the case was resolved, and the student was able to receive the dual credit.

CASE #2

Exemption from state athletic rules (Not compact related) - January 2022

Background: A military student was attending a school in District A. The state has a new law in effect on 1/1/2022 which make students eligible to request a transfer to any district in the state, regardless of where they live. The parent wants the student to attend a school in District B, therefore under the new law, the family can apply to do this. However, the State Athletics Association has a rule that states if a student who established athletic eligibility at a school during grades nine through twelve and then transfers to a member school, is not eligible for a period of one year from the date of first attendance at the new school. The parent, and service school liaison, said under the compact, because the student is military, the student is exempt from the athletic rule.

Resolution: District B must allow the student to attend their school based on the new law, however school sports are governed by state athletic regulations, therefore the Athletics Association rules will apply, and the student must sit out for one year. The family could file an appeal on the case and the association rules provides for this.

CASE #3

Art VI-Eligibility for Extracurricular Participation (Compact related) - March 2022

Background: The School Liaison (SL) reached out to the MIC3 National Office on behalf of a family with a sixth grader why qualified to compete with their archery team in May. The father was transferred on short notice to be restationed

outside of the sending school district (in which the student was qualified to compete). The student did want to change schools so they can make friends before next school year, however wanted to compete under the sending school district. Resolution: The School Liaison contacted NASP (National Archery in the Schools Program), who replied that if the student remained in one class virtually in the sending school district, the student would be able to compete. The School Liaison reached back out to the sending school district to see if this would be acceptable. The student was able to stay enrolled at his old school in the 1 class so he could compete with his archery team in May.

Mike Whaley from Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association (OSSAA) - shared the OSSAA stance. When a military family comes to our state originally to achieve Athletic Activity eligibility that bar is a pretty low bar to jump over. Since they have not established in OK yet we would take a hardship waiver under very minimal criteria to let them establish for the very first time. Those issues have not been large issues for them. The cases described have nothing to do with OSSAA as the new laws passed that came in effect in January 2022 did not change within the OSSAA guidelines regarding military families. There is nothing in the new law regarding Athletic Activity eligibility. There might be something down the road where this is modified or changed in the law. They don't like any blanket statements. He said that their basic protocol is they look at each waiver individually and very cognitive of the military moving around.

Timmy Higgins asked Mike Whaley saying you mentioned that the schools are not interested in applying the open transfer law to extra-curricular activities? Mike Whaley said yes.

Timmy Higgins asked Mike Whaley if OSSAA establish their own guidelines or does that come from legislation? Mike Whaley said the legislators have given OSSBA the responsibility and state law states that OSSBA is the entity that makes those determinations and so, any change that they want to pursue would have to be changed in the current law. Out of the roughly 480 schools in Oklahoma about 97% would not want this to be changed in the law. Dr. Floyd mentioned that currently this helps prevent the attempt of rampant recruiting of athletes.

Dr. Floyd mentioned he had submitted the Oklahoma Commission Dues for FY23 to LSB on 5-3-2022 for \$11,370. He asked Rep. Nicole Miller if she could reach out to Hunter to see if that has been paid. Rep. Miller said she would follow-up with the matter. This will allow Dr. Floyd to submit the annual report by the end of the month.

There was no old business reported.

Under new business Judy Mott wanted to catch everyone up on the Purple Star School project in OK. She stated that the legislators passed a bill last year saying that by October 2022 that there would be a Purple Star School program in place here in OK. From there the school liaisons got together and came up with a "how to" list and then met with Elizabeth Suddath from the OKSDE to get the ball rolling.

Elizabeth Suddath stated it should be live and ready to go very soon with applications available in August. Dr. Floyd thanked them for their work on this effort and getting this implemented statewide.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 AM.