

Oklahoma Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children Meeting Minutes

10:00 AM

Wednesday, July 28, 2020

Virtual (Zoom)

CCOSA Office

2901 N Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73105

On Wednesday, July 28, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. the Oklahoma Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children Commission met virtually via Zoom. Superintendent Joy Hofmeister, chair, called the meeting to order and reminded the group that this work is for the children of those serving our country. Roll was called and the group did the flag salute over zoom.

Voting members present: Superintendent Joy Hofmeister, Dr. Darrell Floyd, Dr. Shelly Ellis, and Kevin Hime. Non-voting members present: Augelica Fleming, Nakisha Hall, Nathan Covington, Melody Pankonin, and Dr. Pam Deering. Members absent: Senator Adam Pugh, Kurt Bollenbach, Dr. Rick Cobb, David Jackson, and Roe Worbes. Quorum was not met.

Superintendent Hofmeister and members reviewed the agenda for the July 28, 2020 meeting and the minutes from the June 24, 2019 meeting. There was no quorum for an approval.

Superintendent Hofmeister asked the members in attendance to introduce themselves. Dr. Darrell Floyd is the Superintendent for Enid Public Schools and assumed the role of commissioner in June of 2019 after Dr. Pam Deering completed 10 years in the role. Kevin Hime is the Superintendent for Lawton Public Schools, that serves a large number of military family students. Nakisha Hall is the Military Installation School Liaison at Tinker Air Force Base, replacing Jason Crosby. Dr. Shelly Ellis is the Deputy Superintendent of Student Support at the State Department of Education. Augelica Fleming is the Military Installation School Liaison at Fort Sill. Melody Pankonin is the Military Installation School Liaison for Vance Air Force Base.

Dr. Floyd provided a brief overview of the Interstate Compact, stating it is essentially a contract between states that allows governments to work collaboratively when addressing issues and concerns across boundaries. The MIC3 is the fourth impact in fifty years to be adopted by all fifty states. The intent of this organization is to create consistency and reciprocity across states for military students.

An update from the Military-based school liaisons reported from Fort Sill, Altus Air Force Base, Tinker Air Force Base, and Vance Air Force Base:

Augelica Fleming, Fort Sill, reported challenges related to interstate credit transfer, military student absenteeism due to PCS move, and communication among state school Liaisons. Ms. Fleming reported on best practices including partnership meetings with area school superintendents, continual support of military families with School Support Services.

Nathan Covington, Altus Air Force Base, reported on challenges including transferring school credits and communication and guidance from state lead. Some of their best practices include a newly established virtual homeschool program and an AF STEM flight simulator program for high school.

Nakisha Hall, Tinker Air Force Base, reported that right now she is funneling many phone calls with schools and parents regarding decisions for the upcoming school year. She also makes sure parents are getting the correct resources to help in their decision making and concerns. Ms. Hall reported that many parents are looking at EPIC as an option for their children. Some other challenges she has seen include some districts not tracking their military students, as well as advanced placement programs differing for elementary students. She reported on best practices including partnering with homeschool parents and establishing relationships with Navy families.

Melody Pankonin, Vance Air Force Base, reported that she has been experiencing some of the same challenges as the other liaisons. She also reported on best practices including the fabrication lab at the high school, which she received an AF STEM grant to help fund.

Angelica Fleming also reported on COVID-19 transitional issues. Some challenges and trends have been transitioning families unable to obtain student records, delays in enrollment due to missed registration dates, delays in parent communication with school officials due to the closure of physical school buildings, blended learning options for next school year, and the impact on placement and transition. Best Practices include maintaining communication with school administrators, continuing support for military families throughout transition, and keeping the community updated via Facebook and Installation pages.

Dr. Floyd reported that the home office of the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission received Oklahoma's payment for commission dues on Wednesday, April 1, 2020 and it was approved by the legislature.

There was no old or new business reported.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 A.M.