

State Advisory Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children
April 22, 2024
Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Members
Dr. John Craft Superintendent, Northside ISD, San Antonio
Lina De La Cruz Registrar, Denton ISD
Simone Wendlandt-Hendricks School Liaison Officer, Fort Bliss
Col. Damon Dalby Goodfellow Air Force Base, San Angelo
CAPT Beau Hufstetler Naval Air Station Fort Worth
Nancy Patterson Chief College, Career & Military Readiness Officer, Killeen ISD
Shelly Ramos Senior Director, Curriculum Standards and Student Support, TEA
Lani Webster School Counselor, San Angelo ISD
Emma Sawko (representative for) Madison Yandell Budget and Policy Advisor

1. Call to Order
 - Sheri Messer, TEA, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.
2. Public Comment
 - There were no public comment registrations.
3. Acknowledgements, introductions, and congratulations
 - Mrs. Sheri Messer acknowledged that it is Month of the Military Child.

- Mrs. Messer introduced new council member, CAPT Beau Hufstetler. CAPT Hufstetler shared a brief summary of his background and expressed his excitement to serve on the council.
- Mrs. Messer congratulated Dr. Roper for being elected to the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) board.

4. Student and parent panel

- Mrs. Messer introduced the panelists.
 - o Joan and Marian Resto, parents
 - o Joanelys Resto, student
- Joanelys explained her experience moving and attending schools internationally and nationally and what it's like to be at a new school. Her parents explained their role in making sure the move is positive for their children. They also described some of the challenges they face. They offered some advice and recommendations for other military-connected students and for school staff.

5. Discussion regarding National Guard/Reserve representative

- Ms. Ramos explained that the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) recently communicated that it is best practice to have a representative of the National Guard or Reserves (NG-R) as an ex-officio advisor on state councils. She provided national data from 2020 regarding the number of NG-R members who moved interstate in 2020. Ms. Ramos also mentioned that a representative from other organizations could also be added as ex-officio council members. If the council decides to add new positions, the council would need to take action to amend its operating procedures at a future meeting.
- Ms. Patterson said she is in favor of adding an NG-R representative and suggested there be criteria for inviting organizations to ensure the council is not being exclusive.
- Ms. Ramos offered suggestions for how organizations could be included as ex-officios on the council, including cycling organizations through yearly or for a specified term length or approving representatives from a variety of organizations.
- Ms. Wendlendt-Henricks also expressed support for the addition of an ex-officio representative from NG-R. She also stated that before agreeing to other organizations on the council, more information about the organizations would be helpful.
- Ms. Lina De La Cruz offered a suggestion to have a panel of relevant organizations present at a future meeting to learn more about each organization.
- Ms. Ramos agreed that TEA would set up time for organizations to present about their organization to the council.
- CAPT Hufstetler offered to discuss with NG-R commanders at his installation whether there would be value in having an NG-R representative serve on the council.

6. 2024 council priorities

- Mrs. Messer presented information and updates about the council's 2024 priorities.
 - o In March a letter to the installation commanders was sent on behalf of the council to acknowledge Month of the Military Child and to provide resources for the Military Compact.

- A Military Compact flyer was completed on behalf of the council to be distributed to installations, school liaisons, districts, counselors, parents, etc.
 - Ms. De La Cruz suggested a Spanish version of the flyer.
- A Military Compact flyer specific to registrars is being drafted.
 - Ms. De La Cruz suggested adding information about hand-carried records to the flyer.
- A Military Compact training for counselors was conducted through Education Service Center Region 20 in April.

7. Council member and staff reports

- Ms. Ramos provided an overview of the MIC3 Executive Committee meeting she attended in April. She stated that items discussed at the meeting included the MIC3 budget, planning for the 2024 Annual Business Meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico, planning for upcoming Tier Group meetings, plans for upcoming training modules for new commissioners, and a potential new rule on award of credit.
- Ms. Ramos discussed the new MIC3 ex-officio member, Blue Star Families, and provided a brief summary of the organization and a snapshot of the organization's annual survey results.
- Mrs. Messer provided a reminder about the Purple Star Campus Designation launch and timelines.
- Mrs. Messer explained that the council operating procedures have been updated with the term lengths that the council voted on at the January 2024 council meeting.
- Mrs. Messer opened the floor for council member reports and comments.
 - Ms. Webster informed the council that she would be resigning from the counselor representative role on the council due to her recent retirement.

8. Upcoming events

- Mrs. Messer gave an overview of upcoming events.
- Mrs. Messer adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.