

Missouri State Council Meeting
Wednesday, June 17, 2020
1:00 PM Central Time

Attendees:

- Dr. Brian Henry, Missouri State Commissioner
- Ms. Joan Barrett, Military Child Education Coalition & Military Family Education Liaison
- Mr. James “JT” Craig (title), Truman Education Center, Fort Leonard Wood
- Mr. Joe Driskill, Missouri Military Advocate, Executive Representative
- State Representative Steve Lynch, Legislative Representative
- Mr. Walt Mattil, Deputy Commander, Fort Leonard Wood
- Mr. Dorsey Newcomb, Representative, Fort Leonard Wood
- Dr. Margie Vandeven, Commissioner of Education
- Mr. Jerrod Wheeler, Superintendent, Knob Noster School District
- Guest: Ms. Cherise Imai, Executive Director, Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission

- I. Call to Order - Missouri State Compact Commissioner, Dr. Brian Henry called the meeting to order at 2:04pm Central Time.
- II. Approval of Minutes - Mr. Jerrod Wheeler motioned to approve the minutes from the October 2, 2019 meeting, seconded by State Representative Steve Lynch. The motion carried.
- III. Announcements - Mr. JT Craig announced he recently accepted a new position in Fort Benning, Oklahoma. He stated Ms. Debra Wales is incoming and the probable point of contact for the Truman Center. Commissioner Henry and council members congratulated Mr. Craig on his new position and expressed appreciation for his support.
- IV. Update on Commission Progress
 - A. Successful Transitions Videos - Commissioner Henry presented the new commission program developed by the Communications and Outreach Committee in which he serves as Chair. He reported the program features 30 second spots to highlight the successful transitions of students, and includes detailed guidance, instructions and a rubric. He reported the commission hoped to roll out the new program in spring, however with the pandemic and closure of schools, the plan was delayed. Instead, the commission will launch the program at the upcoming Annual Business Meeting which will be held virtually on October 1-2.
 - B. Purple Up! - Commissioner Henry reported numerous school Purple Up! celebrations during April for the Month of the Military Child were cancelled due to the pandemic. While Commissioner Henry cited there were several smaller events COVID-19 pandemic. He noted a couple of states held virtual events and celebrations however it was minimal in comparison with years past. He mentioned Waynesville School District held a Purple Up! sidewalk art event highlighting the word resilience, poster contest, and promoted the month through social media; while Mr. Wheeler reported Knob Noster District promoted the celebration through social media as well.
 - C. Tier Group Purpose and Plan of Action - Commission Henry reported the Executive Committee is discussing purpose and utilization of commission Tier Groups which are four groups based on the number of military dependent impaction from low to high. The purpose is for similar states to connect and discuss implementation of the Compact.
 - D. Commission Strategic Plan Update - Commissioner Henry stated the Strategic Plan includes several projects which promote education and outreach of the compact.
 1. The Communication and Outreach committee is discussing a new Ambassador program which is focused on building partnerships with stakeholders and other organizations.

2. The Compliance Committee monitors consistent implementation across states which include timely appointment of commissioners, state council meetings are held annually, and annual dues are paid.
 3. There are varying degrees of implementation across states, with some states meeting the compact requirements or doing more than required. While several other states are struggling to appoint a commissioner, council members, or holding state council meetings.
 4. He noted a couple states seek to broaden the scope of the compact to delve into advocacy and other issues beyond which the compact has legal authority. However, as the Commission is not fully implemented across states, the organization remains focused on striving for uniform compliance.
- E. Numerous Discussions Regarding COVID Closures and Impact on Transition
1. Transitions could extend to the end of the year
 2. Currently, less students are moving however it is anticipated more students will move during the school year, which could result in an increase in calls and inquiries.
 3. Most calls are normally from urban areas, or larger areas of the state where the district may not be aware of the compact or its obligations.
 4. Ms. Barrett expressed appreciation for the weekly commission updates, and it has been a valuable reference as she works with families.
- F. Role of the Commission
1. Advocacy/Implementation of the Law - Commissioner Henry stated the commission's legal authority is very specific, and the purpose is to support the successful transition of military kids. As a quasi-governmental agency functioning under statute, it is important to be aware of what the compact covers and doesn't. For example, a proposal was received recently to develop a rule on of weighting grades. This would be controversial as local education agencies and school boards determine this for their schools. In Missouri, there are 500 districts and numerous ways of weighting courses. While in another state there may be only 17 districts. He stressed the need to be open to discussion about military kids, however to with a state or district's authority on education is very different.
 2. Communicating Compact to districts across the state - Commissioner Henry reported training was conducted for western Missouri schools who attended the session at Fort Leavenworth, and a session was held in Waynesville. He stated the Council may want to consider in the future holding training in urban areas around the state.
- V. New Business
- A. 2020 Annual Business Meeting - Commissioner Henry reported it was scheduled to be held in Little Rock, Arkansas on October 1-2. He added it may be held virtually this year.
- B. Mr. Joe Driskoll spent some time in Arkansas with the Associations of Defense Communities. He was impressed with Brian Duffy of North Pulaski School District, who faces similar challenges as Missouri districts.
- C. For transitioning military students into Missouri:
1. Fourteen-day quarantine is required students from out-of-state.
 2. If a student enrolls and does virtual classes, how do schools account for attendance? The state will waive attendance for formula requirements; however, accountability is still an issue as average daily attendance is still a large part of school funding that do not have waivers at this time.
 3. Potential issues:
 1. Varied parent preference for enrollment - some will want to, while others will not
 2. Hybrid and blended learning scenarios
 3. Anticipated district and school budget cuts and increased costs associated with meeting safety and health requirements.
 4. Registration - how students are enrolled in a virtual environment.

5. The impact on kids - how can students thrive in the new normal environment.

- D. Purple Star Program - Ms. Joan Barrett provided an overview of the program and referred to the information paper. She stated while this is likely not the right time to launch a new program given the challenges of schools during the pandemic, it may be something to for the council to consider in the future. Commissioner Henry stated he liked the focus on implementation at the state level to provide a broader perspective and support. Mr. Driskoll agreed with Commissioner Henry however he was aware similar awards and program may exist at the state level. He agreed the department is occupied with dealing with the pandemic. Mr. Wheeler asked if this was a Military Child Education Coalition initiative. Ms. Barret replied that it was not. Dr. Margie Vandeven expressed support however she agreed with other members that with the challenge of the current pandemic on the state and schools, this would not be the time to facilitate new initiative.
- E. State Representative Steve Lynch, as a founding member of the state council, expressed appreciation for members' work and support. He added that the work to support military children is meaningful and makes a difference, and the effort has been a labor of love for him..

IV. Adjournment - With no further business to conduct. Mr. Wheeler motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dorsey Newcomb. Commissioner Henry adjourned the meeting at 2:03 PM Central Time.