**Virginia Council for the Interstate Compact on
Educational Opportunity for Military Children**

Wednesday, February 13, 2019

10:30 a.m.

Jefferson Conference Room, James Monroe Building

101 N. 14th Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219

Minutes

The following Council members were in attendance: Dr. James F. Lane, Virginia Secretary of Defense and Veterans Affairs Mr. Carlos Hopkins, CAPT Joey Frantzen, Mr. Brad Williams, and Dr. Dede Bailer.

Council members Senator Mamie Locke, Delegate Robert Thomas, Mrs. Dorothy McAuliffe, and Dr. Aaron Spence were not present.

***Call to Order and Opening Remarks***

Dr. Lane called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and welcomed Council members, presenters, and guests.

***Virginia School Liaison Officers: A Resource to Support Military Families and Local School Divisions***

Mrs. Debbie Patch provided the Council an overview of the supports and resources provided through military School Liaison Officers (SLOs) assigned to military installations throughout Virginia. During this presentation Ms. Patch shared how SLOs link schools to installation supports like SLO trainings, Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) Coordinators, Tutor.com, and Military Family Life Counselors. She also highlighted the financial assistance the Commonwealth has received through Federal programs such as Department of Defense Educational activity DoDEA grants, Impact Aide, and the National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI).

Dr. Lane asked Mrs. Patch if there was anything the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) could do to support the National Math and Science Initiatives in reaching our highly impacted school divisions. Mrs. Patch shared that NMSI staff had intentions of being present at today’s Council meeting but were called elsewhere. She went on to share that it was her understanding that staff was working on determining national needs and that she would be happy to share VDOE’s desire to be of assistance in recruiting Virginia school divisions. Mr. Dunham then added that he had been in contact with NMSI representatives and had communicated VDOE’s willingness to support their ability to recruit school divisions in Virginia.

***Approval of the October 24, 2018, Meeting Minutes***

Dr. Lane asked for a motion to approve the October 24,2018, minutes. A motion was made by Secretary Hopkins to approve the minutes and this was seconded by Dr. Dede Bailer. All Council members were in favor.

***Purple Star Designation: Additional Awards***

Dr. Lane asked the Council to feel free to share their experiences in attending Purple Star celebrations in the past few months. Dr. Lane, Dr. Dede Bailer, and Mr. Brad Williams shared their experiences indicating the value and joy experienced by students, school divisions, and the community as a whole in receipt of this designation.

Mr. Dunham then presented on Purple Star celebrations that occurred around the Commonwealth and provided clarity on the Purple Star Designation appeals process.

Dr. Lane asked for a motion from Council to approve schools whose appeal review found that qualifications for Purple Star Designation had been met. A motion was made by Mr. Brad Williams to accept the school nominations and this was seconded by Secretary Hopkins.

All Council members were in favor.

***College Admission of Military Connected Students***

Mr. Christopher St. Jean, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (VT) Associate Director and Veterans Liaison presented on the admissions process at VT. His presentation provided the Council with a better understanding of current admission practices used at the University and other schools that utilized the Coalition application. The information presented was well received and appreciated by the Council. Mr. St. Jean emphasized that academic rigor and performance in advanced course work were important factors considered by admission reviewers and that course weights and/or GPA’s were as likely to affect admissions as they had been previously. Those schools utilizing the Coalition Application were all quite similar in their approach to the application review. Council learned that the application provided ample opportunity for military connected students to share details concerning the courses they took while in high school. Mr. St. Jean explained that this new process removes a lot of unconscious bias that existed previously.

Secretary Hopkins asked how VT would handle students who were in the military who were attending VT but who then received orders resulting in their need to withdraw from the institution. Mr. St. Jean indicated that once a VT student, always a VT student, and that those students would pick up where they left off upon their return. He also indicated that VT was working on how to assist service members enrolled in off-site/online graduate programs with the financial barriers they were encountering when furthering their educational pursuits.

***VDOE Military Student and Families Update***

Mr. Dunham presented on activities out of his office and on matters that the Council wished to know more about during the October 24, 2018, meeting. Mr. Dunham presented information on Compact-related interactions with families and schools out of his office, updated Council on implementation of the open enrollment policy in Accomack County, and on the number of federally connected students who would likely benefit from expansion of Compact eligibility.

Dr. Bailer asked Mr. Dunham if we could put on a future agenda a review of the impact that special education eligibility might have on a student’s ability to be considered for future military service.

***Public Comment***

Dr. Lane opened the floor for members of the public to address the Council. No member of the public stepped forward.

***Open Discussion for the Council***

Dr. Lane opened the floor for Council members to discuss or present concerns to be considered by the Council during this or future meetings. None were shared.

***Closed Session***

Dr. Lane then moved to convene into a closed session and Secretary Hopkins seconded this motion.

Dr. Lane made a motion that the Council adopt a resolution certifying that to the best of each member's knowledge: (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting in which this certification resolution applies; and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed session were heard, discussed, or considered by the Virginia Council. The motion was seconded by Secretary Hopkins.

WHEREAS, the Virginia Council on the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (“Virginia Council”) has this day adjourned into Closed Session in accordance with the *Virginia Freedom of Information Act*: and

 WHERAS, the *Virginia Freedom of Information Act* provides for certification that such Closed Session was conducted in conformity with the law.

 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Virginia Council hereby certify that to the best of each member’s knowledge:

(i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting in which this certification resolution applies, and

 (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed session were heard, discussed, or considered by the Virginia Council. The Virginia Council being polled, the vote was as follows:

Secretary Hopkins: yes

Dr. Dede Bailer: yes

Dr. James F. Lane: yes

Mr. Brad Williams: yes

CAPT Joey Frantzen: yes

***Closing Remarks***

Dr. Lane adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.