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

Wednesday, May 8, 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, Mrs. Dorothy McAuliffe, Delegate Robert Thomas, CAPT Joey Frantzen, Dr. Aaron Spence, and Mr. Brad Williams.

Council members Virginia Secretary of Defense and Veterans Affairs Mr. Carlos Hopkins, Senator Mamie Locke, and Dr. Dede Bailer 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.

***Approval of the February 13, 2019, Meeting Minutes***

Dr. Lane asked for a motion to approve the February 13,2019, minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Williams to approve the minutes and this was seconded by CAPT Joey Frantzen. All Council members were in favor with Dr. Aaron Spence, Mrs. McAuliffe, and Del Robert Thomas abstaining given their absences.

***Special Education Students and Military Service***

Ms. Carol Beville, Educational Specialist, United States Navy Recruiting District Richmond, and Master Chief Wayland provided a presentation on the eligibility requirements for entering into the United States military. Ms. Bevel specifically addressed those items that could impact military service eligibility for students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) and others who may have medical or cognitive conditions. In summary, Ms. Beville indicated that having an IEP or graduating with a Virginia Applied Studies Diploma does not necessarily prevent a student from being eligible for service. The presentation also served to provide an overview of possible partnerships with educators to better inform students and staff of occupational pathways offered through service in the United States Military.

Dr. Lane thanked Ms. Bevel and Master Chief Wayland for their presentation and asked Council if they had any questions.

Dr. Aaron Spence confirmed Ms. Beville’s ability to visit school divisions around the state to discuss these pathways and asked if she could explain Tier One and Tier Two eligibility criteria. Master Chief Wayland addressed this question adding that those who graduate from traditional schools are considered Tier One and those that are home schooled, attended non-accredited private school, or others for whom formal education was non-traditional, are classified as Tier Two.

Mrs. McAuliffe asked if the information regarding the Tiers was shared with LEA’s so that they remained informed enough to discuss these with students who may be eligible through Tier Two. Ms. Beville indicated they are and also shared that she is willing to work with LEA’s to ensure all school counselors remained informed.

Mr. Williams asked if his understanding based on Ms. Beville’s presentation was correct; that Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) scores in combination with diploma type was a better determining factor for eligibility than diploma type alone. Ms. Beville confirmed that his understanding was correct. He also wanted to know if this was applicable to all service branches. Master Chief Wayland pointed out that all general medical reviews are similar across all service branches. It is possible that the student may initially be found eligible based on education at the recruiter level but then found ineligible upon completion of the medical review.

Dr. Lane then read a question from Dr. Bailer. He shared that Dr. Bailer hears from a lot of families who are concerned that should their children be classified with emotional disabilities, doing so will make it difficult for them to be eligible for service in the U.S. Military in the future. Master Chief Wayland clarified that mental health treatment has become more common and does not necessarily preclude someone from enlistment. In short, the medical review board will review eligibility and determinations are made on a case-by-case basis.

***Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Military Student and Families Update***

Mr. Dunham presented on Compact related engagements with schools, families, partners, and Virginia governmental agencies. He took time to highlight Month of the Military Child celebrations conducted around the Commonwealth and spoke about the presentation given at the recent Virginia Military Advisory Council meeting. He provided an overview of Senate Bill 1249 and its sister bill, House Bill 1623, pointing out how remote registration should also work to ease the transition challenges military families face. He concluded his presentation by listing those trainings he had conducted and has scheduled for the months of June through August, 2019.

Dr. Lane thanked Mr. Dunham and asked if there were any Council members who have questions.

Mrs. McAuliffe shared that she thinks the signing day is a good idea and would serve as a great opportunity to celebrate high school students who are making a commitment to join the U.S. Military. She went on to ask if the school was aware of Mr. Dunham’s office as a resource. Mr. Dunham indicated he did not believe they were fully aware to the extent necessary to support the child in this case. She went on to say that while she appreciated Mr. Dunham’s work to support national training efforts at state education professional associations, she’d like to see more efforts to broaden awareness of his position and those of support for military students in school divisions across the Commonwealth. Dr. Lane indicated that VDOE conducts a number of its own conferences and there is certainly opportunity for Mr. Dunham to present. In summary, she wished to emphasize that the Council is happy to extend full support to Mr. Dunham in his efforts to engage professional organizations and to present on Compact related supports.

***Public Comment***

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

Ms. Christine Stiefel, school liaison officer with Fort Eustis, came forward and wished to address the presentation made on military service eligibility for those with IEP’s. She wished to express as a parent how her son, a child with multiple disabilities, was approached by a recruiter and told to go off his Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) medications. She is concerned that some recruiters are conducting themselves this way. This can be problematic to the student’s health and of a great concern to the parents and other caregivers.

Ms. Debbie Patch followed Ms. Christine Stiefel and reiterated how necessary it is to make sure students and parents are well informed of the medical side of the eligibility equation.

***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. He asked that Ms. Beville approach and be prepared to discuss a question brought to the attention of the Board during open comment.

Ms. Beville wished to re-emphasize how the military service does not wish to discourage anyone from seeking mental health services. She also re-emphasized how eligibility is determined on a case-by-case basis both on the academic side and on the medical side. She appreciated the comments concerning inappropriate conduct by recruiters to suggest students not take their medications to improve their chances of being eligible for service.

Dr. Aaron Spence indicated that it appears to be a communication issue. He stressed how he sees the need to improve communications with families and students with IEP’s on accurate information regarding military service. Dr. Lane agreed with Dr. Aaron Spence’s assessment and promised that VDOE will work on creating transition guidance for future distribution.

Ms. Beville is willing to work in partnership with VDOE so there is a better understanding of the meaning regarding the two tiers discussed.

Dr. Lane then thanked Ms. Bevel and asked if there were any other matters the Council wished to discuss. There were none.

***Closed Session***

Dr. Lane then moved to convene into a closed session and Secretary Carlos 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 Carlos 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

 WHEREAS, 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 Carlos 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.