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

Wednesday, October 24, 2018

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, Delegate Robert Thomas, Ms. Dorothy McAuliffe, CAPT Joey Frantzen, Mr. Brad Williams, and Dr. Dede Bailer.

Council members Senator Mamie Locke 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 new council members Dr. Dede Bailer and Delegate Robert “Bob” Thomas to the Council along with guests.

***Approval of the December 14, 2017, Meeting Minutes***

Dr. Lane asked for a motion to approve the December14,2017 minutes. A motion was made by Ms. McAuliffe and was seconded by CAPT Joey Frantzen. Delegate Thomas and Dr. Lane abstained given that neither attended the December14, 2017 meeting.

***DoDEA Grant Supporting PBL and STEM***

Next, Dr. Lane introduced Dr. Chelsea Ireland Kulp, Instructional Trainer and Program Director for Poquoson City Public Schools, who presented how Poquoson City Schools made great use of the DoDEA grant funding to enhance project based learning (PBL) and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math instruction throughout the school division. She highlighted how this funding was particularly helpful in their small school system by enhancing project based learning and STEM opportunities for middle and high school students. The goal was to increase access to Math rigor and to hone communication, collaboration and citizenship skills all of which are valuable to the workforce. Ms. McAuliffe followed up with questions related to the grant amounts and applauded the sustainability of the effort. Dr. Lane also provided praise to Dr. Ireland Kulp for her work on tying in the profile of the Virginia Graduate into this approach.

***Purple Star School Nominations***

Mr. Dunham, VDOE Military Families and Students Specialist, asked if it was the Council’s intent upon establishing the Purple Star Designation that private schools where to be included. The Council member’s present all agreed that is was understood that private schools were to be included. Mr. Dunham went on to provide a brief background of the application process and lessons learned during the first round. He then provided the list of fifty-nine public and private schools that the Military Student Process Action Team (MSSPAT) had reviewed and determined met the award criteria outlined in the application. Delegate Thomas asked if Council members would be invited to participate in the presentation of these awards. Dr. Lane clarified how the schools or school divisions would invite Council to participate in the presentations of this award. He then called for a motion to approve the list of nominated schools. The motion to approve the list of schools was made by Delegate Thomas and was seconded by Mr. Williams. *The list of these schools are found in Attachment A*.

***Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission (MIC3) National Business Meeting Summary***

Mr. Dunham, VDOE Military Families and Students Specialist, provided an update on matters that took place at the annual business meeting of the Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission (MIC3). Mr. Dunham highlighted three rule changes. The first was to increase dues beginning in fiscal year 2020 from $1.00 per child to $1.15 per child. This rule change results in an increase to the Virginia dues from $60,000 to $69,000. Mr. Dunham went on to share that the Commission voted to add a definition for “State Council” and to add language requiring State Commissioners or their designees to provide meeting dates, agendas, and minutes to the Commission within 60 days. He also shared that the new rule required the State Commissioner to provide documentation to the Commission office as evidence of the Council fulfilling its duties. Lastly, Mr. Dunham closed by sharing Virginia is highly regarded and supportive of other states, how his serving on the Rules Committee is beneficial to the State and how we formally thanked the Commissioner from Ohio, Pete Lupiba for his support in assisting Virginia to adopt the Purple Star Designation program.

***Transitional Challenges for Students Whose Parents Serve Under S.S.C. Title 22 and Title 50 Orders.***

Mr. Dunham went on to present on the need to consider extending supports on the Interstate Compact to children whose parents serve under Title 22 and Title 50 orders. Mr. Dunham pointed out that these students face the same transitional challenges as those whose parents serve on active duty in the Armed Forces. He read the concerns shared by Bert Curtis, Chief Family Liaison Office. During the reading of these concerns, Mr. Dunham pointed out the similarities of transitional experiences between State Department families and families of active duty military personnel. He pointed out that the National Children Interstate Compact Commission executive teams were briefed on this matter and that he was advised that it is highly unlikely that the Commissioners would accept changes to eligibility rules under the Compact as doing so would require that each state take legislative action to approve such a change. They went on to suggest that Virginia move to adopt policy outside of the Compact that would provide similar provision as found in the Compact to U.S. State Department families.

The Council then moved to discuss the scope and number of affect families. It was suggested that Mr. Dunham work to gather a number and also determine additional federal agencies whose employees might have experienced similar transitional challenges. Mr. Dunham agreed to gather this information and to present it to Council at a future meeting.

***Public Comment***

Ms. Debbie Patch, asked the Council if they would be making the list of schools known. Dr. Lane then agreed to read the list of schools so that these schools could be known by the public.

Amanda Yoder then spoke to Mr. Dunham’s presentation on extending Compact provisions to families whose serve under Title 22 and Tile 50 orders. She asked if NATO employees or DoD civilians were to be included. She pointed out that these families would also benefit from this support.

***Council Comments for Future Items***

Dr. Lane then asked the Council if they wished to bring any other matters to the attention of the Council for the purpose of discussing it at future Council meetings.

Ms. McAuliffe asked that Mr. Dunham consider presenting the number of engagements related to Compact cases by category so that the Council is aware of the breadth. She also expressed an interest in hearing about Troops to Teachers and on how if Accomack County has taken steps to place this into policy. Dr. Lane indicated that he could have the policy team provide a presentation on how school boards move to incorporate policy changes that take place following the legislature. Lastly, Ms. McAuliffe asked if there would be a Superintendents Memo that would help to clarify the need for school divisions to improve parental awareness on the consent provisions. Dr. Lane and Mr. Dunham agreed to work on the development of this memo.

Mr. Williams also asked if there was any communications concerning the possible movement of military families from Florida as a result of the hurricane. Mr. Dunham indicated he had not received any communications from military commands at this time nor has he received any inquiries from school divisions or School liaison officers. Mr. Williams also asked a question on the number of families who are affected by loss of school choice because of their designation as being key essential personnel. Dr. Lane added that we should work on getting those numbers for Marine Base Quantico and Langley AFB if possible.

Dr. Bailer wished to see the development of guidance and other resources by VDOE tailored to assist those schools striving for Purple Star Designation. Mr. Dunham shared that feedback letters would be sent out to all applicants. The feedback letter would include information on resources that would be helpful to these schools.

Ms. McAuliffe

***Closed Session***

Dr. Lane then move 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 Mrs. McAuliffe.

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:

Delegate Robert Thomas: yes

Mrs. Dorothy McAuliffe: 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.