

MINUTES

STATE COUNCIL ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY CHILDREN

December 2, 2011

10:00 a.m.

Submarine Force Library and Museum

Members present: Sen. Andrew Maynard, Bob Ross, Nicholas Fischer, Valerie Nelson, Beth Gianacoplos, Laura Anastasio

Non-voting members present: Captain Marc Denno, Miranda Chapman

1. The minutes from the meeting on June 1, 2011 were approved.

Vote: in favor—5 (Laura Anastasio, Valerie Nelson, Beth Gianacoplos, Bob Ross, Nicholas Fischer); opposed—0; abstention—1 (Sen. Maynard)

The September 13, 2010 minutes were amended and approved as amended. Vote: in favor—6 (Laura Anastasio, Valerie Nelson, Beth Gianacoplos, Bob Ross, Nicholas Fischer, Sen. Maynard); opposed—0.

2. Update on the Interstate Commission

- The Commission held its fourth annual meeting in Louisville
- The Commission voted on two changes to the rules (discussed below)
- A Commissioner proposed a rule change that the Commission did not act on—concerning the length of eligibility under the compact after the active duty family member dies. The Compact allows for one year of eligibility under the compact if a parent or guardian serving in the military dies while on active duty. This time period is not long enough since families are permitted to stay in military housing for one year after the passing of such parent or guardian—if the family stays in the current living arrangement for the full year, they will be ineligible under the Compact just as they are transitioning into another living situation. Because the change would require amending the actual Compact and would have to be amended in each states' legislation, the Commission tabled discussion of this matter. Mr. Ross noted that even a two-year provision is not always long enough for families to fully settle their affairs and it might be worthwhile to consider a longer extension of the eligibility period.
- The Commission discussed the problem of how to get more families educated about the Compact. In CT, the families who reach out to the SLO can receive information; however, it is not clear whether most families have been advised of their rights under the Compact. Dr. Fischer and Ms. Nelson noted that it might be helpful to provide local schools with information about the Compact that can be distributed to parents. Also, the website for MIC3 is not as user friendly as it could be.
- The annual meeting next year will be in Charleston, S.C.

3. Proposed rules changes for the Interstate Commission.

- Kindergarten entrance age—not enacted by the Commission. The difficulty was how to define enrollment. There was some discussion of the differences in entrance ages for CT and other states—CT has a cutoff date of December 31; other states use September 1st as the cutoff date. This isn't really a problem for CT except for when CT families relocate to other states because CT has one of the earliest entrance ages for Kindergarten.
- Dues: Ms. Anastasio explained the new dues structure for the Commission. The cap is set to begin in 2013 and the minimum to apply in 2014—dues will be based on \$1 per child based upon where the family resides, not where the family member is assigned. Mr. Ross question whether the DoD calculations of number children of active duty persons is accurate.

5. Appointment of the State Liaison.

- Because Connecticut had originally appointed the School Liaison at the Submarine base (Miranda Chapman) to serve as the State Liaison, the Council must appoint another individual. This person is charged broadly with working with the State Council, parents, and the school districts concerning the implementation of the Compact in the State of Connecticut.
- Ms. Anastasio nominated Louis Tallarita, Education Consultant for the SDE to serve as the State Military Family Education Liaison.
Vote: in favor—6 (Laura Anastasio, Valerie Nelson, Beth Gianacoplos, Bob Ross, Nicholas Fischer, Sen. Maynard) opposed—0.

6. Tracking complaints.

- The Commission would like to keep track of the complaints at the state level to better understand how to serve the eligible students. It was noted that there were many “issues” that were easily resolved by communicating with the schools. The Commission may wish to define what constitutes a “complaint.” In addition, it was suggested that the Compact Commission create a uniform spreadsheet for all states to track complaints.