

State Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

Annual Meeting

Nebraska Department of Education
State Office Building, 6th floor, State Board Meeting Room
301 Centennial Mall South
Lincoln, Nebraska

September 13, 2016
1:00 p.m.

Minutes

The Nebraska State Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children held its annual meeting on September 13, 2016. Publicized notice of the meeting was given by posting notice on the Department's website on the Internet, which gave the date, time and location of the meeting.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Scott Swisher, Deputy Commissioner of the Nebraska Department of Education and Council Commissioner of the State Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 p.m. The following members were present: Dr. Jeff Rippe, Superintendent, Bellevue Public Schools; Colonel Matthew Joganich, U.S.A.F., 55th Wing Mission Support Group Commander, Offutt Air Force Base; LaMont Rainey, representative for Senator Kate Sullivan, and Sara Hulac, Legal Counsel II and Military Family Education Liaison, NDE. Matthew L. Blomstedt, Commissioner of Education was absent. Mr. William Wilson, Deputy Director, 55th Wing Mission Support Group, Offutt AFB and Brian Halstead, Deputy Commissioner, Nebraska Department of Education were guests.

Dr. Swisher announced the placement of the Open Meetings Act.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No public comment.

3. APPROVAL OF 2015 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Sara Hulac, second by Dr. Rippe: To approve the minutes of the September 15, 2015, State Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children meeting.

Voting Yes: Swisher, Joganich, Rippe, and Hulac
The motion passed.

4. REPORTS BY MEMBERS ON ACTIVITY OR ISSUES

Dr. Swisher stated that he plans to retire from the Department of Education on December 31, 2016 and will no longer be the Compact Commissioner effective October 1, 2016. Brian Halstead, Nebraska Department of Education Deputy Commissioner and Chief of Staff will be the new Compact Commissioner effective October 1, 2016.

Mr. Halstead indicated that he plans to attend the Annual Meeting of the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) this year in Orlando, Florida, October 26-28, 2016. He will offer a report at the next meeting.

Sara Hulac reported that she had been contacted twice in August 2016 concerning potential Compact issues. First, a parent called NDE who recently relocated from South Carolina. The student had also attended school in Maryland. The student enrolled in Papillion LaVista Junior High and the parent believed that the student should have been receiving high school credit for previous courses taken in both South Carolina and Maryland. Ms. Hulac spoke to the Papillion LaVista Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Schwartz, who explained that the student was receiving credit towards graduation. The Compact does not address or apply to this situation.

Second, a phone call was received regarding a student who transferred from Bellevue Public Schools to a high school in Georgia. The student is a senior. The two states, Nebraska and Georgia, calculated GPA's using different methods – one weighted GPA based on the difficulty of the class and the other did not. The parent felt that the student was going to be accepted into a lessor quality of school because the school didn't have the GPA as high as it was at Bellevue Public Schools. The Compact does not address or apply to this situation.

Dr. Rippe indicated that their school did not receive any phone call or concerns in regard to the above incident.

5. DISCUSSION OF NEBRASKA'S PARTICIPATION IN AND COMPLIANCE WITH THE INTERSTATE COMPACT ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY CHILDREN

No Council member had any concerns or issues to report.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Dr. Swisher adjourned the meeting at 1:07 p.m.

***Support Materials for this meeting are available for inspection in the NDE's General Counsel's Office**