



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MOLLY M. SPEARMAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

Meeting Minutes

Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission

Annual SC State Council Meeting

LOCATION & TIME

Tuesday, May 27, 2015
Rutledge Conference Center, Rutledge Building
1429 Senate Street, Columbia, SC
12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

I. Welcome

Dino Teppara, Chair, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

II. Introduction of Council Members and Guests

The following council members were in attendance: Dr. Traci Young Cooper, State Board of Education Chair; Charlie Farrell, S.C. Department of Commerce, proxy for General George B. Patrick III, SC Military Base Task Force; Dr. Debbie Hamm, Richland District Two Superintendent; S.C. Representative Joseph Daning; Beth Shwedo, Military Family Member; Lt. Col. Clarence Browser, S.C. Army National Guard; Susan Glaser, Governor Nikki R. Haley's appointee; and Dino Teppara, Esquire, State Chair, MIC3 State Council, S.C. Dept. of Education.

The following council members or their representative were absent: S.C. Senator Paul Campbell; S.C. Senator Darrell Jackson; Mike Brenan, State Board of Education Vice-Chair; and Ann Gordon, Military Department of Defense Representative.

Representatives from the S.C. Department of Education Public Information Office included: Brie Logue, Public Information Coordinator; and Wanda Davis, Ombudsman and Military Family Education Liaison for the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission.

School Liaison Officers (SLO), youth directors, and other invited guests in attendance included:

James Harris, S.C. Army National Guard
Kim Wiley, SLO, Marine Corp Air Station (MCAS) Beaufort

Keisha McCoy Wilson, SLO, U.S. Army/Fort Jackson
Tina Paulson, Marine Corps/Regional School Liaison Officer
John F. Kennedy, SLO, Shaw Air Force Base
Latarsa Williams, Military OneSource Consultant
Bunnie Ward, S.C. Education Oversight Committee

III. Approval of Agenda & Minutes

Chair Teppara called for a motion to be made to approve the 2013 and 2014 meeting minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Daning and seconded by Dr. Cooper. The meeting minutes for 2013 and 2014 were approved as written with no edits.

IV. Chair Report & MIC3 State Overview

Chairman Teppara gave a PowerPoint presentation to explain the purpose and primary focus of the Military Interstate Compact Commission. He highlighted the concerns with enrollment, immunizations, eligibility, placement, and graduation. Discussion and questions followed.

V. S.C. Education Oversight Committee's 2015 Report Entitled "Educational Performance of Military-Connected Children," per Act 289

Bunnie Ward from the S.C. Education Oversight Committee, noted that the definition of federally-connected students is different than the military-connected student definition, and that there is a need to get federally-connected student numbers reported for each S.C. school district in order for them to receive accurate funding from the Federal Impact Aid Program. If three percent or 400 students in a district are classified as federally or military-connected students, the district is eligible to receive funding. Discussions followed with concerns about how to spread awareness and get the message to the parents to fill out the necessary district forms for data collection purposes. The group suggested a survey be sent out in August 2015 from State Superintendent of Education Molly M. Spearman requesting this information as students enroll in school for the 2015-16 school year.

VI. Individual Reports by School Liaisons

John F. Kennedy, SLO for Shaw Air Force Base, discussed the two major challenges in military families – transition and deployment. He reported that his group works with military children and support groups giving these students a chance to connect with each other. They also assess the school environment to make sure students are getting what they need in order to transition from an out of state school into South Carolina's public school system.

Kimberly Wiley, SLO for MCAS Beaufort, stated that her group continues to educate military families on different school choices available to them. She reported on the significant growth of military-connected students enrolled in the Beaufort County School district.

Keisha McCoy-Wilson, SLO for the U.S. Army at Fort Jackson, reported that Richland School District Two is helping military parents and students make a smooth transition into their school system. The district sets up a day for students and teachers to visit Fort Jackson and experience the life of a drill sergeant. The district also provides other opportunities for military families to connect, such as organizing lunch groups, to find out how they can assist them. Concerns were brought up about receiving more training for schools in rural areas so that districts could begin receiving Federal Impact Aid funding, specifically in Kershaw County and Lexington County School District One.

Tina Paulson SLO for the Marine Corps reported on a new campaign to encourage military families to contact their school liaison earlier in the year so that they could do the work ahead of time to prepare them to enroll and transition into a new school.

VII. Military OneSource Update

Latarsa Williams, Military OneSource Consultant, gave a presentation about the resources offered through Military OneSource, such as free non-medical counseling for families from a licensed counselor.

VIII. Adjournment

Chairman Teppara adjourned the meeting at 2:24 p.m.