

# State Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

## **Annual Meeting**

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

**September 22, 2014**  
**1:00 p.m.**

### **Minutes**

The Nebraska State Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children held its annual meeting on September 22, 2014. 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. Matthew L. Blomstedt, Commissioner of Education; Frank Harwood, Superintendent, Bellevue Public Schools; Colonel Charles Kuhl, U.S.A.F., 55<sup>th</sup> Wing Mission Support Group Commander, Offutt Air Force Base; and, Margaret Worth, General Counsel and Military Family Education Liaison, NDE. Senator Kate Sullivan was absent. Sen. Sullivan's Legal Counsel, LaMont Rainey, observed the meeting.

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

#### **2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

No public comment.

#### **3. APPROVAL OF 2013 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

Motion by Frank Harwood, second by Col. Kuhl: To approve the minutes of the September 26, 2013, State Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children meeting.

Voting Yes: Swisher, Blomstedt, Harwood, and Kuhl  
The motion passed.

#### **4. REPORTS BY MEMBERS ON ACTIVITY OR ISSUES**

Dr. Swisher reported that NDE has paid the annual dues for participation in the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, approximately \$4,200 (approximately \$1 for each student). Dr. Swisher indicated that the Nebraska Legislature allocates \$10,000 annually to fund the dues as well as attendance at the Annual meeting of the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3), which Dr. Swisher will plan to attend this year in Nashville, TN and offer a report at the next meeting.

Col. Kuhl reported that there have been no specific concerns/issues from any school districts. Col. Kuhl stated that Offutt AFB greatly appreciates the support Nebraska provides to Nebraska children, specifically Bellevue Public Schools.

Frank Harwood reported that the Bellevue Public School district is currently experiencing a situation wherein a military student from Bellevue East High School transferred to a school in another state and does not have the required credits to graduate. The Bellevue Public Schools has been working with the other high school and following the Compact's requirements. The schools and the student have worked out a resolution for the student to graduate if the student will pass all of the classes outlined for graduation from Bellevue. This is a situation in process, but Mr. Harwood anticipates a successful outcome for the student to graduate on time.

Frank Harwood reported that the Military Impacted School Association (MISA) has been offering training across the country for school counselors. Bellevue Public Schools has volunteered to be a host site for training of metro area school counselors to attend this training. It is anticipated that this will occur before the end of the year and Mr. Harwood will keep NDE apprised of dates and times of the training opportunities. Mr. Harwood's understanding is that the training will familiarize counselors in the metro area with the MIC3 guidelines.

Dr. Blomstedt indicated that in 2016 any funding through Lottery funds ceases. Therefore, the \$10,000 the Nebraska Legislature allotted for participation in the Interstate Compact on Education Opportunity for Military Children, originally paid through Lottery funds, has been budgeted to be paid through NDE's General Funds beginning in 2016.

Margaret Worth reported that during the past year she has not received any calls or concerns regarding the Compact and attributes that to the excellent work of Mr. Harwood and Col. Kuhl.

No Council member had any concerns or issues for Dr. Swisher to bring to the upcoming annual meeting of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Dr. Swisher adjourned the meeting at 1:34 p.m.

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