

Virginia Council for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military
Children
Minutes: May 25, 2010

Council Members in Attendance:

Senator John C. Miller, Chair
Dr. Patricia I. Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Mr. James S. Lander
Dr. James G. Merrill, Superintendent of Virginia Beach Public Schools
Dr. Winston O. Odom, Superintendent of Hopewell City Public Schools

Council Members not in Attendance:

The Honorable M. Kirkland Cox, House of Delegates
Dr. William C. Boshier, Jr.

Department of Education Staff in Attendance:

Anne Wescott, Assistant Superintendent for Policy and Communications
Michelle Vucci, Director of Policy

Senator Miller opened the meeting by welcoming the Council members and guests. He asked all Council members present to introduce themselves and provide background information.

Ms. Wescott provided general background information to the members regarding the need for the Interstate Compact and how many children in Virginia are affected. Ms. Wescott also provided information on actions that have already been taken by the Virginia Board of Education to ease the transition of military children into Virginia public schools.

Ms. Vucci provided an overview of the Compact articles that exist in Virginia law and the duties of the Council.

Anne Bane and Penny Petersen from Hampton City Schools provided an overview of the efforts of the school division to streamline and ease the transfer of military children into and out of Hampton City Schools. They also discussed efforts undertaken to assist these children with varying needs while the children are enrolled in Hampton City.

The Council then received public comments from two members of the audience. One comment was in regards to the need for the Council to provide information on the Compact to affected entities. The other comment related to the need for the Council to look at the flow of federal Impact Aid dollars to Virginia school divisions.

The members of the Council then discussed current issues. Mr. Lander emphasized the need for good communication. Dr. Odom discussed the use of electronic interfaces so that parents and children could improve the frequency of communication while parents are deployed. Dr. Merrill discussed communication, statewide policy direction regarding the Compact, and the need for training. Dr. Wright discussed the relationship of the Compact of other existing state laws and the importance of assessing unintended consequences.

Senator Miller closed the meeting by thanking the Council members and by indicating that the next Council meeting date will likely be shortly after the start of the 2010-2011 school year.