

Virginia Council for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military
Children
Minutes: November 10, 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
Dr. William C. Boshier, Jr.

Council Members not in Attendance:

The Honorable M. Kirkland Cox, House of Delegates

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.

Major General (Ret.) Frank Faykes presented information on a report issued by Mission: Readiness – Military Leaders titled “*Too Fat to Fight*”. This report focuses on recommendations that Congress pass new child nutrition legislation to eliminate junk foods from schools, to support increasing nutritional standards for schools, and to provide children with access to program that reduce obesity. General Faykes indicated that research shows that children suffering from low income consume 80 percent of their food at schools.

Mr. Patrick Finneran, Director of Corporate and Government Relations for Newport News Public Schools, provided information to the members on the efforts of Newport News schools to assist military families transferring in and out of the school system.

Ms. Vucci provided information to the members about how Virginia Interstate Compact Law compares to other Virginia law and regulation. The members asked general questions regarding how academic work done at Department of Defense schools would be transferred into Virginia public schools. Ms. Vucci also indicated that more clarification would be sought from the offices of the national interstate compact on this issue and issues related to kindergarten enrollment and the acceptance of tests administered in other states.

Ms. Wescott provided general background information to the members regarding current efforts to publicize the work of the Compact. Ms. Wescott discussed the comprehensive web site developed by the Department to provide information on the Compact and

discussed the level of service provided by the Department to address all questions related to the Compact. She also discussed the agenda for the national interstate compact meeting, which was to take place in mid-November.

The Council then received public comment from one member of the audience, who indicated that the information provided in the crosswalk of the Virginia Compact Law to the existing law and regulations was very much needed by military school liaison officers working with parents and school divisions.

Senator Miller closed the meeting by thanking the Council members and by indicating that the next Council meeting date will be on January 5, 2011 in Richmond.

Presentation materials from the meeting can be found at:

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/student_family/military/va_council/index.shtml.