

# Kansas Commission on Education for Military Children (KMIC3)

## February 28, 2011 Conference Call

Participating:

- John Armbrust, Governor's Military Council
- Lt. Colonel David Chase, Ft. Riley
- Angela Edwards, McConnell AFB
- Keith Mispagel, Ft. Leavenworth USD 207
- Brad Neuenswander, Kansas Department of Education
- Wynnie Wahlfeldt, Ft. Riley
- Ron Walker, Geary County USD 475
- Craig Wilford, Derby USD 260

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Brad welcomed everyone and introduced the newest member of the council: Keith Mispagel. Brad said they host one or two meetings/conference calls a year, depending upon issues or if there are things that need to be followed up on. If anyone feels they need additional information, please contact Brad.

### **Review of KMIC3 and MIC3 websites:**

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the Compact Commission and Kansas was the 1<sup>st</sup> state to become a member. Most of the material we started out with in the 1<sup>st</sup> year is now on the state website: [www.ksde.org](http://www.ksde.org), click on the "Parents" link and scroll down to Military Families. There is a brief narrative of the Compact Commission, a link to the Kansas Council members, 2009 minutes, as well as a link to resources. Under resources, is a link to the national website: [www.mic3.net](http://www.mic3.net), which became operational this fall, right before the annual conference. Also, under Resources there are printable brochures, adopted rules, PPT's to be used at the local level for education and training, as well as training modules. Under the "news" link we can add Kansas news that we'd like to spotlight. Click on the link for "Commissioners" and there's information of the different committees, annual meeting information, rules and bylaws, past annual meetings, etc. If you click on past annual meetings, the last link is to the 2010 annual meeting minutes, which are the draft minutes from the November conference in Texas. Brad will send an updated state membership list to be posted on the national website.

On the Kansas website, we're trying to put information for those coming from other states; sharing information that Kansas is a member of the national compact.

John will contact the Governor's office to see if Senator's Kelly Kultala and Roger Reitz are still the legislative appointees to the state commission. Also, Keith will check to make sure Donna Shinn is still with Ft. Leavenworth.

### **Membership issue from Department of Defense**

Brad shared that one thing that came out of the November annual meeting was from the Department of Defense. They do not want military personnel who serve on a state commission to have voting powers; they can be a member, they just can't vote. Brad said that in all honesty, the state committee has never

voted on anything. On our state committee we have Angela Edwards, David Chase and Winnie Wahfeldt who are employees of armed forces. The Department of Defense's reasoning is that they want it to be a state commission and not the department of defense determining what goes on in schools. It was shared that this is not an issue at the local level in Kansas. Brad will send names to the Department of Defense.

### **Issue regarding out-of-state students attending Kansas schools as a Kansas resident**

Brad said that he needs advice from members regarding when students enroll in a virtual school Kansas; however, they may not live in Kansas, but their parents lived in Kansas at one time. It was shared that if a student enrolls in a virtual school in Kansas and then moves out-of-state, they do not count and the district knows the students do not count. Parents are told that if they're moving, to not enroll their children in a virtual school. Brad will provide clarification and put it on the state website.

### **Annual Conference**

Brad attended the annual conference in November in San Antonio and they talked about making sure there is enough training materials available for school districts. Powerpoints and training information is available on the national website as well as the state website.

### **Other Topics/Issues**

There was discussion regarding special education students moving into a district and the student received a certificate of attendance from the last school they attended. They come in with zero credit, which counts against the school's graduation rate. At the district level, they've been able to work it out so the student gets a certificate of attendance, instead of diploma. In the federal law it states that if a student has an IEP they're allowed to attend school until they reach age 21 and if they do not graduate within 4 years they're counted as a non-graduate. Although this isn't right, they want to do what's best for the student. The school may not find out that the student has been in a private school until the end of the year. If they go to a private non-accredited in Kansas, then it counts against the school, but if they go out-of-state it does not. The question is that you may not know if they're going out-of-state and you do not find out until after you submit their data. They try to sort the data out and rely on friends to find out where they go.

Ron said they get questions every year regarding impact aid and why schools in Kansas charge a fee. Parents will come from a state which does not charge a fee. They believe in a free education and some refuse to pay the fee(s). Kansas is an equalized state and state statute says schools can charge certain fees. There may be ways for the military to help pay for such fees. Brad will add information to the state website regarding Kansas being an equalized state, as well as copies of the state statutes.

Angela asked that a reminder be sent to superintendents reminding them that Kansas is part of the interstate compact. Many may not be aware that Kansas is a member of the compact. **Follow-up: A letter from Secretary of Education regarding the Interstate Compact was received on March 4 and forwarded to superintendents and building principals in the state, and a link has also been placed on the Kansas website: <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=4491>.**

Brad asked if there is something we need to do, to please let him know.