



## **NORTH CAROLINA MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION**

**Minutes of the Quality of Life (QOL) Committee Meeting, 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, July 13, 2021  
Microsoft Teams/Conference Call #: 515-604-9063, Conference ID: 344439#**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Kirk Warner, Chairman  
Bill Hatcher (phone)  
Edward Reeder (phone)  
Patricia Harris  
Julie Daniels (phone)

### **NCMAC MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Gerald "Rudy" Rudisill

### **OTHER NCMAC MEMERS:**

Rep George Cleveland

### **DMVA STAFF:**

Ramona Robertson  
Kelly Jackson  
Macey Webb  
Kate Howell

### **ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES**

Shevelle Godwin, Fort Bragg School Support Svcs  
Valerie Nasser, Craven County Schools  
Jamie Livengood, Wayne County Schools  
Rollie Sampson, Moore County Schools  
Cristy Barnes Williams, Seymour Johnson AFB  
LTC David Walliser, NCNG  
Leafa Palmer School Liaison  
Rollie Sampson, Moore County Schools  
Donna Grady, Camp Lejeune  
Brian Pierce, NCNG  
Debra Bryant, Cumberland County  
Max Dolan  
Ron Massey, City of Jacksonville  
Christopher Colby  
Adam Renfro

### **OPENING REMARKS: CHAIRMAN KIRK WARNER**

Chairman Kirk Warner called the meeting to order at 10:01 and welcomed everyone to the Quality of Life meeting. He conducted a roll call of the attendees. He had a quorum of voting members. He said that it looked like we had a lot of people attending the meeting today. Chairman Warner said that he wanted to do the ethics requirement. He said that we have a legal obligation to disclose any conflict of interests that may or may not arise or potentially arise with your regular job or any of your business of the Quality of Life committee. If you have a potential conflict, he asks that you disclose that potential conflict, so we are aware of potential conflict. Does anyone have such a conflict? Does anyone have any potential conflict of interest with the business on the agenda and if not, please be cognizant of any potential conflicts that arise from the discussion topics and govern yourself accordingly.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairman Warner said that the committee had a quorum and would approve the 2nd Quarter draft Quality of Life minutes from April 27, 2021, from the voting members. Patricia Harris made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Bill Hatcher and passed by a unanimous vote.

### **INTERSTATE COMPACT ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR MILITARY CHILDREN:**

Jamie Livengood said that there were no recent updates for the Commission.

**Minutes from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Quality of Life Committee meeting**  
**Tuesday, July 13, 2021**  
**Page 2**

**K-12 AND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (DPI) UPDATES/ISSUES:**

Chairman Warner said that one of the K-12 updates/issues.

Purple Star Program: Kirk Warner said that we had a great number of applications and awardees this past year. He asked if that information was being put on the appropriate website and the information for the next year? Valerie Nasser said that she thought that would be appropriate for each District to put that information out. Kirk Warner said that if a school took the time to apply and be awarded, he wants to ensure that this great information is shared with others through a website or social media. Valerie Nasser said that the Department of Public Instruction sends the awardees a banner. Kirk Warner said that maybe the Commission needs to send a letter to the awardees. This needs to go to the Strategic Plan Working Group (SCWG). Kirk Warner said that this is important to do.

Delayed PCS: Chairman Warner asked about PCS moves and are they getting back on track? Donna Grady said that for the Marine Corp, PCS orders are still delayed. There is an issues with manpower for the moving companies and the wooden pallets. The Marine Corp families will be delayed until September or October. Also, in their area there is a housing shortage. She is surprised how many families are letting them know that they are building homes. With the PCS orders, many families have gone that route to build a home to get in the Onslow County area. Kirk Warner said that the second and third order affects will be what will happen to the school children. They have informed the leadership that this will be a problem this school year. Rollie Sampson said that in Moore County they are dealing with the same issues. Valerie Nasser said that with the remote registration, and they know that they will be coming in September/October, they go ahead and register, that could help with using the NC Virtual School. That could be an option for starting in one place and then moving in September/October timeframe. Kirk Warner is this will be a problem for inbound and outbound. Jamie Livengood said that they have been having some of these same conversations. She said that they are also dealing with the housing issues and then having to work on brainstorming solutions to endure that the student is enrolled in the school they should be going to no matter where they are living such as billeting or an extended stay. They have to do a lot of problem solving from a district level. Kirk Warner said that the Department of Defense (DoD) created new dispute resolution system for housing disputes. The Commander will make determinations as to whether payments will be made.

**MLO/SLO UPDATES:**

Wayne County: Jamie Livengood said that the Wayne County and Seymour Johnson school continues to move along as planned.

Craven County: Valerie Nasser said that they are in the planning mode.

Fort Bragg: Shevelle Godwin said that they are experiencing a constant flow of service members coming to the Installation. They continue to receive members from all of the other installations across the globe. They are working with issues about housing, rental property, and others. They can't keep up with all of this. The single service members will be living on the installation. They are just trying to keep up.

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (DPI):**

No update or a contact person for DPI. Kirk Warner asked if Kelly Jackson could reach out to Chad

**Minutes from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Quality of Life Committee meeting**  
**Tuesday, July 13, 2021**  
**Page 3**

Sydnor about Troops to Teacher and if there was any update. Kirk Warner also asked about the Student Identifier. Jamie Livengood said that she could pull the information for her District so there is point of contact (POC) for each district that can get that information and a POC for DPI. Kirk Warner would like to find out who that person is.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:**

Macey Webb, DMVA updated the committee on a couple of legislative items.

**H297- DMV Deployed Armed Forces Exemptions.**

- Amends proposed GS 20-35(d) to provide a defense for the offense of driving without a license if the person was deployed as a member of the US Armed Forces (was, deployed on active military duty) when the license expired and has obtained a renewed license within 30 days after returning from deployment.
- Amends GS 20-7 to require the Division of Motor Vehicles to offer remote conversion to the holder of a full provisional license issued to a State resident if the provisional license holder is deployed out-of-state as a member of the US Armed Forces.
- Currently sits in Senate Rules Committee, where it should come out of that Committee and receive its second and third reading on the Senate floor.

**H76- Modernize Debt Settlement Prohibition.**

- Would make it to where no person, directly or through affiliates, shall engage in, offer to engage in, or attempt to engage in debt adjusting or debt settlement. If they do so, they would be guilty of a class 2 misdemeanor.
- Currently sits in Senate Rules Committee. This is a finance bill, and therefore, it did not have to make the crossover deadline.

**H584- Vet. Posttraumatic Stress/Mitigating Factor.**

- Provides that if a defendant has been diagnosed as suffering from PTSD as a result of his or her military service in one or more combat zones and is undergoing treatment for that condition, the Court can use this as a mitigating factor when sentencing. Requires documentary evidence to be submitted to the court to verify military service and PTSD diagnosis.
- Currently sits in Senate Rules Committee.

**H323- Military Readiness and Rural Resilience Act.**

- This act will incentivize buffering of military installations from incompatible development and protect floodplains in hurricane-disaster counties through the use of time-limited tax credits.
- Currently sits in House Finance Committee. Since this is a finance bill, it did not have to make the crossover deadline.

**H83- Eliminate Income Tax for Military Retirees.**

- This act would exclude military retirement pay from taxation for the retirement pay for a retired member of the Armed Forces who have served at least 20 years.
- Currently sits in Senate Rules Committee.

## Minutes from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Quality of Life Committee meeting

Tuesday, July 13, 2021

Page 4

### **S442- Funds for Veterans/HBOT.**

- Requires the Community Foundation of NC East, Inc., within funds provided in this act, to provide free hyperbaric oxygen therapy treatment to veterans who are residents of the state with a diagnosis of traumatic brain injury (TBI) or posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD).
- Currently sits in Senate Appropriations Committee. Since this bill has appropriations tied to it, it did not have to make the crossover deadline.

### **S621- NC Military Business Center Funds.**

- This bill would appropriate from the General Fund to the Community Colleges System Office \$250,000 in recurring funds for the 2021-2022 fiscal year in additional State funds to support the North Carolina Defense Cyber Office in the North Carolina Military Business Center.
- Currently sits in Senate Appropriations Committee. Since this bill has appropriations tied to it, it did not have to make the crossover deadline.

#### Discussion:

Kirk Warner said that Nebraska was now the 34th State to pass legislation for military pay tax exemption. Rep Cleveland said that as far as he knew, the General Assembly was not going to take that bill up this year. Something of that size would have to be in the budget but anything is possible. House Bill 297 is on the Senate floor today and it will be passed. He said that the State Level Military Liaison position had been put into the House budget by him. He does not think that the Governor will sign the budget. Kirk Warner said that it can't be passed if it is not there. He also said that there was some momentum for the special prosecutor for sexual assault but that will also take time.

Kirk Warner said that they have a Score Card Working Group and that is going well. The highlights from their meeting are that they think the data is dated and hopefully in July they will have some new data and hopefully could move the needle for our State. We will also be looking for the other Services to develop a score card. This could be a Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) type criteria. We also looked at the catchment areas and whether that needs to be honed-in a bit. We also talked about Portability of Licensure, National Board Certification, and transfer of certifications. Another topic was Pre-Kindergarten availability which seemed to be red/yellow. We want to focus on the red from the score card and move it in a positive direction. There was some discussion that we may need our own score card to help shape the federal score cards. It may be helpful to add or delete criteria that does not make sense. We are focusing mostly on the left side of the score card. On the right side we are better on that criteria but there are things that we can always improve on. We are looking at the criteria for Shaw Air Force Base as similar to Seymore Johnson Air Force Base and Pope. We are brainstorming and a healthy discussion from everyone.

Shevelle Godwin said that the MLO/SLO's have been talking about this topic. They were looking at the information and the Army did some of this in 2013. They also got an evaluation in 2015. She has gone to their Army Headquarters person, and they will be looking at this information again. That person will get back with them about how this will happen again in the future. Kirk Warner said that any information or assessments they can get, would be helpful.

## Minutes from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Quality of Life Committee meeting

Tuesday, July 13, 2021

Page 5

Kirk Warner said that they looked at the Graduation rate. They need to track the people. If someone graduates mid-year, who gets that graduation rate? Rep Cleveland said that if you have a student for over ½ a year, you should get that as part of your graduation rate. Jamie Livengood said that it will be counted against you if you are not tracking that student. There is an audit process. If you have some way of showing that the other school requested that students record, that will get that student off of your books. If that student did not go through the withdrawal process, and you have nothing come to your school from the gaining school, you can't remove them from your records. Rep Cleveland said that if the record keeping is not done properly, that will count against you. Jamie Livengood said yes. She said that she had become a detective to help her school and district track certain children that are military. Her district tries to communicate as much as possible to help with the audit process to get students no longer at a school off of the books. Kirk Warner asked about a military person who retired and moved back to their home state. What about their children. Rollie Sampson said that the process is the same. Rollie Sampson said that if the school system would accept the PCS order as proof that the student is leaving a school district, and going to another school district, they would not have to track students all across the world. The PCS or retirement orders should be accepted documents. Rep Cleveland asked who has to make that determination? Rollie Sampson said that this was a DPI matter. Shevelle Godwin said that this is a huge issue and needs to be resolved.

### **NC VIRTUAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS: CHRISTOPHER COLBY/ADAM RENFRO**

How We Support Military Families:

#### History:

- Established by the General Assembly to open no later than June 30, 2007
- Session Law 2006-66 (Section 7.16.(a-e))
- School year 2007-08 NCVPS enrollment was 17,325; current enrollment over 55,000
- Nation's second largest state-led virtual school

#### Who We Serve:

- Public Schools
- Charter Schools
- Special Schools
- Department of Defense Schools
- Bureau of Indian Affairs Schools
- Division of Juvenile Justice
- Home Schools
- Private Schools

#### NC Virtual Courses:

- Core Courses (Math, Science, English, and Social Studies)
- World Languages
- Middle School
- Arts & Electives
- Advanced Placement

**Minutes from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Quality of Life Committee meeting  
Tuesday, July 13, 2021**

**Page 6**

- Career & Technical Education
- Credit Recovery
- Occupational Course of Study

NC Virtual Teachers:

- 700+ Teachers per semester
- 64% Master's Degrees
- 43 % National Board Certified
- 100 % NC Highly Qualified & Licensed

NC Virtual Funding: NC Virtual Funding 101, Step by Step Guide.

Scenarios:

- Service Member with a PCS Date Mid-Semester
- Service Member PCS to a State with Different Graduation Requirements
- Others? Call us.

Questions?

Points of Contact:

Christopher Colby, District & School Liaison, NCVPS  
Adam Renfro, Outreach and Support Coordinator, NCVPS

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Chairman Warner asked if there were any public comments from anyone attending the meeting.

Topic for the NC Military Affairs Commission:

- NC Virtual School presentation
- Score Card update

Shevelle Godwin said they had an opportunity that she wanted to share with the committee:

Fayetteville State is providing numerous STEM camps for our Teens this summer and I wanted to make sure you are aware of this information. Fort Bragg School Liaison Officers are working with the UNITE Program to work with NASA, Third EYE Augmented Reality and Pope Army Airfield Public Affairs to bring in our Service Members. In addition, Dr. Connelly and her team will work with STARward which will be another opportunity for our students and teachers for the next two years.

The STARward STEM Expo will include...

1. Greetings from project partners Cumberland Co Schools, DoD STEM, & RTI International
2. Keynote talk by Dr. Bernard Harris – medical scientist and former astronaut who was the first African American to conduct a space walk
3. Presentation by DreamUp

**Minutes from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Quality of Life Committee meeting**  
**Tuesday, July 13, 2021**  
**Page 7**

4. Hands-on STEM challenge led by the NC Space Grant Ambassadors
5. Time to engage with space education experts
6. Time to learn more about the STARward STEM program

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Chairman Warner adjourned the meeting at 11:27pm.