



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND
IMCOM DIRECTORATE - TRAINING
1 KARKER STREET, MCGINNIS-WICKAM HALL
FORT BENNING, GEORGIA 31905-5000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF
AMIM-BEW-C

3 November 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR Garrison Commander

SUBJECT: Garrison Commander's Superintendents Roundtable Meeting Minutes

1. Garrison Commander's Superintendents Roundtable meeting convened 1400, Tuesday, 2 November 2021, in the MWR Headquarters Conference Room, Building 85.

2. Attendees:

COL Alexis Rivera	Garrison Commander
Mr. Ethan Branch	School Liaison Officer, CYS, DFMWR
Mr. Marcus DuBose	School Liaison Officer, CYS, DFMWR
Dr. David Lewis	Superintendent, Muscogee County School District
Ms. Shelia Baker	Assistant Superintendent, Harris County School District
Mr. Randy Wilkes	Superintendent, Phenix City Schools
Ms. Kenyada Heard	Principal, Chattahoochee County School District
Dr. Lisa Coleman	GA/AL Community Superintendent, DODEA Schools

3. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss critical and trending issues in local school districts that impact military connected students. The goal is to develop viable and sustainable partnerships that focus on problem identification, process improvement and solutions.

4 COL Rivera welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

a. COL Rivera provided an update concerning COVID and commended the districts on how they have handled the pandemic. Conversation of COVID quarantine guidelines and the impact the pandemic has had on student learning ensued. District representatives provided their quarantine guidelines and plans to address students learning loss. The installation/DODEA policy is an outlier with the COVID quarantine policy compared to off-post school districts. Some families are confused with how the installation policy compares to the off-post policies. In some situations, a DoDEA student may be required to quarantine up to 24 days while students in off-post schools may require quarantine of 3-10 days.

b. Each district currently provides additional support services for students who may be experiencing learning loss due to the pandemic.

AMIM-BEW-C

SUBJECT: Garrison Commander's Superintendents Roundtable Meeting Minutes

The supports include before and after school programs and interventions during the instructional day. The support programs will continue into next school year.

c. COL Rivera provided an update of the growth pattern of Fort Benning personnel. He reiterated that families desire to come to Fort Benning and the Chattahoochee Valley Region. According to surveys, Fort Benning is the fourth most requested Army installation.

d. The School Liaison Officers (SLO) provided updates concerning OPORD 21-183 and explained they will receive a roster of incoming and departing service members. This will enable them to make contact with more service members and Families prior to their arrival to or departure from Fort Benning.

e. COL River encouraged each school district to reach out to the SLO should they experience any issues with families turning in Impact Aid survey forms. All superintendents agreed on the financial importance of the Impact Aid program and appreciated command support.

f. Due to the current COVID environment, all school leaders agreed to continue suspending indoor Partners in Education (PIE) activities. The superintendents cited concerns over safety and expressed that the pandemic must improve before volunteers and guests are allowed to come back into the schools.

g. The SLO team inquired with each district about "out-of-district" transfer requests and changes to policy that may affect military Families. Each district reported no policy changes and as long as space is available and the transfer does not result in a hardship for the school they will continue to consider the requests.

h. All superintendents acknowledged the shortage of substitutes, teachers and support personnel affecting the nation. Mr. Wilkes and Dr. Lewis noted that while the shortages are affecting us locally, Fulton County, Georgia and Montgomery County, Alabama school districts are experiencing much more drastic shortages. Local districts are evaluating incentives to attract and retain quality staff.

i. COL Rivera reiterated his passion for EFMP families and students and offered to speak to school stakeholders regarding military life and EFMP family issues.

5. Each district was granted the opportunity to provide updates related to their schools.

AMIM-BEW-C

SUBJECT: Garrison Commander's Superintendents Roundtable Meeting Minutes

a. Ms. Baker provided updates for Harris County School District. The community is excited to have the new Harris County Carver Middle School, a state-of-the-art facility that will open for students next semester. Ms. Baker invited the Garrison Commander and the SLOs to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony and community open house on 4 November. Recently, the district elected to make masks optional for students and faculty. The district has partnered with New Horizons to expand social and emotional learning at their schools. Multi-tiered systems of support coordinators work with teachers at each location.

b. Dr. Lewis explained that the Muscogee County School District is using American Rescue Plan funds to help expand programs and services available to Families. In August 2023, a new state-of-the-art elementary school will open that will consolidate St. Mary's and Dawson Elementary Schools. He mentioned several building projects that are being completed using E-SPLOST funds. Several robotics competitions will occur throughout December and January. The Association of School Superintendents selected the Muscogee County School District as an observation site for its "personalized learning" program as a result of progress they have made since 2017.

c. Dr. Coleman briefed the summer academic skills program that DoDEA began offering to students last summer to help combat student learning loss and skill retention. She mentioned that Version 9 of the DoDEA COVID guidance is forthcoming from higher headquarters soon. The substitute shortage is ongoing and waiting to see how the federal vaccine mandate for federal employees impacts staff. She mentioned that all grades at Dexter Elementary School and Stowers Elementary showed improvement with Math and English Language Arts College and Career Readiness Standards assessments. Faith Middle School finished last school year with its boys soccer team in the semi-finals, the girls soccer team in the first round of the playoffs and the cross country team winning "The Shoe" award for the highest points over the entire season.

d. Mr. Wilkes reported 100 percent of students at Central High School are actively engaged in extracurricular activities at the school. There continues to be growing participation in Advanced Placement courses and opportunities for students to earn College and Career Ready indicators through multiple pathways. He reported that 98 percent of this year's graduating class has earned an indicator. Mr. Wilkes mentioned that families may be impacted by the Alabama Literacy Act if their child is not reading on grade level in grade 3 and above they may be retained. Facilities continue to be upgraded across the district. The Career Tech Annex for secondary students is being upgraded with automation, EMT equipment, and engineering labs.

e. Ms. Heard, representing Dr. Kristie Brooks, spoke of the positive growth Chattahoochee County School District is experiencing. Chattahoochee County Middle

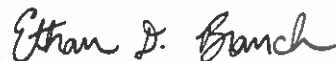
AMIM-BEW-C

SUBJECT: Garrison Commander's Superintendents Roundtable Meeting Minutes

High School is a 2020 recipient of the Military Flagship Award by the Georgia Department of Education. The high school graduation rate for last school year increased to 93.6 percent. Academically, the Chattahoochee County Education Center is in the top 30 percent of elementary schools in the state of Georgia. Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) activities are increasing in their schools and they hope to become STEM certified. The district has partnered with other agencies as a part of the Georgia Apex Program to focus on students mental health.

f. The School Liaison team thanked the school leaders for what they do for military families and reiterated that they could reach out to them with any issues that may arise. The School Liaison team continues to encourage military families to use the school chain of command when addressing educational issues.

6. The meeting adjourned at 1530.



ETHAN BRANCH
School Liaison Officer
CYS, DFMWR