

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Child & Youth Services (CYS) Schools Council Meeting Minutes (SCM),
23 September 2022

1. The Schools Council Meeting convened at 0900, chaired by LTC Gilberto Escobedo Fort Hood Garrison Executive Officer, at the Community Events Center, Fort Hood, Texas.

2. Attendees:

LTC Escobedo, Gilberto	Garrison Executive Officer
Dr. Craig, Peter	Director of DFMWR
Curtis, Sheila R.	Chief, Child & Youth Services
Martinez, Regina	Parent & Outreach Services Administrator
Dr. Hall, Bianca	CYS Lead Training Specialist
Collins, Sadie	Child Development Services Administrator
Davenport, Elizabeth	CYS School Liaison Officer
Jones, Theresa	CYS School Liaison Officer
Smith, Tina	CYS School Liaison Officer
Wood, Yana	CYS Administrative Support Assistant
Mahoney, Meloanie	Walker SAC Director
Cobaris, Lonzo	CYS Sports Assistant
Dixon, Summer	CYS Special Needs Director
Dr. Craft, John	Superintendent, Killeen ISD
Bradley, Megan	Deputy Superintendent, Killeen ISD
Dr. Peronto, Jan	Executive Director Special Education, KISD
Maya, Taina	Chief of Communications & Marketing, KISD
Turner, April	Parent Educator, KISD
Miller, Stephanie	Supervisory Clinical Social Worker, CRDAMC/KISD
Wilkerson, Angenet	Community Relations, KISD
Mark, Jsanean	Parent Educator, SPED, KISD
Windham, Sara	Special Education Director, Belton ISD
Spearman, Cassandra	Executive Director of Student Services, BISSD
Bailey, Jennifer	Executive Director Communications, BISSD
Dr. Burns, Joe	Superintendent, Copperas Cove ISD
Crawley, Amanda	Deputy Superintendent, CCISD
Spinetto, Nick	Director of Communications, Jarrell ISD
Adams, Lisa	Deputy Superintendent, Temple ISD
Aguayo, Michelle	Child & Family Behavioral Support, CRDAMC
Farrell, Tim	COO, Military Child Education Coalition
Bernabe, Jayne	Military Child Education Coalition
Barbina, Summer	Fort Hood Military Family Member Scholarship Fund

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Lawson, Tracy
Flowers-Brown
Streater-Moore, Leona
Smith, Towanna

Greene, Briana
Roland Steward
COL Gatlin, Tim
LTC Elison, Thomas
LTC Pearson, Sam
LTC Winkelmann, Jason
MAJ Williams, Shenice
MAJ Fatula, Tony
CSM Short, Jeremy
CSM Golden, Antonio
HHBN, III Corps
Operational Test Command
3-227 AHB
36th Engineer Brigade
III Corps
553rd BSSB
1st Cavalry Division
Divarty, ICD
DENTAC
166th Aviation Brigade
6-56 ADAR
SRO
3CR
178th MP Detachment
3SFAB
1-395 BEB
1MED BDE
1-5CAV

Military Family Life Counselor
Military Family Life Counselor Team Lead
EFMP Coordinator
Student HireAbility Navigator, Texas Workforce
Commision
Parent
FRSA, 3SFAB
Commander, Divarty, 1CD
BN Commander, HHBN
BN Commander, 6-56 ADAR/Divarty
Deputy Commander, 36th EN BDE
Chief Clinical Operations, DENTAC
XO, Divarty, 1CD
3-227 AHB
6-56 ADAR
Representative (2 Service Members)
Representative
Representative (2 Service Members)
Representative (2 Service Members)
Representative
Representative
Representative
Representative (3 Service Members)
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Representative

3. The meeting progressed as follows:

Welcome and Statements of Purpose. The Meeting opened with LTC Gilberto Escobedo welcoming attendees and thanking the school districts for taking care of children, not just military children, but all the children. He encouraged participants to ask questions and get them out on the table for discussion, stating it only gets better from here.

Ms. Theresa Jones introduced her CYS School Liaison Officer (SLO) partners, Ms. Tina Smith and Ms. Elizabeth Davenport, and presented information on the Partners in

Education (PIE) Process Chart. This begins with the Schools Council Meeting, where issues are collected and forwarded to the Working Groups. The SLOs then distribute the issues to one of the three Working Groups: Special Education, Student Success or Higher Education. The Working Groups meet after the SCM to discuss, collaborate and develop recommendations for issues presented. A member of the group then presents an overview of the recommendations at the annual Fort Hood Education Summit, held in February.

a. **Information**

(1) **School District Introductions.** Ms. Jones welcomed the school districts and gave each district time to introduce themselves and provide a slide presentation or video with information about the district.

a) Belton ISD (BISD). Ms. Cassandra Spearman, Executive Director of Student Services for Belton ISD, stated that BISD has experienced rapid growth, adding about 1,000 students since 2020. Over 100 students received accolades for college-level achievement as demonstrated by their performance on multiple Advanced Placement exams taken in May 2021. Every varsity athletic team advanced to post-season competition and New Tech High @Waskow became a stand-alone high school. BISD announced several new innovative programs in the 2021-2022 school year, including Cisco networking at Belton High School, an unmanned drone program at New Tech @Waskow, and an incubator program at Lake Belton High School. The district has made efforts to bring programs back to Belton that may not have been able to be sustained through COVID-19, as well as welcoming volunteers back and expanding the Watch D.O.G.S. program, which invites fathers and father-figures to volunteer on campus. BISD provides support for military Families through student to student programs, providing a 50% discount on transfer fees for active duty military Families, and showing military appreciation and recognition at events. Ms. Spearman stated the Adopt-A-School (AAS) program has been a tremendous support to the district, with Soldiers at campuses every day after last school year's tragedy from 7am to dismissal. They provided over 30 Soldiers every day, even attending graduation.

b) Copperas Cove ISD (CCISD). Dr. Joe Burns, Copperas Cove ISD Superintendent, shared a video presentation on the district. He stated that the district has new teachers matched up with mentors to support them. The Copperas Cove High School football team is doing very well and looks forward to celebrating Military Appreciation Week. He stated, that CCISD is small enough for students to have that sense of community, but large enough to offer many different programs. The video highlighted the amazing partnership the district has with Fort Hood and the AAS program.

c) Jarrell ISD (JISD). Mr. Nick Spinetto, Jarrell ISD Director of Communications, stated that Jarrell ISD is a small-town district with a lot of charm but is growing very

quickly, with 25% growth in just one year. During their new teacher academy, they welcomed over 80 new teachers. The district has increased benefits and added a retention stipend to assist with recruitment. The district is now covering the cost for all students to take the SAT and PSAT. The 2022-2023 school profile showcases the gains and improvements the district has experienced to help seniors with college applications. There are a number of bond projects underway to expand, including a new elementary school and high school, but expected to be complete in 2023. Mr. Spinetto highlighted the Adopt-A-School program and showed a spreadsheet which detailed the events and efforts made by the school.

d) Killeen ISD (KISD). Dr. John Craft, Killeen ISD Superintendent, shared a video presentation on the district. He talked about the Adopt-A-School partnership the district maintains with Fort Hood and how important it is for the schools and students. There have been additional Purple Star campuses added and KISD now has 20 Purple Star campuses. The district has added Military Connect Family Meetings to ensure Fort Hood Families receive vital information and have an opportunity to network. KISD has eliminated open campus lunches and added power hour lunches, with club and tutoring activities. They are working toward reengaging Families with a Pulse Committee. KISD has an app for parents to use, which is a one stop shop and allows parents to check grades, schedules, lunch balances and so much more.

e) Lampasas ISD (LISD). Mr. Warren Scott, Lampasas ISD Director of the Alternative Education Program, stated that Lampasas ISD is currently fully staffed. He shared a slide presentation with information for the district, including enrollment of over 3500 students at six campuses. Mr. Scott presented the reading program called the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, which provides free books to children age five and below that reside within the district. Parents can register online or at the Lampasas Library. Mr. Scott stated that Lampasas ISD welcomes military Families to the district. He thanked the Adopt-A-School program units, discussing how involved Fort Hood Soldiers have been in Lampasas schools.

f) Salado ISD (SISD). Mr. Ted Smith, Principal, Salado Middle School, showed a video about Salado ISD, a 4A district with 2,255 students. The district has the highest average 4A teacher salary in Central Texas. Salado is proud of the nine UIL academic state championships earned by students, as well as a 100% graduation rate. Mr. Smith said that Fort Hood Adopt-A-School Soldiers are very involved in their schools, even going on field trips and fishing trips with the kids, as well as helping them with their garden.

g) Temple ISD (TISD). Ms. Lisa Adams, Temple ISD Deputy Superintendent, shared a video presentation. Ms. Adams announced that Dr. Bobby Ott, Temple ISD Superintendent is a finalist for Top Superintendent of the Year. She stated Temple's ninth elementary school will open in 2024, although the district has experienced very little growth. Temple ISD started an initiative called Camp Extra, which has allowed

students extra time to close the gaps created by COVID-19. Over 400 students earned a certification last year in CTE programs. Temple ISD offers Wildcat Market, in which patrons can purchase items and receive services from students, giving them real world experience. The district also has a new STEM initiative, which partners with the community.

(2) **School Safety.** CPT Zachary Toler, 89th Military Police Brigade, stated there are officers which patrol the schools on post called School Resource Officers (SROs), who receive specialized training from the Texas School Based Law Enforcement (SBLE). They take reports, conduct investigations, and make apprehensions for offenses committed on Fort Hood campuses, and serve as liaisons between KISD/KISD Police and Fort Hood Directorate of Emergency Services. CPT Toler described the process of reporting a parent concern to law enforcement. He discussed the Fort Hood Juvenile Justice System, stating that after a law enforcement investigation, the Special Assistant United States Attorney (SAUSA) will review and decide if a case moves forward to federal court. This is possible for serious offenses, as Fort Hood is a military installation. CPT Toler stated that bullying is taken very seriously by KISD and Fort Hood. He presented a slide to compare the similarities between the Texas Education Code on Bullying and the Texas Penal Code on Harassment. He encouraged parents to talk to students about bullying and how repeated behaviors, including social media, can turn into criminal charges. The Crisis Response Intervention Team (CRIT) responds to mental health calls on the installation involving Family members, civilians and children. They work to deescalate the scene and navigate the person in crisis away from the criminal justice process, when appropriate. CPT Toler stated that the Provost Marshall is looking to develop the SRP program Army-wide.

(3) **Texas Education Agency (TEA) Update.** Dr. Jimmy Bowser, Director Highly Mobile, At Risk Student Programs, provided updates on the TEA Military-Connected Student Program. Texas is home to 15 active-duty military installations and over 176,000 school-age military dependents. These students are faced with numerous transitions during their formative years. On average, military children move three times more often than their civilian peers. Texas is required to collect data on military-connected students, which is reported twice a year. Dr. Bowser discussed the Purple Star Campus Designation, which recognizes campuses for demonstrating support and commitment to meeting the unique needs of military-connected students and their Families. Criteria includes providing a campus-based military liaison, a webpage for military-connected Families, student led campus transition program, and participation in at least one of three initiatives to support military students and Families. Designation lasts two years.

(4) **Tutor.com.** Ms. Kami Lum, Tutor.com Client Services Manager, Military and Government Programs, presented an overview of Tutor.com for military and DoD Families. The program is funded by DoD and provides online, on-demand, live support for over 150 academic subjects, at all skill levels. It is safe, anonymous and available 24

hours a day, seven days a week. Eligible students include service members (Active Duty, Reserve, National Guard, Wounded Warrior and Survivors of those Killed in Action), children (both school age and college) and spouses of active duty military, DoD civilians, students attending schools operated by DoDEA, Cadets in DoD Service Academies, and Cadets in ROTC and NROTC programs. The wait time averages one to five minutes, and the average session is typically 20-30 minutes. To sign up, go to www.tutor.com/military, certify eligibility and create an account for each eligible student. The program can also assist with test preparation, essay writing and college preparation. Killeen ISD has not integrated Tutor.com in Clever, making it available to all Killeen ISD students.

(5) **Youth Sponsorship Program.** Ms. Elizabeth Davenport, School Liaison Officer, stated that the Secretary of Defense requires that each military installation offer a youth sponsorship program to facilitate the integration of military-connected students into their new surroundings when moving to that installation. The program is led by youths and provides new students with a sense of belonging. Participating students build resilience, have reduced risk behavior, reduced stress, and increase school achievement. There are currently 91 youth trained to be youth sponsors.

(6) **Education Services Center.** Ms. Sheri Buono, Education Services Officer, stated the Education Services sees approximately 8,000 Soldiers per month. She announced that an enhanced ArmyIgnitED launched last month with a number of improvements, which has been hugely successful. There has been a change to the law in regard to the GI Bill, which will go into effect in January 2023. Soldiers now have 120 days to opt out of the program, which requires them to contribute \$1,200. If they do not opt out within 120 days, they will be automatically enrolled. Spouses are also eligible to receive services at the Education Services Center. The Fort Hood graduation ceremony will be held on 17 November 2022 at 1:00 pm.

(7) **Youth Environmental Ambassadors (YEA!) Program.** Ms. Christine Luciano, DPW Environmental Outreach Coordinator, described the YEA! Program as a regional, collaborative partnership to empower youth to make a meaningful difference within their school's footprint and community and lead in sustainability efforts in the Central Texas region. She provided a list of upcoming events, including the Greater Fort Hood Area Recycle Bowl from 15 November – 15 December 2022 and the Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off in April 2023.

(8) **Adopt-A-School (AAS) Program.** Ms. Tina Smith, School Liaison Officer, discussed the purpose and the impact of the AAS program to schools and students. She introduced SGT Austin Brees, HHBN III Corps and the unit's AAS point of contact for Eastern Hills Middle School. SGT Brees stated that he lost his father at a young age and had a mentor, who was active duty, and had a tremendous impact on him, which is the reason he is a Soldier today. SGT Brees talked about his unit's involvement with the middle school and how they have rekindled the relationship after a one year gap due to

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deployment. The unit participated in field day, a back to school donation drive and a holiday toy drive. They are planning an AAS Family Day, a student luncheon for those who have excelled and progressed in their schoolwork, a staff/volunteer meet and greet, trunk or treat, and inviting Eastern Hills Middle School to III Corps Headquarters for a HHBN III Corps led field day.

(9) **Open Forum.** Ms. Summer Barbina presented information on the Fort Hood Military Family Member Scholarship Fund, which will open for applications in mid-November. Mr. Tim Ferrell, Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC), introduced himself and talked about the partnership between MCEC and Fort Hood, as well as with the School Liaison Office.

4. Closing Remarks. LTC Escobedo thanked participants for attending and talked about the importance of sharing the information from the meeting.

5. Minutes prepared by Ms. Regina Martinez, Parent & Outreach Services Administrator, Child & Youth Services.

SHEILA R. CURTIS
Chief
Child & Youth Services