

MEETING/PROJECT NAME:

Montana Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

DATE OF MEETING: December 3, 2019 TIME: 3:05 PM – 4:19 PM

LOCATION: Phone Conference

MEETING OBJECTIVE: Business Meeting

PRESIDER: Jule Walker Deputy Superintendent, Montana Office of Public Instruction, and BG (R) Hal Stearns, Montana Compact Commissioner

MINUTES PREPARED BY: Virginia Díaz, Administrative Clerk, Montana Office of Public Instruction

ATTENDEES

PRESENT COUNCIL MEMBERS

BG (R) Hal Stearns, Compact Commissioner
Representative Edward Buttrey
Tom Moore, Great Falls Public Schools Superintendent
Marjorie Hahn, Malmstrom Air Force Base
CPT Michelle Bogden, Montana National Guard
Mark Beckman, Montana High School Association

ABSENT COUNCIL MEMBERS

Elsie Arntzen, OPI Superintendent

PRESENT INVITED GUESTS

Don Kaminar, MIC3 Commission Chair
Brian Garrett, MIC3 Utah State Council Member
Dr. Kathleen Berg, National Guard and Reserve Taskforce Chair

AGENDA AND NOTES, DISCUSSIONS, ISSUES (OPEN PRESENTATIONS)

TOPICS AND DISCUSSIONS

Meeting Begins: 3:05 pm

Approval of May 28, 2019 Minutes

- Motion to approve minutes from May 28, 2019 meeting by Deputy Superintendent Jule Walker.
- 1st by Representative Ed Buttrey.
- 2nd by Superintendent Tom Moore.
- Minutes approved - All in favor.

National Meeting & Presentations

- BG (R) Commissioner Stearns was unable to attend the October 22-24, 2019 MIC3 Annual Business Meeting (ABM) in Colorado Springs.
- Superintendent Arntzen attended the ABM as a proxy for BG (R) Commissioner Stearns
 - [Annual Business Meeting Notes from Superintendent Arntzen.](#)

- Marjorie Hahn also attended the ABM
 - First time School Liaisons attended the ABM as a group; they are working closely together to ensure continuity in procedures when military families move from one State to another and in serving all military families.
- BG (R) Commissioner Stearns confirmed a misunderstanding of call-in information for this State Council meeting. He and the following attendees used the originally given phone call information from the meeting agenda: BG (R) Dr. Kathleen Berg - National Guard and Reserve Taskforce Chair, Mark Beckman, Captain Michelle Bogden – Montana Army National Guard, Lindsey Dablow – MIC3 Operations and Training Associate
 - The 2020 ABM will be in Little Rock, Arkansas the 3rd week of October. BG (R) Commissioner Stearns has often heard that they would love for Montana to invite the ABM to be hosted in Montana. Perhaps Glacier or Yellowstone.
 - Purple Star Award for communities – What can we do to say, “Thank You” to various communities, students and leaders? Invite the local press for coverage on radio, television and newspaper.
 - ✓ BG (R) Commissioner Stearns will provide information to Superintendent Arntzen for distribution to the Council members
 - Refer to [Montana Code Annotated 20-1-230](#) with any questions about the Compact
 - The MIC3 Executive Committee has commissioned the National Guard and Reserve Task Force (NGRTF) under the leadership of BG (R), Dr. Kathleen Berg, MIC3 Hawai'i State Compact Commissioner.
 - ✓ The NGRTF will collect and analyze data to make a recommendation as to whether children of Reserve component service members need the protections of the Compact.
 - ✓ The NGRTF's initial report will be due in April 2020
 - State Council dues for Montana will stay the same because of the smaller military presence in Montana. There are 1,543 military dependents who are within the active duty, Guard and Reserve components in Montana.
 - Superintendent Tom Moore asked how many military children are in the Guard and Reserve families to see what the increase will be if the Compact moves to include those families in the Compact protections. The OPI will verify the data.

Discuss including the National Guard & Reserve members in the MIC3 Compact

- Brian Garrett
 - Utah is working with the MIC3 National Office to move forward on including all military families in the protections of the Compact
 - ✓ [Letter from The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States](#)
 - ✓ [Letter from The Commander of the Air Force Reserve and four-star Chief of the National Guard Bureau](#)
- Commissioner Don Kaminar
 - Serving as the Arkansas State Compact Commissioner and the MIC3 National Chair
 - When the Interstate Compact was implemented around 2003, Reserve component soldiers typically didn't mobilize much and when they did, they didn't go overseas much.
 - Currently, there are more Reserve component soldiers in all branches of the military, both Federal and State, being mobilized for service overseas and within the United States.

- One principal question that the NGRTF is looking to answer is: Do the families of the Reserve component service members need the protections of the Compact as the families of active duty service members do?
- CAUTION: If member States alter the Compact statute on their own in any direction, there is always the possibility of the Compact collapsing in which case no military children are served at all.
- Several States have adopted language within their State's code but outside of the Compact statute to extend those same protections to Reserve family members.
- At present the National Commission is not wanting to follow through with a lawsuit against the State of Utah to enforce and uphold the Compact. They are awaiting the results from the NGRTF to see which is the way to solve the need to include Reserve family members under the protections of the Compact without bringing more States into conflict with the Compact.

Other Business

- Possible regional meetings with, e.g., Wyoming, Idaho, North Dakota, South Dakota, where Officer Candidate Schools are going toward a regional type of program.
- Representative Buttrey and Superintendent Moore expressed interest in regional training due to military families transferring between missile bases and the need for a smoother transition for families.
 - At a Military Child Coalition Conference in Washington, D.C., Superintendent Moore participated in a subgroup task force including superintendents and school district officials from some of the strategic missile bases in the western United States with an attempt to formalize some type of structure so that students' transitions could be expedited. Some networking ideas resulting from this subgroup task force were: setting up some kind of database or data sharing, and more regular conversations and training with each other.
 - BG (R) Commissioner Stearns suggested the next State Council meeting be in Helena at the National Guard facility, inviting the Adjutant General, in order to pursue more collaboration and networking between bases in the western United States and learn if some kind of funding structure is needed to bring those networks together and further help families who are moving between bases and sharing students in common.
- The OPI will follow-up to collect Arkansas' language that was used as a companion to the Compact statute and share that document with the Council.
- [Utah Compact statute](#). Notice definition change under Article II – Definitions (1)(a).
- The OPI will seek out the following data and share results with the Council:
 - How many total military families within all branches of the military are in Montana.
 - How many military Reserve component families are in Montana.
 - Will the current dues increase be appropriated as a separate line item within the OPI's budget?

End of Meeting: 4:19 pm