

New York State Interstate Compact Council

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 14, 2020

10:00 AM – 12:00 AM

Council Members Participating (via Zoom): Debra Jackson (NYS Commissioner), Dr. Frank Sheboy, COL Mike Yankovich, Lisa Beatha, Wendy O’Sullivan, Melissa Montague, Heather Evangelista, Marybeth Casey, Robert Conway, Kristen Suatoni Jadin, Melissa Pandolf, Michi Carl. *Matt Rogers ^{*Cameo*}.

1. Commissioner Debra Jackson welcomed participants and called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. She asked all to introduce themselves.
2. Commissioner Jackson asked participants for “plus/delta” feedback from the previous Council meeting. Participants shared; Nice not have to drive to Albany, Rich conversation despite zoom format.
3. Commissioner Jackson shared the minutes of the previous Council meeting. Dr. Frank Sheboy made a motion to approve the minutes, and Bob Conway seconded the motion. All voting members were in favor of approving the minutes.
4. Dr. Jackson discussed the current open vacancies on the Council, specifically the long wait pending approval from the Governor’s office. Dr. Jackson continues to reach out to the Appointee Office, requests input from council members to expedite this process. Frank will reach out to Legislators, Marybeth’s senior deputy (John) has a weekly meeting with the Governor’s office and she will ask him to inquire. Bob added that COVID has had a profound effect on how the state agencies are processing, this may be a contributing factor and he will inquire.
5. Commissioner Jackson shared that her ethics documentation was recently audited, take away is that this submission is being closely reviewed.
6. Commissioner Jackson shared the statues of Proposed Addition of Section 80-5.28m creating a Transitional J Certificate for Spouses of full-time Active Duty (license reciprocity for military spouses who hold teaching certificates from other states). This is anticipated to be in effect by 4 November. Marybeth will provide the Field Memo once available. Recommended that the council thank the Board of Regents (oversees higher education), via the public registrar. Marybeth will also convey the thanks of the council.
7. Commissioner Jackson provided highlights of the 2020 MIC3 Annual Business Meeting: Racial equity issues military face as they transition; MIC3 is down to two employees; MIC3 finance and budgetary updates including the KERS update (Kentucky Employee Retirement System); MIC3 launched a new website with new links; Compliance reporting update, NY has submitted the 2020 end of year report, code of conduct form, conflict of interest form and posted state council meetings. Most states are in compliance while a few are out of compliance, (Indiana, Iowa, Mississippi, and Texas).

8. Commissioner Jackson informed the council that NYS has yet to pay FY 2021 MIC3 dues \$11,936.00 as all payments not related to COVID are currently on hold. Current dues FY 2022: \$11,421.00, which is \$1.15 per child. The reduction of dues is due to the decreased number of military family members in the state.
9. Commissioner Jackson asks council participants to share concerns from the field.
 - Heather shares that students are being asked to take Regents exams that were previously waived/considered in lieu of with documentation from the sending state/school principal. Questioning why this is occurring, adding that the student/s took the course work some time ago and current score could prevent them from meeting honors eligibility. Marybeth adds that with the June Regents cancelled, new criteria was implemented (2 exams vs 3 exams). Melissa adds that she will provide the FAQ's pertaining to this, to the council. Frank stated he will send to Chiefs Group.
 - Marybeth asks if due to COVID mobility/rate and the rules for exemption regarding earning credit in course/s – was there any difficulty with exceptions for students arriving in April.
 - Marybeth states there is still no decision regarding administration of the 2020-21 Regents. Concerned about the many families/students currently choosing to homeschool and getting information to them. If they are not registered/enrolled in a public school, they will be unable to receive Regent's credit.
 - Wendy provides an overview of an incoming student unable to participate in NYSSMA all-state competitions. As NYSSMA is an independent professional organization the Compact is not applicable. Marybeth has a staff member that liaisons to these boards, will pursue through this individual. Kristin is asked if the Athletic Association has any connection to the Music Association, she states they are separate but that she would like the NYSSMA contact as she has awards from her organization she would like to share. Dr. Jackson will reach out again to NYSSMA and contact the president Dr. David Brown regarding the eligibility status of military students transferring to NYS who are interested in auditioning for all-state band and chorus.
10. Commissioner Jackson provides an overview of the Annual Business meeting proposal to include NG/Reservist in MIC3 eligibility. Bob provides an insight into Title 10 (activated) and Title 32 (Active Duty Equivalent). Mike provides additional information regarding NG/Reserves to include the possibility that they may relocate for a career/rank enhancing position. Lisa provides insight to the NG/Reserves she works with, the get "called up" for national disasters, racial unrest and so forth – sometimes both parents. Dr. Jackson is awaiting the written proposal provided at the Annual Business Meeting and will share with the council once in hand. Bob adds that there are currently 16,000 Army/Air NG, 10,000 Army and 6,000 Air. There are 5,000 Title 32 full time Federal technicians.

11. Commissioner Jackson states Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) advocates for all states to pursue Purple Star State initiative. Wendy elaborates on the process and oversight as she was a SLO in VA prior to NY and VA implemented the Purple Star initiative. Wendy states highlighting Month of the Military Child (April) would be well received. Marybeth asks Melissa to share the SED Staying Connected Outreach program, suggests SED launch a similar program for schools that serve military students to highlight stories/programs. Suggest this go live in April, month of the Military Child. Dr. Jackson will send information to Melissa to assist in this initiative.
12. Dr. Jackson asks if there are any "Parking Lot" items to discuss. Bob Conway states he is working on a draft Code of Conduct for appointed members and those associated with the Council to comply with NYS law.
13. Commissioner Jackson reminded the Council that our next scheduled meeting is 7 April, 2021, but that an additional meeting can be added if necessary.
14. Commissioner Jackson asked members to share thoughts about what worked in this meeting, although zoom is convenient and effective, in person provides additional conversation and dialogue.
15. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00p.m.