

New York Military Interstate Compact Council

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday October 18, 2023

10:30AM – 2:00PM

Council Members Participating: Debra Jackson, Stephen Todd, Troy Decker, Sonya Draught, Marybeth Casey, Michael McElduff, Frank Sheboy, Diana Pasterchick, Robin Banks, Lisa Beatha, Carin Mogavero, Melissa Montague, Heather Evangelista, Wendy O’Sullivan (All Present). Kevin Getnick (Excused).

1. Dr. Debra Jackson called the meeting to order at 10:40.

2. Dr. Jackson welcomed 3 new council members to include, 1. Sonya Draught, Chief Specialist, US Army Garrison, Fort Drum, 2. Robin Banks, SLO, Fort Drum and 3. Carin Mogavero, SLO

3. Dr. Jackson asked the entire group to introduce themselves. After all introductions, there was a question asked about the appointment process. Dr. Jackson gave a brief explanation about the process in appointing NY MIC3 members and the difference in voting members and open seats. As of this meeting date there is one appointment pending.

4. Old Business:

a) Dr. Jackson addressed the importance of completing the JCOPE courses and that she is responsible for regular reporting. Heather Evangelista advised the group that there have been issues getting into the Ethics training. Dr. Jackson will look into the problem and report back to the group.

b) Dr. Jackson advised that New York state will not be moving forward on the technical amendment change discussed at the March 2023 meeting.

c) Dues: NYSED will pick up dues cost. MIC3 will let council know when check is received. Group discussed FY2025 Proposed Dues document. It was agreed that that the dues total should remain the same due to expected student numbers.

d) Compact 101/102 Training: The group reiterated the need for school personnel to understand the Compact. Robin Banks and Wendy O’Sullivan mentioned the importance of parent education. Robin asked how more parents could be reached and informed about the training. Dr. Jackson advised that she would forward all new training messages to the group as an FYI.

e) The council addressed outreach to NYS organizations. Troy Decker and Heather Evangelista suggested reaching out to Kyle Belokopitsky, Executive Director NYS PTA.

Troy also shared that Kyle Fairbairn would like to create a partnership with NYS, he already provides support to MISA districts in NYS. The council agreed to invite Kyle to an upcoming MIC3 meeting to possibly be held at Ft. Drum or West Point.

Diana Pasterchick will research a Fort Hamilton contact to further extend our outreach.

f) NAFIS/MISA 2023: Troy Decker discussed revised NAFIS training as well as pushback from military parents who do not feel supported. Dr. Jackson will bring those concerns to the ABM conference as well as work on website messaging that the council is supportive of parent with special needs children.

5. New Business:

a) End of Course Exam/Attestation Letter: In reference to the covered requirements for graduation and diploma, Melissa Montague spoke about the change in the use of the word “exam” to “assessment. Updates are reflected in the Sample Template: Exam Equivalent Attestation Letter for Out of State Principals as well as the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children FAQ and a FAQ related to alternative measures of proficiency/mastery could be proposed by the council.

Graduation Requirements: This summer, the Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages approved additional Pathway Assessments in World Languages which more than doubled the number of languages students can use to fulfill the +1 pathway requirement.

In July, a formal opinion of counsel was released related to providing FAPE to students with disabilities through the end of the school year in which students with disabilities turn 22. Reference: <https://www.counsel.nysed.gov/sites/counsel/files/242.pdf>

The Department created a webpage for all of the frequently asked questions related to the current graduation requirements. Reference: <https://www.nysed.gov/curriculum-instruction/frequently-asked-questions-about-nys-graduation-requirements>

Reminders: While special appeals only apply to Regents Exams taken during one of the five administration periods (June/August 2022, January/June/August 2023), students who took a Regents Exam during one of those administration periods may continue to utilize the process until they are eligible for graduation.

6. Roundtable Discussion:

- a) Dr. Jackson will be attending ABM, discussions will include, dues increase, meeting every other year , technical amendment, and rules adoptions.
- b) Dr. Jackson acknowledged an award she received, a Department of Defense Certificate of Appreciation, issued by the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, received September 2023. She thanked the council members for their efforts as they support all the work that NYS accomplishes for military youth.

Next Meetings:

Spring- April 3, 2024, and Fall- October 9, 2024 (ABM Conference 16-17 Oct)

Respectfully submitted by Diana Pasterchick