

Military Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

Florida Council Meeting Notes

April 14, 2023

9:00 am ET

Microsoft Teams meeting

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-teams/join-a-meeting?rtc=1>

Meeting ID: 280 875 134 026

Passcode: FcbQs4

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
9:00-9:05	Open <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roll Call Call for Approval of Minutes from the January 13, 2023, meeting 	Damera Hopkins, School Counseling Consultant/Military Lead Contact Dr. Chris Russell, Senior Educational Program Director
9:05-9:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome 	Dr. Peggy Aune, Vice Chancellor, Strategic Improvement
9:10-9:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislative Updates 	Cory Dowd, Legislative Affairs Director
9:15-9:25	Message from the Compact Commissioner <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on Education Liaison Replacement Nominees 	Capt. Bob Buehn, Commissioner, Florida Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3)
9:25-9:30	Month of the Military Child/"Purple Up" Day Reminder	Damera Hopkins
9:30-9:35	Purple Star Teacher Leadership Project Overview	Abbey Stewart, Chief, Bureau of Educator Recruitment, Development and Retention
9:35-9:40	Updates from the National Office	Cherise Imai, MIC3 Executive Director
9:40-9:55	Updates from School Liaison Officers	
9:55-10:00	Other Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Comments/Questions 	
Future Meeting Dates for 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> July 14 October 13 		

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Compact Council Members	1-888-585-9008 Passcode 568005294 then #
Compact Commissioner Capt. (Ret.) Bob Buehn	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not in Attendance <input type="checkbox"/>
Superintendent of district with highest percentage of per capita Steve Horton – Designee	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not in Attendance <input type="checkbox"/>
Family Ed Liaison	Present <input type="checkbox"/> Not in Attendance <input type="checkbox"/>
Representative from Military Installation Elaine LaJeunesse	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not in Attendance <input type="checkbox"/>
MIC3 Executive Director Cherise Imai	Present <input type="checkbox"/> Not in Attendance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Representative from Speaker of House Allison Liby-Schoonover	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not in Attendance <input type="checkbox"/>
Representative from President of Senate Danny Burgess	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not in Attendance <input type="checkbox"/>
Representative from the Dept. of Defense RDML Wesley McCall	Present <input type="checkbox"/> Not in Attendance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ex-officio Member from Florida High School Athletic Association Jordanne Stark	Present <input type="checkbox"/> Not in Attendance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Representative from the Florida Department of Education Damera Hopkins, Student Support Services	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not in Attendance <input type="checkbox"/>

School Liaison Officers		
NAS Whiting Field	Dawn Kaunike	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not in Attendance <input type="checkbox"/>
NAS Pensacola	Carissa Bergosh	Present <input type="checkbox"/> Not in Attendance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NSA Panama City	Erin Pickard	Present <input type="checkbox"/> Not in Attendance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NAS Jacksonville	Teri Wanamaker	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not in Attendance <input type="checkbox"/>
NS Mayport	Sharon Kasica	Present <input type="checkbox"/> Not in Attendance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NAS Key West	Dawn Mills	Present <input type="checkbox"/> Not in Attendance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Region	Michele Taylor	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not in Attendance <input type="checkbox"/>
Hurlburt Field	Lacy Allen	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not in Attendance <input type="checkbox"/>
Patrick Space Force	Susan Clark	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not in Attendance <input type="checkbox"/>
Tyndall AFB	Mallory Gross	Present <input type="checkbox"/> Not in Attendance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Eglin AFB	Elaine LaJeunesse	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not in Attendance <input type="checkbox"/>
McDill AFB	Venetia Waters	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not in Attendance <input type="checkbox"/>
School Liaison, USAG Miami	Shunta Balance	Present <input type="checkbox"/> Not in Attendance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NAF Southcom USAG	Claudette Mohn	Present <input type="checkbox"/> Not in Attendance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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Additional Attendees	
Dr. Peggy Aune	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not in Attendance <input type="checkbox"/>
Jessica Brattain	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not in Attendance <input type="checkbox"/>
Andrew Weatherill	Present <input type="checkbox"/> Not in Attendance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Chris Russell	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not in Attendance <input type="checkbox"/>
Andria Cole	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not in Attendance <input type="checkbox"/>
Cory Dowd, Legislative Affairs Director	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not in Attendance <input type="checkbox"/>
Keenen Vernon, Deputy Legislative Affairs Director	Present <input type="checkbox"/> Not in Attendance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Abby Stewart	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not in Attendance <input type="checkbox"/>
Terry Stoops	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not in Attendance <input type="checkbox"/>
Katie Milazzo	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not in Attendance <input type="checkbox"/>
Kim Brumage	Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not in Attendance <input type="checkbox"/>

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9:00-9:05	Open Roll Call	Damera Hopkins, School Counseling Consultant/Military Lead Contact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roll Call was taken by Damera Hopkins as attendees joined the meeting. 		
9:05-9:10	Welcome and Review of the Agenda	Dr. Peggy Aune, Vice Chancellor, Strategic Improvement, Florida Department of Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Aune reviewed the agenda, which was shared via the meeting invitation. Dr. Aune stated that an update on the military liaison nominees would be provided to the Council prior to the next meeting in July is available. 		
9:10-9:20	Message from Compact Commissioner	Capt. Bob Buehn, Commissioner, Florida Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioner Buehn shared that he liked the video conference format and thanked everyone for being flexible with moving the meeting to 9:00am so that he could attend the inauguration of the University of North Florida's new president at 10:00am. Commissioner Buehn recognized Jacob Oliva, now Secretary of Education for the State of Arkansas, and Dan Kamenar, immediate past chair of the MIC3 executive committee. A photo of Secretary Oliva receiving an award citation and coin from MIC3 for his service in Florida with Post Chair Kamenar was shared via the video conference. Commissioner Buehn acknowledged Senator Danny Burgess in attendance. Senator Burgess shared his appreciation for the opportunity to attend and support military families. Commissioner Buehn stated that April is the Month of the Military Child and that Monday, at the University of North Florida, he and his colleagues will be wearing the color purple. Also, on April 19th, there will be a military breakfast at UNF. 		
9:20-9:25	Month of the Military Child/"Purple Up" Day Reminder	Damera Hopkins
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Hopkins shared information about "Purple Up" Day being recognized on April 19. She explained the meaning behind the color purple and how it symbolizes all branches of the military. For additional information, please visit https://mic3.net/motmc. 		
9:25-9:35	Purple Star Teacher Leadership Project Overview	Abbey Stewart, Chief, Bureau of Educator Recruitment, Development and Retention
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chief Stewart shared information about the Purple Star Teacher Leadership Program. The Purple Star Teacher Leadership Program builds on legislation signed earlier this year to allow veterans with four years of military experience and an associate degree to obtain a five-year temporary teaching certificate while they work towards earning a bachelor's degree. Through the program, schools in Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Escambia and Walton counties will actively recruit veterans to become teachers and then help them earn their certification directly from the school without having to experience any delays from the Department of Education (DOE). The program will also connect veterans with opportunities to finish their schooling at nearby colleges, getting veterans experience in the classroom and collaborating veterans with mentor-teachers. In early April, the program brought the four counties together and selected team members to participate in the first pilot program. They were on the campus of Northwest Florida State College and hosted about 35 participants from the four counties, mostly instructional coaches. Learn more about the Military Veterans Certification Pathway here. 		

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- Ms. LaJeunesse wanted a better understanding of the Purple Star Schools. Lacy Allen shared perspective regarding the application process and a need for more documentation of a school meeting the criteria.
 - Dr. Aune shared that she will follow up with Andria Cole, Bureau Chief of Family and Community Outreach, which supports the Purple Star Schools of Distinction Program. Chief Cole can schedule a follow up call to hear more ways we can support the process.
- Ms. Allen wanted to know how she and other liaisons could engage to get more information on this pilot program in the panhandle area to be able to communicate with families and command teams.
 - Chief Stewart asked Ms. Allen to provide her contact information and schedule a time to connect with her.
 - Dr. Aune shared that a follow-up email will go out with the contact information of the presenters today.

9:35-9:45

Legislative Updates

**Cory Dowd, Legislative Affairs
Director**

- Director Dowd shared that Governor DeSantis signed House Bill (HB) 1, which is a large expansion of school choice programs. HB 1 expands educational choice and opportunity for Florida families, supports public schools by reducing state regulations, and benefits teachers by removing barriers to certification. The changes made by HB 1 effectively makes every student in the state eligible to receive this scholarship.
- Other updates included HB 1125 and HB 1035.
- Governor DeSantis announced last August a new program called The Heroes in the Classroom. This is a recruitment initiative to get veterans and retired first responders into the classroom to teach. It would pay a \$4,000 bonus to new teachers or veterans who decide to join the teaching profession, and an additional \$1,000 bonus if the teacher decides to teach in a subject area of the state with high demand.

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9:45-9:50	Updates from the National Office	Lindsey Dablow, MIC3 Operations & Training Associate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cherise Imai was unable to attend the meeting so Lindsey Dablow shared updates from the national office in Director Imai place. • An initiative to update the statutes in every state to define uniformed services or armed forces to include Space Force and the Commission or MIC. The legal advisory stated Space Force is already included in the Compact statute due to it being a part of the Air Force. The language in the dealer's proposal does not differentiate between the Compact statute and other state statutes, so they are currently working with the newly appointed director of the SLOs to educate them on the Commission's process and then determine a way to move forward on that language. The National Office recently assisted two states on legislation that conflicts with the Compact statute. HB 1929 in Virginia Legislature is an external statute that references Virginia's Compact statute and seeks to extend the protections of the Compact to members of foreign services and civilian federal employees. However, the Compact specifically states that federal civilian employees cannot be covered by the Compact. You can do externally, but you cannot reference the Compact. So headquarters has worked with Virginia's Commissioner designee, Dan Dunham. The National Office has also worked with Arkansas Commissioner, Don Kamenar, to correct Senate Bill 387, which sought to amend the Arkansas Compact Statute to include the National Guard Reserve under Title 10 and Title 42 orders. • The Commission continues to offer monthly Compact 101 trainings virtually as well as in person. Attendees earn a certificate of completion following the training and can use those to support their schools application for the Purple Star Award. Ms. Dablow shared her appreciation to Superintendent Deputy Horton from Okaloosa on the call, sharing that his district has completed at least four to five trainings within this fiscal year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Upcoming trainings and webinars can be found on MIC3 website https://mic3.net/training-resources. • Commissioner Buehn encouraged everybody to promote the training. 		
9:50-10:00	Update from School Liaison Officers	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elaine LaJeunesse stated that the Air Force has launched a new program for military families. This program is for families who are in the exceptional family member program and can receive legal assistance in any IEP meetings within the school. • Ms. LaJeunesse shared her engagement with districts and shared concerns related to military family transitions. Elaine shared that districts may require additional training on the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Ms. LaJeunesse shared concerns about the need for more support for military families from school districts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr. Aune acknowledged the attendance of Jessica Brattain, Chief of the Bureau of Exceptional Student Education and Student Services. Jessica's office will follow up with Elaine to get more information. ▪ Steve Horton, Deputy Superintendent for the Okaloosa County School District, responded to Ms. LaJeunesse's comment regarding supports for military families. 		
10:55-11:00	Other Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Comments /Questions • Upcoming Meeting Planning 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upcoming meeting planning: July 14 and October 13 at 10:00am. A suggestion was made to have telephone conference calls along with the Microsoft Teams meetings going forward to allow for more attendance options. • The public was given an opportunity to join the call. No public comments were submitted. <p>Meeting adjourned.</p>		