

**District of Columbia (DC) State Council Annual Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, June 12, 2023**  
**11:00 AM – 12:00 PM EST**

Members Present

- Clara Botstein, MIC3 DC Commissioner and Director of Legislative Affairs, Office of the Deputy Mayor of Education
- Nakita Fowler, Parent Representative
- Horace Franklin, Regional Liaison, Navy District Washington
- Andrew Gall, Deputy Chief of Staff, Legislative Affairs and Policy, Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE)
- Dannelle Gibbs, Support Coordinator, Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling (JBAB)
- Dr. Christina Grant, State Superintendent of Education, OSSE
- Alonso Hay, School Liaison, JBAB
- Claudia Umana, Intergovernmental Affairs, DC Public Schools (DCPS)
- Donielle Powe, Interim Deputy Chief, Intergovernmental Affairs, DCPS

Guests

- Eileen Huck, National Military Family Association
- Cherise Imai, Executive Director, MIC3
- Lindsey Dablow, Training and Operations Associate, MIC3
- Christina King, Communications Associate, MIC3

1. Call to Order and Welcome

- a. MIC3 DC Commissioner, Clara Botstein, called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM ET. She welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

2. School Liaison Update & Discussion

- a. Mr. Alonso Hay provided an overview of MIC3 students in DC. JBAB has 310 students that attend schools throughout the DC district. He noted the district has done a great job in supporting military families.
- b. Mr. Hay highlighted one case, a high school senior who transferred from Japan. The DC school wanted the student to take a history course to meet the local graduation requirements. He worked with the receiving and sending DODEA school counselors, and as the student was a senior, the receiving school waived the course requirement.
- c. Charter School Lottery – Mr. Hay reported incoming families were able to apply for the lottery using a default address if they have not arrived in DC yet or scheduled to move to DC past the lottery date. This has worked well for families. Once they were accepted into, they school, and even they had not arrived in DC yet, the school would hold the spot for the family. He expressed the **need clarify on the 'hard date' for holding the spot for enrollment purposes, especially as the school is asking for the 'proof of residence' and the family has not arrived in DC yet.** He also wanted to clarify the interview process for selective high schools ad work with the school(s) to meet application requirements.
- d. Mr. Horace Franklin noted to keep in mind DC installations include the smaller locales within DC proper, such as the Navy Observatory and Coast Guard headquarters.

- e. Ms. Cherise Imai informed members of a DC Legal Advisory on lottery charter schools – which dealt with enrollment, versus placement. [Link](#)
- f. Mr. Andrew Gall provided an update on DC graduation requirements regarding service. He reported students that transfer during their senior year will have the required graduation requirement of service hours waived. This change was made in response to feedback from the State Council. He added it applied to military-connected and other transient students. He noted for Juniors will be required to have a prorated or just 25 hours - the normal graduation service hour requirement total is 100 hours.

### 3. *Learn DC* Update

- a. Ms. Dannelle Gibbs reported she joined *Learn DC* in April. Due to recent enrollment growth, they planned to expand their leadership team to include a Vice Principal and Operations Director, and additional student enrichment classes. Currently, the school enrollment was 90% military and 10% Ward 8 students. She hoped enrollment would eventually reach 50% for each group.
- b. Ms. Gibbs noted a low number of applications from the Ward 8 community was due to challenges with transport to the school. The issue has been discussed; however, the school will only be able to consider investing in transport once a high number of eligible students residing in the area has been attained. **Ms. Gibbs asked if the mayor's office was able to assist with resolving this.**
- c. Commissioner Botstein reported the Charter School Board is launching their new accountability framework this year.

### 4. Update from MIC3

- a. Ms. Cherise Imai provided an overview of current initiatives at the national level. The Commission provides a variety of training for stakeholders, including schools and parents, at no cost:
  - i. Compact 101 training: conducted monthly, calendar available at [www.mic3.net](http://www.mic3.net)
  - ii. Online webinar in Spanish, and American Sign Language will be released in July.
  - iii. The Commission also provides training, in person and virtual via Zoom, on request.
  - iv. Online on demand training system: The Training Committee was developing an online portal with training modules, which will be launched at the Annual Business Meeting (ABM) in November.
- b. Ms. Imai also noted free resources were available online at [www.mic3.net](http://www.mic3.net), including the Parent and School Guide which was recently released in Spanish.
- c. Ms. Imai announced the 2023 ABM in Richmond, VA [registration link](#) was released. She noted it was a public meeting and interested parties could attend.
- d. Finally, she noted the USDOD provided updates to their *Military Representative Guide* and *one pager*. The documents are currently in graphics and design and was targeted for formal launch at the ABM.

### 5. MIC3 DC Code Amendments

- a. Commissioner Botstein reported the Commission had discovered a citation error in compact statutes and were advised by the General Counsel to pursue technical corrections. She noted the correction required correcting the DC statute from “section 1209 and 1211” to “chapter 1209 and 1211”. **Mr. Gall expressed questions about the citation section reference. Ms. Imai stated she would connect with him post-meeting.**

- b. Commissioner Botstein reported the current DC code requires a state council meeting 3 times per year, and proposed meeting once per year. Ms. Nakita Fowler expressed concern if the council meets once per year, as if would not provide sufficient opportunity to engage, especially as parents PCS every few years. Mr. Franklin stated prior to COVID, the parent representative met the school liaison quarterly and base commander twice a year. This provided the opportunity to determine which concerns were compacted related or just education related. He suggested re-establishing this process. Ms. Fowler was supportive of this suggestion.
  - c. Dr. Christina Grant asked for OSSE to have a designee on the council.
  - d. Members agreed a high school student may be an option however will discuss further.
  - e. **Commissioner Botstein stated she would like to finalize the DC Code amendments by early Fall for submittal.**
6. Ways to Recognize Military-Connected Youth
- a. Commissioner Botstein asked for ideas on how the council could recognize military children. Suggestions included:
    - i. "Purple Up! DC Day" – sign a proclamation designating April as the month of the military child, or a specific day within that month.
    - ii. "Purple Up! Art Contest" – students submit art or a poem to highlight the challenges of being a military child.
    - iii. Base Tour
    - iv. Include outreach and communication to make parents aware of the Compact, how it helps families, and resources available. Ms. Fowler stated prior to being a part of the council, she was unaware of the Compact.
7. Other Business and Announcements
- a. Commissioner Botstein reported the DC City Council will complete the final budget vote on 6/13. Other business includes vaccine enforcement at specific bands and rescinding the COVID vaccine mandate for school attendance.
  - b. ED Imai announced Commissioner Botstein was appointed as the Tier Group 4 facilitator for the Commission.
  - c. Ms. Fowler reported challenges for senior high school students moving prior to the end of a semester and schedule blocks are half year classes. Subsequently, the course was noted incomplete, and they were unable to meet the graduation requirements. Mr. Franklin noted this occurs frequently and the Compact provides for the option of a reciprocal diploma from the sending school if the student is unable to meet the receiving school's graduation requirements.
8. Adjournment
- a. Commissioner Botstein adjourned the meeting at 12:06 PM ET.