**DRAFT**

**STATE COUNCIL FOR THE INTERSTATE COMPACT ON EDUCATION FOR**

**CHILDREN OF MILITARY FAMILIES**

**MARCH 9, 2023**

**Meeting was held both in-person and virtually.**

**Attendees: Unable to Attend:**

Michael Rodriguez, Dept. of Education Donna Polk, DIAA

Dr. Mark Holodick, Dept. of Education Sen. Laura Sturgeon, DE Senate

Doug Crouse, UD Cooperative Christine Alois, CR SD

Jennifer Davis, Dept. of Education

Patrick Devlin, DE National Guard

Purnima Montagne, DE PTA

Christine Kubik, DE National Guard

Col. Jason Holcomb, DAFB

Laurie Sisk, DAFB School Liaison

Douglas Hudson, Military Officers Assoc.

Nnamdi Chukwuocha, DE House

**Introductions and Welcome:**

The State Council for the Interstate Compact on Education for Children of Military Families (MIC3) was called to order at 11:03 a.m. on Thursday, March 9, 2023, by State Commissioner for MIC3, Michael Rodriguez. Mr. Rodriguez explained that the group is required to meet once a year. Everyone was welcomed to the meeting and introductions were made.

**Approval of Meeting Notes from March 8, 2022:**

The Committee reviewed the meeting minutes from the March 8, 2022 meeting. Doug Crouse made a motion to accept the meeting minutes, motion passed.

**The Purple Star Update- Jenn Davis**

Jenn Davis provided an update on the Purple Star designation program. The Purple Star designation program is in its second year. Applications run from November 1st through February 1st,  in general, the application requires school districts to have an identified point of contact to support Military Connected Youth. Jenn commented that they received two applications. Jenn stated that both applications were in the review process now and will be announced in April.

**Student Data Information**

Jenn Davis explained that data on students who are identified as military connected students is reviewed yearly. Jenn commented that there has been an increase in Military connected youth numbers. Jenn stated that DOE suppression rules require that any student numbers under 15 be excluded, so there is a blank count where there were less than 15 students. Jenn stated the total number of students state wide is 2554. This number does not include private, parochial or homeschool settings. There were challenges in COVID years getting forms turned into schools.

**National Council Updates:**

Mr. Rodriguez (Mike) presented follow up from the MIC3 Task Force discussion related to adding the National Guard and Reserve outside of Title 10 to the Compact. There was a task force developed under that National MIC3 Committee to explore adding National Guard and Reserve members outside Title 10 to the Compact. Each state was asked to work with state councils to decide on options. As a state council, our choice was to change the Compact language. In order for the Compact to be opened, all 50 states and D.C. must have a unanimous vote at the Annual Business meeting. At this year’s business meeting, this topic was discussed and the vote was not unanimous, as a result it was decided to develop a Legislative Toolkit that states could use if they wanted to extend the compact provisions to this population outside of the compact.

Mike reviewed the Compact Citation Correction. It was discovered by MIC3 National Office Legal Team that there was an incorrect citation in the model language of the Compact. The error is the term “section” instead of “chapter” when referring to service members covered by the Compact. This is considered a technical change and the National Office asks states to determine how to best correct this issue. Delaware has an annual omnibus bill that covers technical changes. DOE expects this to be addressed through the technical changes bill.

Mike updated the Council on the Strategic Plan. Mike gave brief highlights of the 2020-22 Strategic Plan including several highlights made at the ABM which was to increase awareness of the Compact. At the ABM, it was reported that MIC3’s communication plan had produced results and insured stakeholders are aware of the Compact. Another important highlight were the training efforts and the positive impact the Commissioner mentoring program, especially new incoming Commissioners has had. Mike attested to the importance of the training. 2023-25 Strategic Plan was approved by the National MIC3 Council. This Strategic Plan has three goals: culture, fidelity and education.

Mike updated the Council on the new Compact Rules. In 2022, the Rules Committee dedicated themselves to completing a full review of the Compact Rules Books. The review resulted in both technical changes for clarification and more substantive changes that were voted on and changed by the Commission at the ABM. One significant case the Rules Committee oversaw and passed was related to extracurricular participation, specifically in section 6.102. This impacts athletic participation. B, C, and D were the added changes in section 6.102. The intent of this rule is to provide eligible military students and their families knowledge of any dates and communication channels for all available extracurricular activities and athletic opportunities. Mike will share with DIAA Directors and with Chiefs to raise awareness.

Doug Hudson asked if there is recourse if 6.102 is not followed. Laurie Sisk spoke on this stating that her and Mike would work collaboratively to resolve issues under the rules of the Compact.

Mike reports that the Space Force is formally considered under the Compact and is included by reference in the same section of the Federal statutes.

Mike referenced free monthly Compact 101 trainings.

Mr. Rodriguez reviewed the annual report and highlighted that Delaware is in full compliance.

**The Role of the School Liaison- Laurie Sisk**

Laurie Sisk explained her roll as the school liaison. Laurie creates relationships with local schools and communities to address the educational challenges that military students face. Laurie is able to meet the standards of the Compact for enrollment, placement, graduation and eligibility. Laurie sends out emails to all new families moving into the area to provide information on Delaware education. Laurie provides a welcome packet, information from DOE website, school locator and profile, state testing, curriculum and standards. Laurie also provides information on Youth sponsorship. Laurie educates parents on MIC3 and on what their rights are. Laurie has received an increase in emails from parents reaching out prior to students arriving to Delaware. Laurie is able to address all issues prior to arrival for a smooth transition into Delaware schools. Laurie also provides grant resources and scholarships. Laurie reviews all legislation before it comes through and provides the information to the Commander. Transition support is huge for students. Laurie connects any child leaving our area with the new liaison. Laurie needs schools to reach out and request kits. Laurie helps with college career and military readiness. DAFB had a huge STEM Fair at last years air show. Over 1800 students took part in the STEM Fair.

**National Guard Update- Christine Kubik**

Christine Kubik provided an update stating that the National Guard has 2700 men and women. The Joint Force Services has 25 personnel and 17 programs. There are currently 162 Army soldiers currently deployed. Christine continues to work with all school counselors. 75% of our soldiers live in Delaware.

Mick Devlin, Youth Coordinator, stated he connect military youth and their families to resources available within the state and federal government. Every year they try to build up life skills opportunities for military youth and are always looking for new partners and partnerships to expand the opportunities to National Guard Youth.

**Month of the Military Child- Susan Haberstroh**

Susan Haberstroh reported on the Month of the Military Child. She reviewed a draft of April 2023 Month of the Military Child. Susan made Council aware that April is the Month of the Military Child, Purple Up. Purple is because it’s a blend of all the colors of our armed forces. Susan reported for many years we have worked with our legislative partners and the Governor’s Office to have an event at Legislative Hall. Typically the event is a meeting with the Governor, where the Governor presents a proclamation and then we work with our Senate and House partners to set a concurrent resolution. Caesar Rodney and Dover Air Base bring in students and family members. Susan went through the steps of setting up the Month of the Military Child.

On the draft, this year we would like to honor the late Colonel Dr. Ronald G. Sarg. Susan asked if everyone would be ok with this draft. The draft needs to be sent to Senator Sturgeons office.

**Other Discussion as Needed:**

Mike Rodriguez presented Susan Haberstroh with a Proclamation of her service to MIC3. Susan served as the State Commissioner for 14 years.

Col. Holcomb presented Susan with a coin.

Dr. Mark Holodick thanked Susan for everything she has done in the many positions she has served. Her relationships with the military and students is incredible.

**Public Comment:**

None

The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 P.M.