



MEETING/PROJECT NAME:

Montana Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

DATE OF MEETING: November 10, 2020 TIME: 10:00 AM – 10:49 AM

LOCATION: Zoom/Phone Conference

MEETING OBJECTIVE: Business Meeting

PRESIDER: Elsie Arntzen Superintendent, Montana Office of Public Instruction, and BG (R) Hal Stearns, Montana Compact Commissioner

MINUTES PREPARED BY: Jessica Flint, Communications Program Specialist, Montana Office of Public Instruction

ATTENDEES

PRESENT COUNCIL MEMBERS

BG (R) Hal Stearns, Compact Commissioner

Representative Edward Buttrey

Tom Moore, Great Falls Public Schools Superintendent

Lisa Sapp, Malmstrom Air Force Base

CPT Michelle Bogden, Montana National Guard

Mark Beckman, Montana High School Association

Elsie Arntzen, OPI Superintendent

PRESENT INVITED GUESTS

Cherise Imal, Executive Director MIC3 National Committee

Lindsay Dablow, MIC3 National Committee

AGENDA AND NOTES, DISCUSSIONS, ISSUES (OPEN PRESENTATIONS)

TOPICS AND DISCUSSIONS

Meeting Begins: 10:00 am

Update on National Committee Meeting – Cherise Imal and Lindsay Dablow

- The annual National Commission meeting (MIC3) was held virtually October 1-2, 2020
- Attendees Included: 47 commissioners attended, 5 ex-officio members from the Military Child Education Coalition, National Federation of High School Association, National Military Family Association, Military Impact School Association, and the U.S. Department of Defense.
- The budget and dues were discussed and some policies regarding the reserve developed by the auditor were passed.





- The National Guard and Reserve Coverage Task Force (NGRTF) created for the National Commission
- The NGRTF recommends that MIC3 support expansion of Compact coverage to all members of the U.S. military both Active Duty and Selected Reserve as a small number of children are transferring under other titles
- Some state commissioners did not feel comfortable voting on this inclusion during the annual meeting due to potential monetary impacts and chose to take back the recommendation back to their state's Commission. This item was voted to be sent to the executive committee for further review
- Montana currently has 1,452 active duty children = \$2,300 in annual dues and National Guard and Reserve children = 2,583 for a total of 4,125. Including the National Guard and Reserve children would increase annual dues to a total of \$4,743.75 annual dues
- Some states increase in annual dues is substantial and this will be under consideration by the executive committee.
 - ✓ There is an ongoing discussion on how to best expand the commission to extend compact coverage beyond active duty and will be voted on by each state commission at the 2021 annual National Commission meeting
 - ✓ The number of incoming and outgoing students will need to be researched to determine the impact to each state
- Purple Star School Program Training
 - Training will need to be provided to any school seeking the purple star award by the National MIC3 or the Military Child Education Coalition
 - Glacier High School reached out and received the required training to be considered a military friendly school program under purple star program. The training includes the history of MIC3 and why it is important. Training also includes what the compact provisions cover and case studies and resources for schools and parents
 - Commissioner Stearns expressed desire to utilize and promote the training program to Superintendents and Principals. The training is virtual and takes approximately 45 minutes.
- Purple Star Schools Award
 - Superintendent Arntzen presented the opportunity to promote and approve the Purple Star applications.
 - Motion to approve the Purple Star Award applications of Elementary, North Middle School, CM Russell High School, Glacier High School, Valley Christian School for a period of three years made by Representative Ed Buttrey
 - 2nd by Commissioner Hal Stearns
 - Applications approved – All in favor (Superintendent Moore recused from vote)
 - Commissioner Hal Stearns suggested Superintendent Moore hold a recognition event be set up to celebrate the three schools in Great Falls awarded the Purple Star Award.



Legislative Update

- Representative Buttrey expressed encouragement from the discussion on the Purple Star Program amid his concern from an Air Force study that ranked Montana 142/154 Air Force installations. The Purple Star Program may help Montana rise in rank in the future and benefit smaller schools in the military missile complex area. Representative Buttrey suggested these schools be invited to the Great Falls schools' events if possible.
- Representative Buttrey presented the following military related legislation.
 - There is general military revision legislation with unknown details until drafted.
 - There is legislation in the education interim committee to help relocating military families enroll their children early in schools
 - State administration veteran's affair interim committee has three bills
 - 1. Revise allocation for vehicle license revenues for veteran's affairs division
 - 2. Adopt the most recent federal military regulations
 - 3. Clarify terminology on military titles and command authority
 - Representative Bedey will introduce legislation to update HB 172 from last session that deals with county veteran offices services
 - Representative Buttrey will carry a bill that creates a formation of military strategic and economic impact task force to be able to educate the public and know the economic impact that the military has in Montana
- Representative Buttrey suggested the Commission wait until the National MIC3 creates language around protections for Reserve and Guard connected children and then update the Montana Compact language.
- OPI will work with Commissioner Stearns to decide on whether the Commission should provide any input for military related legislation
- Commissioner Hal Stearns offered to travel to Helena should he need to represent the Commission on military related legislation

Approval of July 14th, 2020 Minutes

- Motion to approve minutes from July 14, 2020 meeting by Representative Ed Buttrey.
- 1st by Superintendent Tom Moore.
- Minutes approved - All in favor.
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Other Business

- Superintendent Arntzen discussed 5 of the 12 state standards that OPI unrolled for curriculum to be adopted at the local level. One of the five standards was social studies that embeds geography, economics, history, and civics education. Three weeks prior the American Legion passed a resolution adopting OPI's Stars and Stripes Initiative that will help bring Flags to every classroom in effort to honor our military families.



- Superintendent Moore asked about working with OPI to schedule a time to schedule a celebration in Great Falls for the Purple Star Schools.

End of Meeting: 10:49 am