

New York Military Interstate Compact Council
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Members in Attendance:

Debra Jackson, Melissa Montague, Stephen Todd, Heather Evangelista, Lisa Beatha, Emily Miller, MaryBeth Casey, Troy Decker, Wendy O'Sullivan, Robin Banks

Virtual Participation:Kevin Getnick- Zoom link

Excused: Michael McElduff, Frank Sheboy, Rita Tenuta, David Brown, Kyle Belokopitsky,

1. Dr. Debra Jackson called the meeting to order at 10:41 am.
2. Dr. Jackson welcomed those assembled in person and virtually. Dr. Jackson welcomed new member: Emily Miller, acting School Liaison Officer: West Point
3. Dr. Jackson asked the group to introduce themselves.
4. Delta Pluses from last meeting included:
 - New participants- inclusion of the PTA was identified as beneficial
 - Zoom addition- beneficial due to dynamics that could prevent attendance

Motion to Open Formal Portion of the Meeting:

1st: Steve Todd

2nd: Lisa Beatha

Agenda Items:

5. Old Business:

It was noted that there are currently two unfilled positions. Open Seats: 2 (1 at large, Senate)
The council is still awaiting forward motion on this topic. Dr. Jackson addressed the changes in the JCOPE ethics course and requirements for voting members. The three year requirement has been adjusted to an annual requirement.

NYS Dues and ABM Agenda- Currently all dues are paid and up to date. New York Military Interstate Compact Council is listed as paid in full and is in full compliance.

Future budget considerations and fiscal concerns at MIC3 level include the following:

- Using reserves to balance the budget
- Possibly in need of a 5% increase in dues to balance the budget. (5% of \$11,000)
- Possibly hosting the ABM every other year. While there are benefits, there are also concerns, such as: change in leadership, benefits of conversation and establishing familiarity among the commissioners.

- Request for data regarding trends and drops- prediction is difficult without consistent data.
- Expectation of stability at Fort Drum due to the addition of a unique task force. Additionally, Cavalry and Military Police Units facing restructuring.
- The US Military continues to struggle to meet recruiting targets at this time. The Council continues watching trends and maintaining awareness.

6. Credit and Graduation topics re: NYS Regents requirements:

Currently facing challenges due to school districts not necessarily being current with students transferring into school districts. A discussion ensues regarding the impact of delay in requests. This delay creates complications. It is suggested by Dr. Jackson and Troy Decker that a proactive approach rather than reactive can better support and serve students. Members emphasize that documentation needs to occur upon enrollment not later in the process. The delay may prevent the material and information from being shared in an appropriate manner.

Additionally, Troy Decker shares a concern that was successfully navigated that highlights the effectiveness of the NYS system. The Compact assisted a student and family in crisis and proved that families can receive clear answers quickly. Committee connections allowed for a rapid response to assist students.

A conversation regarding the importance of educating school counselors identified the following concerns: It was noted that a challenge exists due to the transition of school counselors within school districts. A conversation between MaryBeth Casey and Melissa Montague led to the possibility of utilizing existing databases to share notifications to school counselors. Counselors that are currently registered to receive news and notes could also be sent important information and current information and regulations. Additionally, it was suggested that the data system could possibly be coded in a manner to identify school counselors with military affiliated students. Steve Todd further discussed with Dr. Jackson that BOCES could be utilized to educate and inform school districts, counselors and administration by providing MIC3 related materials at district superintendent meeting and offering presentation on these topics via Zoom virtual meetings.

7. Penn State Document: Dr. Jackson opened discussion and shared her observation that currently no significant changes are included within the latest report for the New York Military Interstate Compact Council. Two specific areas for improvement identified within the report. The report states that the NY MIC3 website is challenging to locate. Dr. Jackson notes that improvement has been made on this front and that there is benefit for the page to be embedded in the State Education department website. Further discussion addresses the tracking of Military students occurring by self reporting mechanisms.

8. JCOPE and Ethics updates: Dr. Jackson shares that the requirement has changed. Currently a yearly requirement will be in effect for all voting members. Dr. Jackson requests that members complete the webinar in order to remain in compliance.

New Business:

1. Wendy O'Sullivan provides Council with the All Services Update and Designation Challenges Ms. O'Sullivan stresses the discovery and need for SLO to consistently ask a key and critical question when interacting with families, "Have you informed the school/ counselor of your status?" Open discussion ensued regarding the importance of possibly changing the initial dialogue with families. Additionally, data collection/tracking was discussed as a possible next step to decrease error and confusion. Ms. Casey and Ms. Montague discuss the possibility of SLO and SED collaboration.

Conversation ensues regarding the Exceptional Family Member Program. It is shared that children must be registered and receive a medical diagnosis. Ms. Evangelista shares that in conversation among parents she believes that a barrier to receiving services remains and this may stem from fear or stigma. It was mentioned by the Fort Drum community that increased Parent Workshops may prove beneficial, but that additional duties for the SLOs in our state can be difficult due to our proportion of SLOs in comparison to other states. Dr. Jackson provides information regarding the proportion of SLOs across the state and that numbers are dependent upon "big" Army (service level) and not at a Garrison level. Within our Tier 2 Status military student population, New York State currently has less SLOs per population among our category. A positive response is shared among the Council upon hearing the news of the increase in student trips granted via the NYS Transit Card increase. Two additional trips are now offered allowing more opportunity for students to engage in their learning communities and activities.

Continuing Business

1. PIE initiative: Partners in Education: Mr. Decker shares an update with collaboration from the Fort Drum affiliated members of the Council in regard to the Joint Visitation and Collaboration. Kyle Fairbairn, Military Impacted Schools Association, is interested in establishing an active relationship and joint meeting, but scheduling proves to be difficult in merging and navigating multiple schedules. The initial proposed November date is facing conflicts and challenges. It is suggested and supported by the Council to look for a spring date that combines the MIC3 meeting.

2. Documenting alternative assessments for Military: Students in lieu of Regents exams Ms. Montague, Ms Casey and Mr. Decker provides an overview and updates of potential future adjustments. The discussion highlights the need for consistency in accepting and reviewing assessments and transcripts. Mr. Decker shares an example regarding utilizing evidence of proficiency. Mr. Decker, Dr. Jackson, Ms. Casey and Ms. Montague provides greater detail in regard to utilizing passing for proficient as the standard. This assessment or standard may now include an exam, portfolio, or other project based assessment. Dr. Jackson leads a conversation focused upon alternative assessment and how this could easily transfer and/or create new challenges depending upon the state a student is entering or exiting. Members share suggestions for possible documentation avenues. The increased

use of the comment section on student transcripts is suggested as an effective tool.

3. Blue Ribbon School Commission- Continuing Business

Ms. Montague and Mr. Todd share that recommendations are currently in the *proposed stage*. At this point recommendations are being shared in open sessions across the state with the intention of review and feedback. Mr. Todd shares that these sessions are utilizing Thought Exchange, which he feels through observation is a powerful and effective feedback mechanism. It is believed that these sessions will conclude approximately October 6, 2024. The Council is currently awaiting the timeline for this feedback to be reviewed in November.

Ms Montague and Dr. Jackson share that this past June there were key indicators for transformation within the NYS portrait of a graduate, credits, and sunsetting diploma types and moving toward one NYS diploma. Multiple means to graduate may require the Council to review and prepare for adjustments in assessments, implications for entering and exiting New York State, review of reciprocity agreements. It was noted by Mr. Decker and Dr. Jackson that these proposed changes may or possibly lead to adjustment in Compact language. Additionally discussion regarding long range plans occurs among members to ensure future readiness to support students.

Dr. Jackson states that she will request an overview from Dr. David Brown. Ms. Montague states that she will provide helpful links for Council use and review.

4. Possible Meeting Dates are shared by Ms. Beatha. Dr. Jackson thanks her for her work in locating proposed dates.

Tentative Dates Identified:

Spring 2025: April 9, 2025

Fall 2025: September 17, 2025

Spring 2026: March 25, 2026

Fall 2026: September 16, 2026

5. Long Range Strategic Plans: Conversation ensues led by Dr. Jackson and among the Council in regard to Blue Ribbon Work, data collection including trends, common fields and the possibility of shared spreadsheet. This shared document would follow the MIC3 model and allow for an end of year report. Ms. O'Sullivan shares possible challenges with a shared document. Dr. Jackson discusses possible platforms for this document. Council members share best practices to avoid pitfalls and lead to greater effectiveness.

6. CUNY Newsletter: Ms Beatha discusses and distributes the document for review. Council members state their support and comment on the impressiveness and effectiveness of the document and information. It is noted that MIC3 information can be located on page 20

7. ABM- New Mexico: Dr. Jackson provides information about this conference. She mentions the possibility of a Purple Star discussion. She does not foresee NYS moving in that direction.

Plus/Delta:

Plus: addition and continued use of technology

Plus: engaging in long term strategic planning

Plus: Dr, Jackson shares the helpfulness of responses for meeting attendance in planning purposes

Delta: Ms. O'Sullivan shares concerns regarding the parking challenges faced by Council members. It is suggested that reservation to park be requested of the OGS: Office of General Services. Dr. Jackson will review this procedure for the spring meeting.

8. Next meeting dates: Spring Meeting: April 9, 2024

Closing Comments: Council members share their appreciation of the insight gained in group discussion, the importance of review of acronyms, increased educational awareness, and increase in confidence dealing with families upon meeting as a Council and engaging in open discussion.

Motion to adjourn:

1st: Troy Decker

2nd: Melissa Montague

Unanimous Council support

Submitted by: Heather Evangelista