



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF  
**Public Instruction**

Wisconsin State Council  
of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities  
for Military Children (MIC3)

Commissioner Shelley Joan Weiss 608.698.2409

**Minutes**

**FEB 20, 2025, 1:00 pm**

1. Call to Order - Shelley Joan Weiss
  - a. Welcome
  - b. Welcome to Col Timothy Guy, Commander, Volk Field, Wisconsin Air National Guard (Lt Col Stoddard will represent Col Guy)
  - c. Welcome to our Guest, Shannon Shaw, Military Family Liaison, Wisconsin Air National Guard, 115 Fighter Wing. Shannon is a Military connected Parent with children in the Sun Prairie Area School District.
2. Approval of Agenda
  - a. Motion made by Stacy Eslick, second by Ericka Christensen. Approved.
3. Approval of [Minutes, AUG 13, 2024](#)
  - a. Motion made by Andrea Donegan, second by Stacy Eslick. Approved
4. Comments from representatives of WI State Superintendent Dr. Jill Underly
  - a. [Dimitri Beekman](#) represented Dr. Underly. Dimitri works to ensure schools are equitable and inclusive for all students and staff. Will continue to support our group and work to support military children and families.
  - b. [Susan Piazza](#) shared that she appreciates our mutual commitment to help children of military families  
[Andrea Donegan](#) thanked all for supporting the military children and families. She shared that the website has resources to help meet the unique needs of military families.
5. Sharing the 2024-25 WI State Council Member Listing
  - a. [2024-25 WI State Council Member Listing](#)

- i. We may have other individuals included in our meetings from time to time, who aren't official members of the council. We welcome them to join us.
- 6. Resources from MIC3
  - a. [MIC3](#) has resources available. DPI links to MIC3 on the website.
- 7. Update on Commissioner activities.
  - i. All required Commissioner activities completed.
  - ii. Discussion by Finance Committee to raise annual state dues slightly.
    - 1. WI Student numbers 1,927. Dues \$2,300. Dues are based on the number of active duty military families in the state.
    - 2. Potential Increase: Low \$ 3,430 - High \$ 4,000. Andrea and her colleagues in the DPI budget office are outstanding on ensuring dues are paid on time.
  - iii. Shelley participated in the annual Purple Star online annual conference. Supported by the [Military Child Education Coalition](#) and research is being done by various universities on the program.
  - iv. Shelley is sharing information on April, Month of the Military Child with various organizations and news outlets. She will send this information again. Shelley has a spreadsheet of military affiliated organizations and she has shared information with them. Shelley begins sharing information in Oct/Nov and then provides updated information as date gets closer. Please let Shelley know if you need more information. Elizabeth Wilcox shared information on the activities that Tomah and Sparta host in April. Shelley has contacted the Governor's scheduler to request Governor Evers attend. The luncheon will be in Sparta on Apr. 28, 2025. Sparta has been inviting dignitaries and personnel from Ft. McCoy. They also are reaching out to news outlets.
  - v. Shelley has been contacted by a few parents/caregivers of military children asking about in-district support for military children. Families are often in need of more support in-district. School personnel are often not as acutely aware of when a family member is being deployed and the needs of the children involved. Many school staff do not have experience with family members in the military themselves and thus don't understand all of the challenges children and families face. Sun Prairie has created a Google form to be shared with families, asking them to share more info that can prompt school personnel to follow up for more information. It is challenging to get messages to commanders so they can support our efforts.

Some military units have volunteers who work with PTA, military units, volunteer programs. Volunteers work closely with the commander to connect with families. Send birthday cards to children of deployed military. Recruit more volunteers to help. How to build on a day to day basis. Challenging to connect to the personnel, especially in rural areas. Key is to get parents engaged. Help get information about the situation of the children to general public. Rebecca Boehlke, Military One Source suggested asking commanders for best contact in the unit. This may be helpful in getting out the messages more effectively.

8. No compact related questions have been raised.
  - a. Some questions came up recently related to a specific benefits form given to high school children of service people. Shelley worked with the VA and their personnel did an outstanding job of following up.
9. Purple Star School status.
  - a. Shelley is working with DPI staff on posting information on Purple Star School applications. Shelley is working with Susan Piazza on this.
  - b. Shelley is working with Pete Lupiba, Ohio, creator of Purple Star Schools.
10. Input from DPI Liaison, Andrea Donegan
  - a. A reminder of the resources available on [DPI Military Child webpage](#). If members have current, relevant statewide resources to share, they can request to have them posted on the webpage. Check the listing of resources and send Andrea or Shelley updates and suggestions.
11. Celebrating Military Children and Families
  - a. Please let Shelley know if you have information to share about your April , Month of the Military Child activities and she will share with Council members.
  - b. Shelley thanked all those who were involved in the Valentine's for Veterans activities. There were approximately 30,000 valentines from Wisconsin school districts that were distributed to vets, especially those in VA hospitals, homes.
  - c. Amanda Venske, UW-Madison shared that they are in the final stages of planning activities for students. They are hoping to pursue a Pen pal program between UW students and military children. They understand the need to increase awareness with the general public and educators about the situation of military children. Can speak at educational conferences with a short introduction to their work.
  - d. Stacy Eslik, Wisconsin School Counselors Association has opportunities for online learning programs that are recorded and available. This may be an

opportunity to create some programs about military children's needs and make them available to a wider audience. Stacy offered opportunities for Shelley or others to submit proposals to present at the annual conference, or potentially have a booth.

- e. Shelley reminded folks that when the legislation was passed for the Interstate Compact in Wisconsin, there was no budgetary provisions included. Thus all of the work done related to the State Council and the Compact is voluntary, and there is no budget for purchasing booths at conferences. Stacy shared ideas on how we may be able to still get the important information out.
- f. **April is the Month of the Military Child.** We wear **PURPLE** to celebrate as purple combines the colors of uniforms of all branches of the service. The April 2025 Month of the Military Child theme is “**Celebrating & Cultivating the Diversity of Children/Youth: Building Stronger Character and Relationships.**” Military children show bravery, fearlessness, and resiliency by adapting and meeting adversity head on in an ever-changing environment.
- g. [MIC3 Purple Up](#)
- h. [Military Child Education Coalition - Purple Up](#)
- i. [Military One Source](#)
- j. [DoDEA Purple Up](#)
- k. [Department of Defense Purple Up](#)
- l. [Bloom Military Kids](#)
- m. [National Military Family Association - Military Children](#)
- n. [Army MWR - April Month of the Military Child](#)
- o. [Veteran.Com - Month of the Military Child](#)
- p. Planning for APR 2025, Month of the Military Child by Sparta and Tomah School Districts.
  - i. Superintendents Michael Hansen and Sam Russ.
    1. Much appreciation for the early planning. On 4/28/25 the Sparta American Legion will be hosting the Month of the Military Child Luncheon. Tomah and Sparta. First time in a long time it has been held in Sparta. Always looking for ways to support military children and their families. Looking for keynotes. Becky offered her support if Sam needs anything.

12. Input from Members.

- a. Members are always invited to reach out to Shelley with good news, agenda items, or questions.
13. Thank you to everyone for their contributions.
- a. Shelley will continue to share updates via email between now and the August 2025 meeting.
  - b. Shelley will send all the date for the AUg 2025 meeting as soon as it is arranged so it is on the calendar.
14. Adjourn