

**STATE COUNCIL ON EDUCATIONAL
OPPORTUNITIES FOR MILITARY CHILDREN**
and
Military Superintendents Liaison Committee

(Combined meeting)

April 29, 2021

0830-1000

Virtual Meeting – Microsoft Teams

Attendees State Council: Andrea Ackerman, Kristea Francolino, Representative Holly Cheeseman, Captain Todd Moore, Jason Hartling, Louis Tallarita, Laura Anastasio, Miranda Chapman

Attendees MSLC: Groton-Susan Austin, Phil Piazza, Seth Danner, Kathleen Miner; Voluntown; Adam Burrows, New London-Kristea Francolino; Kathy O’Bern; LEARN-Kate Ericson; Robert Welt.

Guests: Carrie Moore

MIC3 STATE COUNCIL

1. The minutes from the 3DEC2021 State Council were approved.
2. MIC3 is seeking student videos memorializing their experiences with successful education transitions under the Compact. There have not yet been many submissions, so it would be great to have a submission from Connecticut. Ms. Chapman noted that she has shared the MIC3 handout with transitioning families, but the feedback from many families is that the handout is somewhat intimidating with the list of requirements and detailed instructions. It might be helpful to simplify the submission process so families are not discouraged by the complexity of creating the videos. Superintendent Austin said that Groton would be willing to have its students put together a presentation of their overall experiences transitioning into Groton and how they are welcomed into their new school, but it would be more of a focus on the district’s program for welcoming students and less on MIC3 transition issues. Attorney Anastasio will present the council’s feedback to the MIC3 central office.
3. MIC3 Annual Business Meeting (ABM) Update: The ABM will be held in-person in Little Rock, Arkansas on November 4th and 5th. There will be an option for attendees to participate remotely so those individuals who are either unable or uncomfortable with traveling can also attend. MIC3 is considering removing some of the activities normally schedule for the ABM off the meeting agenda and holding those activities online. This might provide council members with an opportunity to attend distinct parts of the ABM such as the panel discussion and training sessions. Attorney Anastasio will provide more information if this option becomes available.
4. Other matters: The movement to include the National Guard and Reserves in the Compact is ongoing in other states. Attorney Anastasio briefly discussed the legislation in Arkansas as an example of the concern of inadvertently altering the Compact language. The Compact constitutes a contract between the member states. If one state unilaterally changes the Compact, then the agreement is no longer binding with respect to that state.

Representative Cheeseman indicated that she will continue to look out for any legislative initiatives that are intended to expand the Compact so that Connecticut does not mistakenly remove itself from the Compact.

MSLC

5. The minutes from the March 4, 2021 MSLC meeting were approved.
6. House Bill 6483: Advanced Enrollment and Purple Star
 - a. Currently on the House calendar and could be called at any time.
 - b. There was one minor language change from when discussed at last MSLC to clarify.
 - c. Questions re: if this applied to magnet and charter schools or to all public schools.
 - i. Written as all public schools.
 - ii. Bill attached to email with minutes for review
 - iii. Brief discussion of unintended consequences
 1. Members encouraged to read through the bill and share any positive or negative impacts the bill may have as written with their legislative representatives.
7. Updated Military Student #s according to DMDC have been obtained and organized by town/school district. Awaiting data from state on military students who are notated In the PSIS to compare.
8. Service updates
 - a. Navy- CAPT Moore- As the state loosens covid restrictions, the SUBASE remains at HPCON C (Health Protection Condition Charlie) with military engagement in newly permitted activities on hold until the SUBASE progresses to HPCON B (Bravo). Hoping to increase availability for participation of both Sailors/families and the public as the summer nears with phased in approach (example opening the Museum to military and then phasing in the public)
 - b. USCG and National Guard were not in attendance to give reports.
9. tutor.com – 20 minutes how to webinars are being offered for families; flier sent out with meeting agenda
10. Local School Updates
 - a. Ledyard: Mr. Hartling
 - i. open K-12 4 days/week, staffing and bussing challenges impact ability to return 5 days
 - ii. partnering with park and re programs to offer summer programming by embedding teachers and providing scholarships
 - iii. also partnering with the farmers market, historical society to provide enrichment
 - b. Groton: Ms. Austin, Mr. Piazza, Ms. Miner, Mr. Danner
 - i. Students return 5 days on May 3rd; Wednesdays are half days
 - ii. Planning on providing an array of summer camp options- STEM camp, Literacy camp, math camp, STEAM camp; also expanding APEX for credit recovery/enrichment
 - iii. Mr. Piazza, new assistant superintendent introduced himself
 - c. Voluntown: Mr. Burrows

- i. Excited to have Voluntown represented in the group; have 18 military families listed as being in Voluntown
 - ii. Has been open 5 days since fall
 - iii. Unique experience as a k-8 school that sends students to 8 different high school options
 - iv. Planning an enrichment summer school
 - d. LEARN- Ms. Ericson
 - i. The Friendship School and Regional Multicultural Magnet confirming seats for next year
 - ii. Working to return to 5 days next week with half days on Wednesday; have about 25% of students remote and Wednesday allows teachers to reach out to those students
 - iii. Preparing a 3-day half-day summer program at RMMS, with Magnet Studio being the other two days; transportation will be provided
 - e. New London- Ms. Francolino
 - i. Returning 5 days on May 10th; will still offer remote
 - ii. Superintendent Ritchie developed a summer program guide; district will be offering enrichment for all (k-12), summer mental health supports, community projects, college/resume supports, wellness Wed for staff
 - iii. Pilot program approved- K/1st multi age year round model to begin this summer
 - f. Carrie Moore- offered thank you's to the educators on behalf of military families. The teacher and school efforts over the past year are truly appreciated.

11. Upcoming meeting dates:

- a. Proposed tentative meeting dates are: 9/23/2021, 11/18/2021, 1/27/2022, 3/24/2022, 5/26/2020
- b. Two meeting will be combined MIC3/MSLC meetings- specific dates TBD
- c. If meeting conflicts with a currently scheduled large-scale meeting/event focused on SE CT superintendents, please let Miranda know.

12. Adjournment

The MSLC is a partnership between Naval Submarine Base New London, the US Coast Guard Academy, and local school districts in New London County for the improvement of school transition, as well as the overall academic and school experiences for both military and transient students.