

Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission

The Thomas D. Rutan State (Ohio) Council

Minutes of the Start of School Meeting held on 31 August 2021

Virtually by MS Teams | State of Ohio



Our Mission to Ohio's Military Kids: Reduce or eliminate any roadblocks that hinder the educational success of Military Children in the Buckeye state.

Meeting

Council meeting called to order at 3:30 p.m. by Council Chair, Pete LuPiba. LuPiba welcomed Council members and guests – new members Valerie Kunze with Ohio Department of Education and Kristin Ronai with Ohio High School Athletic Association.

Attendance

Charlene Czerniak

Julie Davis

Jason Durell

Tim Freeman

Frank Hoagland

Valerie Kunze

Brian Lampton

Michelle Lewis

Pete LuPiba

Chad Marzec

Kathryne McFarland

Chip Merkle

Corey O'Brien

Trina Pauley

Tom Perkins

Chris Picha

Tammy Puff

Kristin Ronai

Tom Rutan

Dave Schklar

Jared Shank

Jackie Spector

Adreana Tartt

Ashley Twedt

Chad Wyen

Christine Young

Welcome

LuPiba entertained review, discussion of the August 2021 Agenda and the April 2021 Minutes of the Month of the Military Child Council meeting held virtually. The Minutes were formally approved at 3:39 p.m. with a motion from Picha, and a second from Schklar. Pauley (W-P) introduced Czerniak of the University of Toledo's College of Education (US DoD Grant Honoree) who presented an update on the latest NURTUREs work across the STEM fields in the early learning settings here in Ohio, and around the country.

Old Business

O'Brien shared implementation components of the Ohio MIC3 strategic plan through the Council's actions in collaboration and partnership with state agencies, associations, nonprofits. LuPiba shared with the Council that the national MIC3's Guard and Reserve Task Force will

report out its findings and recommendations over these recent years at the Annual Business Meeting in-person in Little Rock, Arkansas (a Purple Star state) on November 4-5. The Council is grateful to Ohio's Army and Air National Guard who've provided anecdotes, data on Military families to the national Guard and Reserve Task Force, especially the 180th (Toledo) and 179th (Mansfield) Air Wings.

Lampton shared the successful enactment of House Bill 244 over the course of the Spring and Summer months. This pivotal piece of legislation will directly support technology-based educational opportunities for, and the enrollment of, Military children (K-12 students, dependents), regarding Ohio's public schools. Governor Mike DeWine proudly signed HB 244 in the Summer and the legislation takes full effect on 13 October 2021. Ohio joins the States of Virginia and New Mexico, in creating this meaningful provision for our "serving" students. Thank you, Council Member Lampton!

Lewis requested articles and information from Council members and colleagues for placement within future editions of *The Purple Star Bulletin*. *The Bulletin* is a seasonal newsletter of this Council for our Purple Star Schools and key K12-MIL communities, stakeholders. *The Bulletin* began circulation in the 2018-19 school year and is under the editorship, expertise of Lewis.

Stakeholder Reports of the Rutan State Council

Puff reported out on the office of Governor Mike DeWine, all the crucial initiatives as led by agencies and commissions, including the newly launched Ohio Cares program. As part of this effort led by Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and Department of Veterans Services, Ohio will work with local Veteran organizations to identify gaps for the health and wellness of heroes here in the Buckeye state. Pauley reported the latest out of the Wright-Patterson U.S. Air Force Base, community, and command structure. Kunze reported that the Department of Education announced the 9th Class of the Purple Star Award. Additionally, the first iteration of renewed Purple Star Schools was shared, from 2017-2018 academic year. Kunze also noted the 10th Round for Purple Star applications to ODE will be held from 1 November to 15 December 2021. Picha reported out on various Department of Veterans

Services' benefits and programming centered on former service-members, their dependents. Merkle reported out about Fall activities for National Guard families, and his seminar work with local educators, educational service centers about MIC3 and the numerous initiatives supporting Ohio's Military-connected youth. Young and Marzec reported out about their ad hoc team of Purple Star School Liaisons working on state-wide ways forward to support, honor these 400 local K12-MIL leaders in our communities and schools across Ohio.

New Business of Rutan State Council

Shank shared newly conducted conversations on a higher education component to Purple Star. The *Collegiate Purple Star or Purple Star Campuses* is being reviewed for 2022 and 2023. A workgroup led by the Department of Higher Education and the offices of the Governor, and the Chancellor are in partnership with local leaders from the Ohio Veterans Education Committee to make this "higher" honor, a possibility in the Buckeye state. Other States are seeking Ohio's vision in this pioneering, and sacred space.

Twedt reported that the *Ohio MIC3 and Purple Star Google* site will be launched in September. This one stop shop will become a 24/7 site with available contacts, resources, & supports. Twedt, this Council, the Purple Star Advisory Board, and Purple Star School Liaisons through this online hub will allow for the real-time exchange of best practices, new ideas by professional educators and local leaders.

LuPiba shared recently authored national MIC3 toolkits for states and schools. These toolkits comprise Web pages, publications, and videos for stakeholders to provide a better understanding of the MIC3. Each element features materials relative to K12 topics, but it is recommended by the national Subcommittee on Communications and Outreach for the MIC3 that all personnel familiarize themselves with such critical documents, and call upon their respective State's Commissioner, Council, or School Liaison (US DoD) for direct assistance. In recent years, LuPiba has represented Ohio by serving as a Member of this Subcommittee.

LuPiba formally submitted the Annual Report on behalf of this Council to the national MIC3 in Lexington, Kentucky. Additionally, LuPiba shared key datapoints into MIC3 cases and issues in the state of Ohio this last quarter. The Ohio MIC3 strategic plan, and global COVID-19 pandemic, continue to shape outreach, supports of our Military families.

Conclusion

Adjournment occurred at 5:26 p.m. with a motion from Shank, and a second from Lewis, without opposition – the Rutan Council adjourned. LuPiba designated Thursday, December 2 in 2021, at 3:30 p.m., as the Fall, Post-ABM meeting of the Rutan Council.

Faithfully authored and submitted for review, consideration on 1 December 2021 by Council Member Pete LuPiba

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