

New York Military Interstate Compact Council
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday April 3rd, 2024
10:30 am – 2:00 pm

Members in attendance: Debra Jackson, Stephen Todd, Troy Decker, Michael McElduff, Carin Mogavero, Melissa Montague, Heather Evangelista, Wendy O’Sullivan, Morgan Woodson, Rita Tenuta.

Virtual participation: Diana Pasterchick, Kyle Belokopitsky, Lisa Beatha,

Excused: Kevin Getnick, Sonja Draught, Robin Banks

1. Dr. Debra Jackson called the meeting to order at 10:47.
2. Dr. Jackson welcomed new members, Morgan Woodson designee for NYS Division of Veterans’ Affairs, Kyle Belokopitsky, Executive Director NYS PTA, Rita Tenuta, community member.
3. Dr. Jackson asked the group to introduce themselves. Noted two unfilled positions at this time; “representative appointed by the Temporary President of the Senate” and “the Governor”.
4. Delta Pluses from last meeting included: meeting attendance was excellent, efficient use of time, space was conducive and rich dialogue.
5. Old Business

Dr. Jackson addressed the changes in the JCOPE ethic courses and requirements for the voting members. Morgan Woodson will inquire on her continuing status as designee. If assigned she will be added to the JCOPE listing.

Dues: NYSED paid the current year. We received the invoice for the upcoming year, Melissa will check on the status of this payment.

Budget: The MIC3 Finance Committee members are working toward a comprehensive plan for all member states which includes a long-range budget plan. Current dues are \$1.15 per child. The fund balance is strong however expenditures have increased as expected in line with CPI. Discussions have ensued on ways to save costs:

Hold the ABM virtually every other year.

Adjust training schedule.

Look to budget decreases that do not affect the mission of the Compact.

Consider increasing dues.

7. Cost Cutting & Funding:

A conversation ensued about NYS and the need to fund our work. It was suggested possibly having BOCES create a COSER to support this work. Melissa will reach out to see if there is a current COSER that may support the work.

It was asked if the Army Garrisons could assist with funding? Possibly through MWR and Mental Health.

It was noted that 101 Training has been developed at the National level and we can use this format to support our out-reach as long as the NYS aspects are included. Our committee needs to do/watch the trainings to note any differences impacting NYS has so we can have them tweaked to reflect NYS standards.

8. End of Course Exams:

We have some issues with students transferring to NYS without exam credits. NYS did update the language to specify flexibility with the assessment. This allows schools to accept sending schools end of course completion assessments without requiring a state level exam. We will continue to outreach to out of state schools to assist in alternative options for transferring military students.

9. New Business:

DoDEA vs NYS Requirements:

We are experiencing difficulties with our students moving to DoDEA schools and maintaining on time graduation. Classes required by DoDEA are often not offered by the transferring NYS school. Even students at the top of their class are having difficulties. DoDEA also dismisses high school courses taken in 8th grade that should be counted as high school credits. If a student demonstrated proficiency, then they get the pass. Some of DoDEA verbiage makes accepting MIC3 laws appear optional, they are not. We are in the process of providing NYS diplomas for students who transfer overseas their senior year.

Kyle offered to help plug us into PTO's in Europe to help spread the word about MIC3, SLO's and how we are available to support families. She will outreach with Kristine Garst who is the European Representative. There is a PTA database that can be accessed.

It was noted that inquiries to allow all students to utilize the DoDEA Virtual school may help some students meet the requirements.

DoDEA Europe is not allowing early enrollment, but Japan and Korea are. We will inquire at the Army SLO training to find out why the discrepancy.

April Month of Military Child (MOMC):

Melissa at the Department of Education has updated the website. All are encouraged to review and add to the information. It is exceptional as always.

Morgan brought to our attention the Veteran's program which has events offered for families through out the state. The opportunities are impressive.

Melissa will add these events to the state website.

New Partnership with Military Impacted Schools Association (MISA):

Kyle Fairbairn is very interested in establishing an active relationship with us and the NYS schools. Kyle is interested in having a regional meeting with Fort Drum and West Point. Troy will run point on this, looking at an October/November timeline.

DoDEA Report:

The Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness at Pennsylvania State University put out a report covering the quality and fidelity of policies impacting military connected students. We reviewed the NYS components. We also noted the ease to find our website information which the report noted was not easily found.

Christopher Arnold is interested in promoting the Purple Star program in NYS. It was noted that without funding and staffing implementation would will be difficult.

NYS struggles with the military identifier – self reporting for Impact Aid vs Military Student Identifier. VA changed how they collect their data and it has increased for them. However, DOD will take either numbers for Grants.

Placement and Attendance – the compact does not guarantee placement into AP or Honor classes when students relocate. Some DoDEA Virtual school can be offered to help offset classes that are not offered in the receiving school.

Phase II is in the works, this will include input from SLO's.

Other Items:

Heather asked about helping parents gain a stronger voice in our work, what opportunities might exist such as “thoughtexchange” a community alignment platform.

Lisa will look ahead and propose possible meeting dates in 2025 and beyond.

Carin will connect Dr. Jackson with the Garrison Commander regarding his role as the Mil Rep.

Plus/Delta: The board room library space is good for dialogue. We will look into a way to use Zoom or another platform to connect those unable to attend in person. The voice/phone is workable but not ideal. Other sites which were suggested have drawbacks to the open meeting laws.

10. Next meeting dates: September 18th & possibly April 30th:

Meeting Adjourned at 14:30

Respectfully submitted, Carin Mogavero