

New York State Interstate Compact Council

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

10:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Council Members Participating: Melissa Montague, Stephen Todd, COL Anthony Bianchi, Heather Evangelista, Michi Carl (ALL PRESENT), Diana Pasterchick (ZOOM) and Lisa Beatha (ZOOM).

1. Stephen Todd called the meeting to order at 10:41AM.
2. Stephen welcomed the council's newest member, COL Anthony Bianchi. Col Yankovich retired from Active Duty, he served our council well, from the very beginning and we wish him well. COL Bianchi is the Garrison Commander for West Point, now serving as the Military Liaison. Welcome!
3. COL Bianchi (Tony) introduced himself. COL Bianchi has been the Garrison Commander for West Point for nearly 9 months now. He has served at West Point two times prior to this assignment, teaching at the United States Military Academy and working in the Department of Athletics. He has over 25 years of service, married with 3 daughters.
4. Stephen asked that all present, to include those on ZOOM, take a moment to introduce themselves.
5. Stephen added that Sonya Draught, Plans, Analysis and Integration, USAG Ft. Drum, appointment from the Governor was finalized on March 27th. The appointments from the Governor's Office take a very long time, we are thrilled her appointment was finally approved, she will make a great addition to the council.
6. Steve provided a brief overview of the Compact and a brief history of the NYS Council, emphasizing that it is critical we continue to get the word out to those geographically dispersed throughout the state of New York. Commissioner Jackson fields many inquiries from across the state, districts that are unaware of the Compact. These are often quickly resolved through a phone call, however emphasized the need to spread the word, inform and educate. That said, Stephen went on to compliment Melissa and her incredible work on growing the NYS MIC3 website, many council members added in agreement, very impressed with the website, how it continues to grow and stay up to date.
7. Review of Plus/Deltas from the previous meeting. Melissa stated it was great to meet in person again. Heather added that Kevin Getnick's legal knowledge was a great addition.
8. Steve referred to the October 2022 minutes that were sent out to the council in advance of today's meeting. Melissa noted #15, the SA score range of 59-64, is incorrect, should state 50-64; transcript can reflect either the earned score or the "SA". Steve stated we will approve, pending this technical correction. Heather motioned to approve, and Melissa seconded the motion.

9. Steve recognized the NYS Compact service of COL Yankovich and brought the Council's attention to the two letters of thanks composed by Commissioner Jackson, to Marybeth Casey and Dr. Frank Sheboy. Steve added that although Dr. Sheboy did retire, he remains working in the Highland Falls – Ft. Montgomery CSD as Deputy Superintendent. Both Marybeth Casey and Dr. Frank Sheboy have asked to remain on the council, a testament of their dedication.
10. Steve reviewed all members of the NYS council, highlighting the addition and need for additional membership representation for such topics as Music and Athletics. Steve added some history, transition issues that were brought to the Council's attention and were resolved with the expertise of Dr. David Brown, President, NYS School Music Association and Dr. Robert Zaya and Kristen Suatoni Jadin, NYS Public High School Athletic Association. Steve adds he is thankful for their membership and continued dedication.
11. Steve addressed the JCOPE requirements, providing an overview of this requirement.
12. Steve asked Melissa for an update from NYSED regarding the technical amendment (one word change, changing the word "sections" to "chapters" which correlates to the definition of "active duty"). Melissa stated that the response she received was to keep initial language, the legal team does not want to act at this time. This is considered a non-issue as it is likely understood what this is referring to and if it isn't causing any confusion or issues in the field, recommendation is to leave law as is.
13. Steve refers to notes from Commissioner Jackson pertaining to the Tier 2 Group Meeting. This meeting refers to funding, NYS is one of the states that does not fund expenses for the state commissioner. MIC3 does fund National Business Meeting expenses for commissioners but the state is being asked to fund other operating expenses as commissioners are volunteers.
14. NYS dues are paid in full, again a thank you to SED!
15. Steve reviewed the Attestation Letter discussion from our October meeting. Consideration for Attestation Letter to be reviewed/updated as many states no longer require or administer end of course exams. Dr. Jackson had noted that only Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, New York, Texas Virginia, and Wyoming still require students to pass exit exams to graduate. This is down from 13 states in 2019. This shift causes difficulties in getting end of course sign offs for military educational transfers. Melissa states that the current Attestation Letter template is more rigid than the Compact language, she will look at amending the current template, opening it up to reflect alternative measures of proficiency/mastery.
16. COL Bianchi asked if military families are aware of the Attestation Letter/Compact. Michi states that many are familiar but not the specifics as to how each state carries out the Compact. It is the School Liaison's job to connect outgoing families to their gaining School Liaison and vice versa, the School Liaison is the subject matter expert at the installation and can inform the family as appropriate. Not all School Liaisons have the opportunity to in/out process soldiers, West Point does which makes communication and relaying educational transition information to families incoming

and outgoing an advantage. Often the information is offered prior to an issue to challenge, which is the goal of the School Liaison Office.

17. Steve complimented Melissa on the timely additions to the NYSED website. Heather added that she often uses that website as a resource as it is up to date and all-inclusive of information and resources.

18. Melissa noted the webpage updates to the FAQ's, added questions are:

➤ **Can a New York State high school award arts credit in a course that is not offered at their high school?**

Yes. New York State high schools can award transfer credit for arts coursework completed in other educational institutions, including coursework completed through independent study (outside of the school district). Awarding transfer credit is locally determined by each school or district. The decision to award transfer credit is based on whether the work completed is deemed, by the principal and relevant faculty, to be consistent with the high school learning standards and of comparable scope and quality to that which would've been done in the school awarding the credit. You can reference the [Transfer Credit regulations](#) (Commissioner's regulations Part 100.5[d][5]).

Even if a school does not offer an arts discipline (i.e., theater or dance), credit can be awarded if the principal and relevant faculty determine the course is consistent with the [NYS Learning Standards for the Arts](#) and comparable in scope and quality to a local unit of study in another arts discipline.

➤ **If a student chooses to take a Regents exam in science for a previously completed course, must the student meet the 1,200 minute laboratory requirement?**

Yes. When determining a transfer student's eligibility for admission into a Regents exam in science, laboratory experiences in the sending school may be included. An attestation letter from the sending district confirming the number of laboratory minutes the student completed in the science course may be requested. These minutes could be embedded in the course and this can be an approximation, as the sending school may not be tracking specific minutes as we do in New York State. Any laboratory minutes successfully completed out-of-state may be included in the determination of whether or not the student met the 1,200 minute laboratory requirement for admission into a Regents exam in science.

In September 2022, the Board of Regents made an [Amendment to Section 100.5 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education relating to the Laboratory Experience Required in order to take a Regents Examination in Science](#). Commissioner's regulations now permanently allow students to complete their science laboratory experiences required for taking a Regents examination in science through any combination of hands-on and simulated experiences, including virtual laboratory experiences. Additional guidance can be referenced in the [Frequently Asked Questions Related to Virtual Laboratory Experiences and the 1,200- minute Laboratory Requirement](#).

➤ **Since the June 2022, August 2022, and January 2023 administrations of the Regents Exam in United States History and Government (Framework) did not occur, are students eligible for an exemption from the associated assessment requirement?**

Per the [FAQ on Cancellation of the Regents Exam in US History and Government](#), for the purpose of meeting the diploma requirements, students shall be exempt from the

Regents Examination in US History and Government (Framework) if they intended to take such exam in June 2022, August 2022, or January 2023 and:

- were enrolled in a course of study that would ordinarily culminate in the taking of the June 2022, August 2022, or January 2023 Regents Examination in US History and Government (Framework) and earned credit for such course of study by the end of the first semester of the 2022-23 school year; or
- were enrolled in a course of study in grade 7 or grade 8 that would ordinarily culminate in the taking of the June 2022, August 2022, or January 2023 Regents Examination in US History and Government (Framework) and met the learning standards in such course of study; or
- by the end of the first semester of the 2022-23 school year, successfully completed a make-up program for the purpose of earning course credit in a course that would ordinarily culminate in the Regents Examination in US History & Government; or
- were preparing to take the Regents Examination in US History and Government (Framework) in order to graduate in June 2022, August 2022, or January 2023; or
- transferred to a NYS high school and earned credit in a course for which they intended to take the Regents Examination in US History and Government (Framework) in June 2022, August 2022, or January 2023.

19. Melissa shared the Month of the Military Child updates for 2023:

- Updated memo from Commissioner Rosa (2023)
- Added programs sponsored by Veterans' Services (Benjamin Pomerance)
- Added resource from CEC (Military Families Resources for Young Children)

20. Melissa mentioned that she includes IC information and reminders to the NYS Districts through both newsletters and the P20 weekly/content area notification service.

21. Steve referenced a letter from Troy Decker, highlighting the many IRCSD Month of the Military Child initiatives throughout the month of April. Please visit the IRCSD website and/or social media as these initiatives will be captured there.

22. Heather Evangelista highlights the many Month of the Military Child additions within the HFFMCS.

23. Steve addresses the outreach to PTO and NYSSBA Associations agenda item, stating this is an ongoing item and will remain on the agenda.

24. Steve updated the council on the Liverpool CSD Professional Development, which included a MIC3 Compact 101 Training Presentation. There were 30-40 participants, many of whom received a lot of information they were previously unaware of.

25. Steve refers to the Blue Ribbon Commission on Graduation Requirements which is experiencing an accelerated timeline. Emphasized what we need to understand, Project Based Learning and Student Voice. There will be greater flexibility defining success, including many opportunities. Melissa states there are no recommendations to the Board of Regents yet. Recommendations will be made to the Board of Regents in Fall 2023. Next step would be Public Comment.

26. Michi asked if NYS districts offered Accelerated Withdrawal, noting that DoDEA school

districts to have this as a calendar date. There are of course requirements to meet. Melissa and Steve state that this would be a local decision. Melissa states she will send the SED language about awarding credits for the minutes, see below:

- The NYS Education Department does not require a specific number of minutes of attendance in a course in order to earn credit. While credit-bearing courses must meet the unit of study (180 minutes/week or the equivalent) requirements, this is the educational opportunity provided by the school or district. This is not an attendance requirement. Attendance and grading policies are both established by each individual school or district. Credit is earned when students demonstrate mastery of the learning outcomes in a locally developed course.

27. Review Plus and Deltas of today's meeting:

- Room and Space were ideal
- In person meeting (good to be back together)

28. Closing comments: Diane Pasterchick adds that SUNY and CUNY will focus on getting the word out on the MIC3 IC, to childcare centers.

29. Next meeting is scheduled for April 3, 2024.

Submitted by Michi Carl

