

## **New York State Interstate Compact Council**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, April 6, 2022**

**10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

**Council Members Participating (via Zoom):** Dr. Debra Jackson (NYS Commissioner), Dr. Frank Sheboy, Lisa Beatha, Melissa Montague, Steve Todd, Troy Decker, Marybeth Casey, COL Michael Yankovich, Kevin Getnick, Heather Evangelista, Lisa Sheehan, Michi Carl, Wendy O’Sullivan

1. Commissioner Jackson welcomed participants and called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. She welcomed Heather Evangelista as an official member to the Council, noting a four-year vetting process. Heather thanked the individuals who supported her during the appointment process and expressed her pleasure to be an official member of the Council.
2. Dr. Frank Sheboy stated, due to his pending retirement there is a need for the NYS Commissioner of Education to appoint another Superintendent of Schools to the Council. Discussion commenced on appointing Troy Decker to the role. Dr. Sheboy expressed his interest in remaining on the committee in any other capacity.
3. Kevin Getnick introduced himself as the new Designated Representative of the Adjutant General. Council members then introduced themselves.
4. Marybeth Casey stated this meeting would be her last due to her pending retirement. She stated her work with the Council has been one of the most rewarding of her career with NYSED. She indicated she would be pleased to serve an unofficial member. Marybeth added she would recommend Melissa Montague to Dr. Rosa as her replacement as Designated Representative of the Commissioner of Education.
5. Melissa Montague stated the NYSED Interstate Compact and MOMC webpages have been updated.
6. Commissioner Jackson shared the minutes of the previous Council meeting. Dr. Frank Sheboy made a motion to approve the minutes, and Steve Todd seconded the motion. All voting members approved the minutes.
7. Commissioner Jackson reviewed old business. Firstly, she identified open seats as per Article 66. Dr. Frank Sheboy and Marybeth Casey will be stepping down from their respective appointments. Troy Decker and Sonia Draught are currently awaiting for appointments from the Governor’s Office. Dr. David Brown had asked to remain on the committee representing New York State School Music Association as past president. Discussions by Marybeth Casey and Commissioner Jackson detailed the process for the governor’s appointees and the NYSED Commissioner’s appointees. A shift will be recommended to accommodate those wishing to serve. Ultimately the decision for appointments rest with the appointing parties.

8. Commissioner Jackson offered to support those needing assistance fulfilling the Code of Ethics conduct paperwork in accordance with state regulations. Deadline for submitting is May 15, 2022. She also reviewed the requirements for voting members to complete the required ethics training.

9. Under Old Business, Commissioner Jackson referenced the expansion of Compact coverage to include the National Guard and Reserve. She noted the current success of the Compact in all States. It was clarified that the NYS National Guard and Reserve are not requesting participation. In discussion it was also clarified that under Title 10, when guard and reserve are activated, they are covered under the Compact. Clarification on active verses inactive occurred with COL Michael Yankovich clarifying reservists will be covered when activated. He added a reservist will choose a local base and completes the required weekend training locally whereas the Army informs active-duty personnel where they will move. The council members have the current MIC-3 documents regarding this discussion and Commissioner Jackson will share any new material as it is developed.

Commissioner Jackson referenced the impact of adding Guard and Reserve would result in membership numbers increasing as per document "Number of Guard/Reserve Sponsors and Children Ages 5-18 By Country, State and Service/Component".

Steve Todd clarified this would not be a state-by-state choice. Commissioner Jackson clarified that one option would have the current Compact terminated and a new Compact would take effect when all states add the amendment with common language. Each Tier Group will discuss this further in May.

10. Commissioner Jackson moved to new business. Purple Star Legislation was introduced by Assembly member Chris Burdick on 21 April 2021 as bill A7083. Marybeth confirmed the bill has no funds attached for implementation.

Steve Todd referenced the language in the bill as "The Commissioner shall establish a Purple Stars Program to recognize schools and school districts which demonstrate a commitment to assisting military connected students and their families. The Commissioner, or his or her designee, shall designate a school as a purple star school upon application of a school or school and the act shall take effect immediately." The reference of the word "Shall" is presumed to be a compulsion. Marybeth stated she would reach out to Jennifer Trowbridge at State Ed for an update.

11. Commissioner Jackson shared the overview of the MIC 3 "Compact 101" trainings. Information is available on the national website. The training is useful for principals, guidance counselors and others who wish to learn more about the Compact regulations.

12. Dr. Sheboy and his district office secretary, Dawn Lent, reviewed the implementation of Education Law §3304 with their district and highlighted the flexibility to support incoming families with submitting required documents electronically or in person. The process allows for student to connect with counselors and complete course selection prior to arrival. They are working with their IT department to have fillable documents.

Troy Decker reviewed his district's process being similar with a two-step process with fillable forms. Fort Drum is slightly different, as it is zoned for two school districts, families are often in temporary lodging or uncertain of housing assignments. Registration is finalized once a family arrives and housing is confirmed. The district works with the other school district to transfer initial registration paperwork if the family's permanent lodging is zoned for the other district.

As part of this discussion Heather Evangelista asked whether the Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery Central School District could allow 7-9<sup>th</sup> graders to have a zoom meeting with counselors. Dr. Sheboy and Dawn confirmed this would be possible if requested. Michi Carl added while the registrars are available during the summer, counselors are not as they are on a 10-month contract.

13. Also in New Business Melissa Montague spoke about the benefits of the Military Child Education Coalition's School Quest Tool and asked the group if it should be added to the New York Compact webpage. She explained it is a tool to manage the process of transition with an individualized student profile. While useful for all students, it is more suited for middle and high school students. MCEC POC Jenny Rasmussen confirmed they can add a New York specific page. The group confirmed this would be a wonderful resource to have on the webpage. Michi Carl has used this tool with families and appreciated the opportunity to have it customized for New York. Committee members can send Melissa any other useful organizational tools that might be beneficial for military families.

14. With April as the Month of the Military Child, Melissa encouraged everyone to share and submit stories on successful programs which she would then post on the MOMC webpage again this year.

15. Commissioner Jackson shared a draft MIC-3 document which was developed to provide guidance for states on funding for items such as travel, supplies, and IT. New York is one of the states that currently does not provide funding for the Council. Marybeth Casey recommended that members with access to our state legislators should review and share the document. She indicated Lisa Beatha as the Assembly representative and Melissa Pandolf as the Senate representative could introduce this funding request. She also stated if it can be included in the state budget it would solidify the committee funding. Such legislation could include payment for the MIC-3 dues. Commissioner Jackson asked for all to review the document for the next meeting. This will be added as an agenda item.

16. A return to in-person meetings was discussed. It was requested that a Zoom link be added for those with travel issues. New York State law requires our meetings adhere to the open meeting law requirements and on-line meetings without an in-person session will no longer be permitted this fall.

17. The roundtable discussion on Graduation and Regent's Testing Questions was presented. No current issues were mentioned.

18. Commissioner Jackson opened the parking lot items. Michi Carl gave a shout out to Dr. Robert Zayas and the New York State Public Schools Athletic Association for their support in waiving the one year wait for a military family who relocated; the move was deemed bona fide, and the association acted swiftly to resolve the issue.

19. Michi Carl reviewed a current issue with a family looking to move late June, prior to Regent's exams, who is currently denied an end of course grade. Marybeth Casey clarified that while NYSED does not recommend the Regents grade be calculated into the final average however the local districts control this decision with regards to making Regent's Exams part of the final course grade. The goal is always to encourage the district to make the right decision for the student. Dr. Frank Sheboy offered to speak with this Superintendent to help resolve the issue and provide a final course grade to the student transferring.

20. This discussion, prompted by Marybeth's question on how non-military students are supported, resulted in both Troy Decker and Dr. Frank Sheboy stating district leaders should be the voice of reason and provide terminal grades for all in these scenarios. Marybeth asked if a regulation was needed to cover all students in these scenarios. Discussions continued with Dr. Frank Sheboy stated Memorial Day or May 15th as a date to reflect three quarters of the fourth quarter. Discussion supported giving students the benefit of the doubt. Troy Decker stated there is a need to be creative in the documentation of attendance and ensure students are not placed at a disadvantage from attendance issues they cannot control.

21. Marybeth stated she will follow up with Melissa and others in the department on the development of a regulation.

22. Commissioner Jackson asked for thoughts on comments on the next meeting being in-per as she will work to hold meeting at Albany Museum.

23. Troy Decker requested having attendance virtually as an option.

24. Commissioner Jackson agreed to offer a virtual option and will search for a location to ensure virtual capability.

25. Commissioner Jackson reminded members that personal information was needed for those not on JCOPE.

26. Next meeting is scheduled for October 12, 2022

Respectively submitted by Wendy O'Sullivan