



PENNSYLVANIA STATE COUNCIL MINUTES
Thursday, April 4, 2024

PRESENT

Stuart Knade, Esq.	Representative of the School Boards Association
BG Terrence Koudelka	Governor's Executive Branch Appointee
Amy Lena	Advisor to the Deputy Secretary, Secretary's Designee, Pennsylvania Department of Education
Drew Turinski	Deputy Garrison Commander, Carlisle Barracks, USDOD Military Representative
Rep. Joe Webster	Legislative Representative, Speaker of the House Appointee
Barbara Clemmer	Compact Commissioner

NOT PRESENT

Sen. Tracy Pennycuick	Legislative Rep, President Pro Tempore of the Senate Appointee
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GENERAL ATTENDEES

Ms. Lisa Bodle-Lyford	School Liaison, NSA Mechanicsburg-Philadelphia
Chris Hendrix	School Liaison, Navy Region, Mid-Atlantic, Department of Defense
Colonel Jake Larkowich	Army War College, Deputy Commandant and Dean of Students
Cherise Imai	Executive Director, MIC3
Jacqueline Schultz	Outreach Services Director & School Liaison Officer, Carlisle Barracks, PA
Jennifer Williams	School Liaison, Tobyhanna Army Depot
Davelyn Smeltzer	Senior Policy Director, Pennsylvania School Boards Association
Adam Kaufman	Consultant Contractor, Military One Source
Purple Star School Invitees	Carlisle Area School District, Commonwealth Charter Academy, Cumberland Valley School District, Hanover Area School District, Peters Township School District (NOT PRESENT), St. Patrick School (Carlisle)

VACANT COUNCIL POSITIONS

Appointee of the Minority Leader of the Senate
 Appointee of the Minority Leader of the House
 Appointee from a Military Impacted School District

ITEM 1 – DEPARTMENT WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

MIC3 Pennsylvania Compact Commissioner Barbara Clemmer called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM ET. She welcomed members and attendees to the meeting.

ITEM 2 – ROLL CALL

Commissioner Clemmer conducted the roll call. A quorum was confirmed.

ITEM 3 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JULY 18, 2023

Ms. Amy Lena motioned to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stuart Knade. The motion carried.

ITEM 4 - APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Ms. Lena motioned to approve the agenda. BG Terrence Koudelka seconded the motion. The motion carried.

ITEM 5 – PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (PDE) UPDATES

New Members and Vacancies - Commissioner Clemmer welcomed new State Council members and reported on vacancies to be filled. BG Terrence Koudelka was introduced as a new member of the State Council, replacing BG Edward Little (retired). Senator Tracy Pennycuick moved to the Senate. Commissioner Clemmer reported that PDE is working with the Governor's Office, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, to fill vacancies for the Minority Leader of the Senate and Minority Leader of the House positions. Commissioner Clemmer announced the pending appointment of Dr. Elizabeth Robison, Superintendent, from the Pocono Mountain School District to the Pennsylvania State Council to fill the position vacated by Christina Spielbauer, Superintendent, from the Carlisle Area School District, who resigned.

Purple Start School (PSS) Designees 2024 - Commissioner Clemmer yielded the floor to Ms. Lena, who recognized the first awardees of the Purple Star School (PSS) program for supporting military students and families. She noted the application period opened on April 1, 2024, for the second year of the PSS program. Several military branches contacted PDE about military recruiter requests to obtain student information promptly. Recruiters stated that if the information was received, it would be received later than needed. Ms. Lena explained that a Basic Education Circular (BEC) was disseminated to schools and Institutions of Higher Education (IHE). The information regarding the military was highlighted at the end of March to comply with requests from military recruiters. Additional information can be found in the [Access to Secondary Students \(pa.gov\)](#) BEC.

Dr. Colleen Friend, Superintendent of the Carlisle School District, stated the school district educates and supports 400 students from the Army War College. Administration representatives attend the on-post meet and greet events and welcome expo to introduce themselves to new families. Tours are also offered to familiarize new families with the schools. Students with Individualized Education Programs (IEP) and those receiving gifted services were provided with information and support.

Mr. Joseph Page reported that Commonwealth Charter Academy (CCA) currently had 2,687 students enrolled. He noted that of those, 430 were military-connected families, with sixty-three spouses working for the district. The School Liaison assisted with nineteen cases, one of which involved homelessness. Professional development training was provided for 2,300 staff. CCA continues to educate on the Compact and has designated April 17, 2024, as its Purple Up! day.

Mr. Brian Robinson, Assistant Director of Student Services at Cumberland Valley School District, reported that a MIC3 presenter provided professional development to the school counselors to ensure that staff members were aware of the Compact requirements. Mr. Robinson noted the importance of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) in increasing awareness of the military community.

Mr. Nathan Barrett, Superintendent of the Hanover School District, recognized Ann Marie Kochuba-Mantione, who applied for the PSS award to strengthen established partnerships within the community. He noted that Hanover School District continues to look for outreach opportunities and ways to include all service branches and support military families.

St. Patrick School in Carlisle, PA, is a private school. Principal/CSO Antoinette Oliverio and Kate Hickey reported that out of 400 students, 20% are military connected. The school holds monthly get-togethers for new families to welcome and encourage community. Information is shared in the school newsletter regarding upcoming events like the mass and reception in April to celebrate the Month of the Military Child and recognize military families.

Advance Enrollment – A basic education circular regarding Act 24 of 2023 was disseminated. The amendment allows families to enroll their students prior to arrival using their military transfer orders and provides a forty-five-day window upon arrival to provide proof of residency.

Cases – Commissioner Clemmer reported on cases this past year. Pennsylvania had thirteen cases in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023. Five cases have been received for FY24, and the year is still in process. She highlighted a successful outcome for a senior student from Pennsylvania who moved to a Virginia school and was awarded a reciprocal diploma from the Pennsylvania district.

ITEM 6 – LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Legislative Update - Senator Tracy Pennycuik could not attend the state council meeting. However, Representative Joseph Webster reported that the NGR House Bill (HB) 502 was introduced and passed in the House unanimously, 201 to 0. HB1626 is a workforce bill to benefit veterans, requiring an employer with fifty or more employees to publicly display resources available to veterans. House Resolution (HR) 335 was passed unanimously, establishing the Pennsylvania Task Force on Agent Organ and Other Toxins. HR 336, designating March 29, 2024, as "Vietnam Veterans Memorial Day" in Pennsylvania, also passed unanimously.

ITEM 7 – SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICER UPDATES

NSA Mechanicsburg and Philadelphia - Ms. Lisa Bodle-Lyford, School Liaison for NSA Mechanicsburg and Philadelphia, reported that she began her position in December and that Naval Weapons Station Earle would soon have another new hire. She provided an overview of her office's programs and offerings to military families on the installation.

Carlisle Barracks - Ms. Jacqueline Schultz, School Liaison for Carlisle Barracks, provided an overview of her program. She noted that incoming 2025 students and their families contacted her office regarding school registration and general information. Ms. Schultz reported working to resolve a case involving a military family in the Exceptional Family Member Program, but there were no other outstanding cases at this time. She noted Carlisle Barracks was hosting eighty international fellow students, including their families. Ms. Schultz pointed out that when international students are enrolled in local public schools, the War College assists with school transcript translation when needed.

Toboyhanna Army Depot - Ms. Jennifer Williams noted that Toboyhanna Army Depot employs a primarily civilian workforce with some active-duty military assigned there. She reported the Pocono Mountain School District services the families employed on the installation. Ms. Williams shares the School Liaison handbook with local families and hosts open house events so families can learn more about the Child Development Center and Child and Youth Services.

ITEM 8 – MIC3 NATIONAL OFFICE UPDATES

MIC3 - Executive Director (ED) Cherise Imai reported that the Commission's Annual Business Meeting (ABM) was held in Richmond, Virginia, in November. The next ABM meeting will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, October 16-17, 2024. ED Imai reviewed Commission resources available to stakeholders, including council members and school liaisons, on mic3.net. She highlighted the new training portal, MIC3Training.net, that debuted in November, which Commissioner Clemmer helped develop as a member of the Training Committee. ED Imai reported that the next virtual Compact 101 Training would be held on April 22, 2024, at 6:00 AM ET. She noted that interested members could register for the training via the Events Calendar on mic3.net.

ITEM 9 – PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION (PSBA) UPDATE

PSBA Update- Davelyn Smeltzer, Senior Director of Policy Services, offered comments on the services of the PSBA and board policy 254. Educational Opportunity for Military Children provided to school districts.

ITEM 10 – MILITARY ONE SOURCE UPDATE



Military OneSource Update- Adam Kaufman, State Consultant Contractor, could not provide an update at this meeting, so the agenda item was tabled for the next meeting.

ITEM 11 – ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to discuss, Commissioner Clemmer called for adjournment. Ms. Amy Lena motioned to adjourn. Mr. Stuart Knade seconded. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 12:08 PM.