

**MILITARY SUPERINTENDENTS' LIAISON COMMITTEE
AND
STATE COUNCIL ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR MILITARY CHILDREN
May 11, 2023
0830-1000**

**Meeting at Beacon Point Homes Community Center
100 Tern Road, Groton, CT 06340**

MINUTES

Attendees State Council: Captain Curtin, Andrea Ackerman, Val Nelson, Kristea Francolino, Rep. Holly Cheeseman, Bob Ross, Laura Anastasio, Miranda Chapman

Attendees MSLC: Groton-Susan Austin, Seth Danner, Peter Bass, Phil Piazza;; NGR-Kerry Joseph; Laurie Cassini (Groton P.S.); Navy CYP-Kayla Miner; New London-Kristea Francolino; US Navy-Captain Curtin, MCEC- Kathleen O.'Beirne; Beth Mosier

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Review, amend and approve MSLC/MIC3 minutes from September 2023 meeting. State council action on this item was deferred until next meeting.
3. MIC3 Training videos. Attorney Anastasio discussed the monthly Compact 101 and 201 webinars, as well as the Spanish training webinar available on the MIC3 website. District staff and parents are welcome to register for the MIC3 trainings. The training notices are being sent out monthly and are also available on the mic3.net website.
4. Update on MIC3 ABM.
 - a. The Commission declined to change the compact statutes in the 50 member states and the District of Columbia to expand coverage to children of the National Guard and Reserves. Instead, the Commission encourages interested states to enact separate state statutes to grant such protections to their children if deemed appropriate and necessary.
 - b. The Commission also discussed Data Collection, which is required by the Compact. The concern raised by a number of Commissioners is that the data needed by the commission (to determine the number and movement of military children from state to state) will be inaccurate since the states cannot require parents to report such information. While the Compact requires MIC3 to collect data, the states have yet to reach a consensus on what is necessary, available, and how it will be used.
 - c. States are in the process of amending their Compact language to fix the citation error. Connecticut's bill is working its way through the legislative process.
5. Next ABM is in Richmond, VA in November of 2023. The cost for participants will be higher due to the increased cost of holding conferences. Attorney Anastasio encourage those interested in attending to register early to take advantage of the reduced rate.
6. MIC3 Activities:
 - a. MIC3 sent representatives to Japan to conduct DOD/DODEA training on the Compact. They had training sessions at several schools and military installations, meeting with Air

Force personnel, military spouses, and DODEA staff. Plans are in the works for MIC3 to conduct DODEA and installation outreach in Europe and the Pacific Region.

- b. Citation correction refer to 4Aa above
 - c. DOD initiatives – DoD is in process of adding Space Force as an Armed Service to definitions in all legislation. A definition change will not impact the spirit of the Compact.
 - d. Penn State Study- Penn State is conducting a study of how military students are supported in schools. Study called SPEAK Military Children. A few states were selected; CT included. Will be looking at four programs (advanced enrollment, Compact, Military Student identifier, and Purple Star schools). Any district may be contacted to provide information /feedback.
7. State Council/MSLC concerns, issues, other items.

Defining “deployment” for the purpose of the 10-day absence. The Navy conducts short-term orders at sea. Generally, sailors do not receive individual orders, the ship to which they are assigned receives orders. A typical deployment at sea can range from 6 to 8 months. However, shorter assignments (which may include training) may last for 30 to 45 days and are not considered deployments. It is important to clarify when a family may take advantage of the 10-day excused absence, which is required by state statute (which does not define the term.) Captain Curtin offered to research this issue further. Item tabled for further discussion.
8. Military –enlistment as a post-secondary outcome – update

Ms. Austin has organized a meeting with the Department of Education’s Chief Performance Officer, Ajit Gopalakrishnan and Groton administration to discuss how to collect data on military enlistment. Meeting is June 13th. Other interested school districts are invited to attend. Thirteen states include military enlistment as a post-secondary outcome, but other states have not been able to obtain accurate data. There is no easy method for getting information from military recruiters in CT because data systems do not link. The meeting with the SDE is another step toward finding a solution to this problem.
9. Military dependent data- update. Ms. Chapman provided the military dependent data for the region. She noted, however, that these data are inaccurate—she was unable to collect data from the Army. When Army data is available, the data will be updated.
10. Local school updates (MOMC activities)- round table
 - a. Navy: Currently, 13 subs are out at sea, 2 are in port. Recruitment is significantly down this year. Typically, at this time the Navy has about 45,000 recruits—at this point, there are only 11,000. Summer season brings increased moves/transitions for families.
 - b. National Guard: finished up the Month of the Military Child activities.
 - c. MCEC: Ms. O’Beirne asked about the plans being made for school space and staff hiring given the Electric Boat contracts and increased number of military servicemen and women at the submarine base. Mr. Ross responded that the town of Groton is monitoring the potential growth and its implications on the public schools. The growth for Electric Boat may mean more civilian employees moving into the region. However, the expectation is that the submarine base will not experience significant increases. The larger subs will be based elsewhere since the Groton Submarine Base cannot accommodate the large subs.

- d. Representative Cheeseman noted that the public health licensing statute for military spouses is in the works.
 - e. Bob Ross reported that there has been a change in name for the legislature's Veterans' Affairs Committee. It is now the Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee to recognize the overlap of issues that impact both veterans and current service members. There will be a Military awareness event at the State Capitol on May 30th.
 - f. Fitch H.S.: NDCC Program (National Naval Cadet Corps) Program has begun with 70 students registered for 2023-23 SY (mostly 8th Graders because it is in its first year,) which is more than anticipated. Groton is especially proud of this program, which has taken many years to implement.
 - g. Val Nelson: Groton has three DODEA grants—STEM Grant for professional learning and summer camp; an EMT course for students; and a grant for world languages, which will support a Spanish class for native speakers and elementary school French and Spanish courses beginning next year.
 - h. Elizabeth Mosier- Introduced herself as the new CYP Program director with oversight. CYP hosted a Military Kids Ball for MOTMC that was well attended and very well received.
 - i. Groton Schools- Susan Austin- planning for summer programming- STEM summer camp at CB and GMS; tutoring will be available at all school sites.
 - j. New London Schools- Kristea Francolino- Received a small budget increase. SBAC complete and end of year events are graduation (June 16th) and last day for students (June 20th). The year round school program is very popular and will be expanding through 5th grade for the 23-23 SY.
11. Upcoming military-related programs, initiatives, or resources
- a. SFLM Family Day – June 17th – flier shared with group, attached to email with minutes
 - b. Fall- Back to School support/trainings – as you plan your back to school programming, presentations on military related topics are available. Please contact Miranda if you would like these or have other thoughts on training for your schools.
 - i. Navy 101- introduction to the SUBASE and Navy lifestyle/impacts. Geared towards new teachers/staff, or a refresher for all staff.
 - ii. MIC3- introduction to the Compact legislation and implementation (similar to webinar Compact 101). The Compact covers many staff areas (teachers, guidance, nurse, coaches, athletic directors, principals, secretaries), so presentations can be general or specific.
12. Announcements
- a. Meetings for SY 2023-2024;
 - i. Potential locations- if your school/program would like to host, please let Miranda know.
 - ii. Days/times – dates have not been determined for SY23-24. Will stay with Thursday 0830. Dates will be sent out prior to August for planning purposes and opportunity to de-conflict with other events.
13. Adjournment