

DRAFT
STATE COUNCIL FOR THE INTERSTATE COMPACT ON EDUCATION FOR
CHILDREN OF MILITARY FAMILIES
March 8, 2022
Meeting was held virtually.

Attendees:

Dr. Susan Haberstroh, Dept. of Education
Dr. Mark Holodick, Secretary of Education
Doug Crouse, UD Cooperative
Jennifer Davis, Dept. of Education
Lt Col Michael Mariotti, Deputy Commander,
DAFB
Christine Kubik, DE National Guard
Laurie Sisk, DAFB School Liaison
Dr. Ronald Sarg, Military Officers Assoc.
Donna Polk, Executive Director, DIAA

Unable to Attend

Patrick “Mick” Devlin, DE National Guard
Carey Corbin, DE PTA
Senator Laura Sturgeon, DE Senate
Representative Kim Williams, DE House of
Representatives
Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, Caesar Rodney SD
Colonel Phelemon Williams, DAFB

Introductions and Welcome:

The State Council for the Interstate Compact on Education for Children of Military Families (MIC3) was called to order at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 by State Commissioner for MIC3 Dr. Susan Haberstroh. Dr. Haberstroh explained that the group is required to meet once a year. Everyone was welcomed to the meeting and introductions were made. Nicole Boris and Heidi Wuller from Welch Elementary were also in attendance to make a presentation on Anchor4Life.

Approval of Meeting Notes from March 12, 2021:

The Committee reviewed meeting minutes from March 12, 2021 meeting. Dr. Sarg made a motion to accept the meeting minutes and Ms. Kubik seconded, motion passed. Abstaining from this vote were Dr. Holodick and Lt Col Michael Mariotti.

National Council Updates:

Dr. Haberstroh (Susan) reviewed the annual report and highlighted the total number of dependent children in the continental US as 1,242,896 with 669,430 being school aged children. Susan explained that all 50 states and D.C. are part of the compact, and stated that Delaware was one of the first states to sign on. Susan commented that she serves on the rules committee and will be participating in the leadership nomination committee this year. Susan also commented that she was invited to attend the National Military Family Association Summit in April and looks forward to bringing back information to this group and the National Council.

Susan reported on the State Compliance and Coordination and commented that Delaware is fully in compliance. Susan reminded the Council of the task force that was developed to look at the expansion of participants in the Compact to include Title 10 as well as all Military members outside of Title 10. This would extend Compact coverage to National Guard and Reserve members on “full-time duty status” without the restriction to Title 10 only – expand to Title 32,

5, and others. At the 2020 Annual Business Meeting (ABM) the Commissioners were tasked with going to their Councils and deciding on a course of action regarding the expansion of the Compact Susan explained that there were 5 options and that this group agreed to expand the compact to honor all military kids and to expand the compact through legislation. Susan further commented that Senator Sturgeon and Representative Williams were very willing to sponsor if legislation was needed to be passed. Susan explained that at the ABM in November 2021 not all states completed what was asked so the discussion was tabled. Susan commented that there may be additional information coming out of the National Council and we may be asked to look at different options. Susan commented that the next Annual Business meeting is in October of this year.

Susan explained that of the commissioners 38 are from education, 7 from the military and 3 vacant positions.

Susan then reviewed the case summary and commented that there were 34 total cases from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

Susan reviewed the proposed FY2023 Dues and stated that our total dues will be \$2300.00 and the number of military connected kids are 1,725 as reported by DOJ which is an increase of 59.

Susan reported that at the Annual Business Meeting last year the U.S. Secretary of Education, Dr. Cardona, spoke at the meeting and sent a letter out to all the Chief State School Officers reinforcing the importance of the state Compact. He also commented on the importance of mental health needs of students especially during the pandemic. Dr. Cardona also highlighted the requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Susan then commented on the importance of making sure our districts and schools know about the Compact Laurie Sisk commented that she sends information packets out to their incoming families that includes information on MIC3 and does the same for families that are leaving just to help parents who are transitioning to their new duty station. Christine Kubik commented that they outreach to their parents with information that connects them with the resources that are available. She commented that they also brief all of their soldiers on an annual basis which includes all the kids resources and services and encourages them to reach out to the schools.

Susan commented that she recently received information on a Compact 101 training for individuals who may want to learn about the Compact

Susan highlighted House Bill No. 173 which allows for a family that has orders to pre-register in a school without establishing a formal residency. Susan then commented on Senate Bill No. 125 which is related to tuition and fees for spouses and children of active duty military where families are able to take advantage of in-state tuition. Senate Bill No. 117 as amended was passed to formalize the Purple Star School award.

Presentation Anchored 4 Life – Laurie Sisk - A program at Welch Elementary

Laurie Sisk explained that Anchored4Life program began in 2016 and is a partnership between the US Navy and the Trevor Romain Company. Laurie further explained that this program helps

build resiliency skills for youth and helps youth with their many transitions. There are over 316 locations that have been trained on Anchored4Life. Welch Elementary was the first in Delaware to join this program and the first in the country to have an in-person training event since the pandemic started. Laurie introduced Nicole Boris, Social and Emotional Learning Coach at Welch Elementary and Heidi Wuller, School Counselor at Welch Elementary. Ms. Boris gave a brief background of herself and commented that the Anchored4Life program is a pier to pier program and that the students do most everything on their own with little guidance. Ms. Wuller also gave a brief background of herself. The students in the Anchored4Life program also gave a brief background on themselves and commented on what they like about Anchored4Life. The students presented a presentation on the Anchored4Life Program.

Mr. Crouse asked how the program is funded and Laurie Sisk explained that it was funded by the Air Force. Mr. Crouse commented that the presentation was tremendous. Dr. Sarg also commended the students.

Laurie Sisk commented on another program that is available to our military connected students called Tutor.com for Military. Laurie explained that it is a free online tutoring service for eligible students kindergarten through college and is funded by the Department of Defense and the Coast Guard Mutual Assistance. Laurie also commented that this is available 24/7/361 and there are over 150 academic subjects for all skill levels and includes life skills for all ages. Laurie commented that the program is free.

The Purple Star Update – Jenn Davis

Jenn Davis reminded the Council that last year we had already begun the process of implementing Purple Star in Delaware. Jenn explained that a committee had been formed to work through the application process. Jenn commented that the application was sent out to districts and the application deadline closed February 1. Jenn commented that they received two applications. Jenn explained that one application met all the requirements and will be announced in April. In an answer to a question, Jenn commented that the Purple Star Designation Program only applies to public education schools.

Student Data Information

Jenn Davis explained that every year data of students who are identified as military connected students is reviewed. Jenn commented that as of March 1, 2022 there were 2388 military connected youth in Delaware schools. Jenn explained that there was a decrease in the number and plans to look into the reasoning behind that. Jenn commented that the forms have been updated for this year and plans to reinforce the process and make sure the forms are going out consistently.

Month of the Military Child:

Susan Haberstroh reported on the Month of the Military Child. She reminded the Council that last year the Governor did a Zoom meeting to present a proclamation. She is hoping this year we will be able to do what was done prior to the pandemic. Susan shared a draft of the resolution with the group. Susan commented that she will reach out to the Governor's office and Senator Sturgeon and Representative Kim Williams to select a day. Susan commented that last year the 1st Annual Scholarship named after Major General Carol A. Timmons was presented and Christine Kubik commented that there will be another scholarship recipient again this year.

Susan commented that there are Purple Up yard signs that they are getting out to different locations to share awareness on the Month of the Military Child.

Other Discussion as needed:

Susan commented that Donna Polk from DIAA has joined our state council. Susan explained that Davis Whitfield from the National Federation for High School Sports and requested that we have someone from the athletic association on our council.

Lt. Col Mariotti commented that he appreciates every ones efforts.

Public Comment:

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.