

New York State Interstate Compact Council

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 12, 2022

10:30 AM – 3:00 PM

Council Members Participating: Dr. Debra Jackson, Lisa Beatha, Melissa Montague, Stephen Todd, Troy Decker, COL Michael Yankovich, Kevin Getnick, Heather Evangelista, Michi Carl, Wendy O’Sullivan (ALL PRESENT), Diana Pasterchick (ZOOM) and Dr. Frank Sheboy (ZOOM).

1. Stephen Todd motioned to open the meeting. Kevin Getnick seconded the motion. Commissioner Jackson called the meeting to order at 10:37 AM.
2. Stephen Todd noted that the council is nearly at full capacity. Congratulations to Troy Decker, now serving as Superintendent of Schools on the NYS Council. Kevin Getnick, Designated Representative of the Adjutant General, will speak with Commissioner Jackson after the meeting regarding a point of contact at the Governor’s office for appointments.
3. Commissioner Jackson commended the council on once again responding with their homework in a timely manner.
4. Commissioner Jackson referred to the April 2022 minutes that were sent out to the council in advance of today’s meeting. Troy Decker motioned to approve and Heather Evangelista seconded the motion.
5. Commissioner Jackson recognized the NYS Compact service of both Marybeth Casey and Dr. Frank Sheboy, both on the council from its onset, understanding the challenges from their respective points of view, that of State Ed and that of Superintendent of a district with a high concentration of military students. Both Marybeth Casey and Dr. Frank Sheboy will remain on the council, a testament of their dedication.
6. Commissioner Jackson addressed open seats on the council (2) and provided a Code of ethical conduct and JCOPE requirements status update of the members.
7. Commissioner Jackson provided a dues update, noting that NYS is paid in full and on time, thanks to efforts of State Ed., council member Melissa Montague. It was emphasized that there is no funding, all operating expenses are out of pocket.
8. The Council opened discussion: Proposal to add a technical amendment to Compact; cost/purpose/legal aspects. Members were provided EMWNLAW Memorandum Re: Citation Correction in MIC3 Compact as a read ahead.

BLUF: Yes, NYS intends to correct – the process has no cost implications.

DISCUSSION: MIC3 is looking for all states to make this change over the next 2 years, this change can be done as a technical amendment. Currently all states read slightly different, this would be a one-word change for NYS. Kevin Getnick has researched this for NYS, sharing that the statute lays within Educational Law, Department of Education. Next session meets in January 2023. The council would like to complete this effort by April 2023, in time for high concentration educational transitions. Dr. Jackson will work directly with Melissa Montague and Jen Trowbridge at NYSED along with Kevin Getnick to amend current language. NYS is in priority group #1 of three priority tiers, this is determined by the number of NGR children in the state.

Stephen Todd made a motion to move forward with the technical amendment for NYS.
Kevin Getnick seconded the motion.
All in favor.

9. The Council opened discussion: Proposal to expand Compact coverage to the National Guard and Reserve beyond service members in Title 10 status. Members were provided EMWNLAW Memorandum Re: Application of Military Interstate Children's Compact to NGR Members as a read ahead.

DISCUSSION: Council participated in a rich discussion, each member sharing their perspective, specific to their expertise. All concluding that any NGR educational transitions are personal decisions – veering from the intent and mission of the MIC3.

Stephen Todd made a motion to vote, not to support to expand the coverage at this time, on behalf of the NYS Council at the 2022 ABM.
Melissa Montague seconded the motion.
All in favor.

10. Commissioner Jackson provided an update on NYS Purple Star Legislation. A7083 was introduced by Assembly Member Chris Burdick on April 21, 2021. The bill did not have a Senate companion bill and did not include funding for implementation. The bill did not move forward.
11. Commissioner Jackson provided information regarding MIC3 monthly trainings, via zoom. Highlighting Compact 101 and 102 Trainings. Encouraging all members to take advantage of these opportunities and to share as appropriate. Adding that the MIC3 website is great, many updates have been added.
12. Commissioner Jackson opened dialogue pertaining to Compact Program Funding. Members were provided the Commissioner Guidance on Compact Program Funding Re: guidance to member states who need to obtain legislative funding for oversight and implementation of their Compact programs.
13. New Business: Update on Tier Group Meetings. NYS is Tier 2, tiers are determined by the number of military students within the state. Commissioner Jackson will send out the upcoming meeting notes.

14. New Business: NYS Council Meeting dates for 2024 & 2025, as 2023 dates are already determined. Future meeting dates; March 29, 2023, October 11, 2023, April 3, 2024.

15. Roundtable Discussion: Graduation and Regent's Testing Questions.

Melissa Montague, NYSED Graduation and Program Requirements and Designated Representative of the Commissioner of Education, provided a comprehensive update on Regents; exemptions, special appeals, Seal of Readiness, IAAP, labs and the flexibility to support from a sending district. Adding that Credit and Assessment requirements are separate and distinct. There is local control regarding how Regents are noted on the transcript; all Regents OR only Regents passed (SA for scores 59-64 and 64+ noted on the transcript).

Melissa Montague will develop clarifying language and add to State Q & A on our website.

16. Roundtable Discussion: Interstate Compact, next steps.

Remind NYS districts and target audiences of IC;

- Troy Decker recommends a memo from NYSED
- Melissa Montague will add to newsletter/s and work with communications department to push out throughout the year
- Stephen Todd will provide regular updates to District Superintendents in regular intervals as if the district does not consider themselves a "military school" they can easily tune out therefore periodic updates are critical.
- Heather Evangelista suggests adding MIC3 to the drop down menu of district websites.
- Commissioner Jackson suggest another target audience could be PTA/PTO organizations. Stephen Todd has the State PTA contact and will reach out.
- Dr. Jackson offers to visit and speak to forums at Ft. Hamilton and Stewart ANGB, entry points are needed to access and execute. Lisa Beatha will contact advertising & public affairs at Ft. Hamilton.
- Lisa Beatha would like to share MIC3 videos, however current offerings are too long for her needs. Dr. Jackson will ask if shorter/concise videos can be developed/offered, while at the ABM.

17. Roundtable Discussion: NY End-of- Year Report 2021-2022

USAG West Point SLO, Michi Carl and Ft. Drum SLO, Wendy Sullivan provide State of Education Brief for NYS.

Identifying MIC3 Challenges

- Article (IV) Advanced Enrollment Implementation: There is a trend of registrars not initially supporting requests, this is resolved after SLO/Superintendent involvement. This Educational Lay must reach the level of implementation.

- Article (V) Gifted/Talented Documentation: Placement documentation from sending school districts is often non-existent. Military parents must be encouraged to advocate for official placement documentation to be include in official records to ease educational transition placements.
- Article (VII) Waiver Requirements are Not Timely: NYS requires an Attestation Letter to verify course/subject mastery in order to waive the graduation required Regents exam/s. This process is often challenged and thus delayed, causing extensive communication efforts and delayed results.

The Council opened discussion regarding the current Attestation Letter and the fact that many states/school districts do not use end of course exams. Dr. Jackson will inquire with other states at ABM, regarding use of end of year assessments. Council determined the Attestation Letter should be reviewed/updated to include Alternate Assessments. Troy Decker will work on a revised Attestation Letter Template, addressing alternate assessments/Regents credits.

18. Next meeting is scheduled for March 29, 2023

Submitted by Michi Carl