



Minutes

ATTENDING:

Tashina Andrus, School Liaison Officer (SLO), NSA Bethesda
Rene Averitt- Sansone, Executive Director, Parents Place of Maryland
Carol Beck, Director, Office of School Innovations, MSDE
Michelle Boone, SLO, NSA Annapolis - US Naval Academy
Matrice Brooks, SLO, Joint Base Andrews
Cynthia Chance, SLO, Aberdeen Proving Ground
Lt. Col. Chaveso Cook, Commander of Headquarters Command Battalion, US Army Garrison, Ft. Meade
Donald Corbin, School Safety, MSDE
Michelle Culmore, Office of School Innovations, MSDE
Lindsey Dablow, Training Operations Associate, MIC3
Teresa Dantzler, Ombudsman, MSDE
Dr. Cheryl Dyson, Superintendent, Frederick County Public Schools
Horace Franklin, NDW Regional School Liaison Officer
Mary Gable, Assistant State Superintendent, MSDE, Commissioner Maryland
Lolita Gunter, SLO, NSA South Potomac – Indian Head/Dahlgren
Alonso Hay, SLO, Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling
Cherise Imai, Executive Director, MIC3
The Honorable Anne Kaiser, Maryland House of Delegates
Christina King, Communications Associate, MIC3
Sunny Lee, SLO, Joint Base Andrews
Meredith McCandless, SLO, Ft. Meade
Brook Schmidt, Parents Place of Maryland
Dawn Simpson, SLO, NAS Patuxent River
Ryan Voegtlin, Director of Student Services, Anne Arundel County Public Schools
Flavia Walton, Military Family Representative

INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Gable, Commissioner, welcomed State Council members and guests to Maryland's Annual State Council meeting. The meeting included members of the State Council, School Liaison Officers, and staff from the Maryland State Department of Education.

CITATION CORRECTION

Cherise Imai (MIC3) informed the Council of a technical correction needed in Maryland law. The Department of Defense discovered an incorrect citation in the statute governing the Compact. This error was therefore embedded in State Compact laws. The error is that the laws refer to Section 1209 and 1211 of the bylaws and should refer to Chapters 1209 and 1211. With the correction, the Compact will refer to the federal definition of active-duty service as it should.

The Commission is aware and is working with states to make the correction. The process to make a technical correction varies across states. Eight states have made the technical amendments. (Note: In Maryland, the Department of Legislative Services writes an "Annual Corrective Bill" which corrects technical and grammar errors and corrects obsolete language.) Follow-up will need to occur in a future legislative session.

Cherise Imai said that there are two places in Compact law and in Maryland law where it references a section of federal law instead of chapter. She will send the statute to Mary Gable, annotated in red to show where changes need to be made. Mary will follow-up to discuss next steps to make this correction in Maryland's statute.

NATIONAL GUARD

Cherise Imai (MIC3) provided an update on the Compact and National Guard. Over the last several years, there have been questions and discussion about whether the National Guard is covered by the provisions of the Compact. In Maryland, both MSDE and Local Education Agencies (LEAs) work with National Guard families. Other states also report that they are responsive to the needs of National Guard families.

Utah changed its Compact statute to explicitly include the National Guard. Utah asked the Commission to consider this question and whether the Compact should be amended to include the National Guard.

The purpose of the Compact is to meet the needs of children when moves from state to state are required by changes in military assignment.

MIC3 established a task force to study this question. States were asked to review numbers and cases. The task force report was considered at the annual business meeting of the Commission. The Commission does not support the change, for the reasons noted above. This would also require revising the Compact law in every state. The Commission did develop an option for states to consider which is passage of language to address the needs of Guard families, but it should be outside the Compact.

Some participants noted that there are rare requests for assistance on behalf of National Guard families. These are not typically differentiated from other active duty personnel when it comes to helping a student.

MARYLAND STRATEGIC PLAN

Mary Gable presented an overview of the MSDE Strategic Plan and the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

In the initial phases of strategic plan development, there have been multiple roundtables, listening sessions, and other outreach efforts to develop priorities. Out of this work, the Department will focus on clear goals, supported by key values, and identify "enablers" – the structural conditions needed for success.

In Phase 3, which began in June 2023, the priorities will be refined and goals and targets will be set.

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future is a comprehensive plan for Maryland education. The legislation was passed in 2021 and will provide \$3.8 billion over the next 10 years. The legislation was the outcome of a three-year Commission. The Commission's report was the basis for the bill that ultimately passed.

There are five pillars of the Blueprint.

- Early childhood – high quality, affordable PreK
- High quality and diverse teachers and leaders – raising the stature of the profession.
- College and Career Readiness
- Resources to meet student needs
- Expertise and Accountability – includes expert review teams and metrics for low performing schools.

Feedback from stakeholders is important to ensure that the plan is flexible and responsive.

The values that will undergird the work of the Blueprint include transparency (especially of data), and equity.

Mary shared the survey and encouraged the Council Members to complete the [survey](#) which is available on MSDE's website. She also shared the website for the [Blueprint for Maryland's Future](#). Mary encouraged sharing both websites with their constituents.

PURPLE STAR

Legislation establishing a 'purple star' designation for schools passed in the Maryland General Assembly this year. Applications will be out in the summer. Schools will be asked to demonstrate what the school is doing to support military families.

OTHER

Ryan Voegtlin (Anne Arundel County Public Schools) shared that Military SLOs appeared on a local public interest show and shared valuable resources and information. He provided the YouTube link. Anne Arundel County Public Schools also had a poster contest during the month of the military child.

Dawn Simpson expressed gratitude to the staff of St. Mary's County. Very few concerns reach her because LEA staff are knowledgeable and responsive.

Lindsay Dablow, MIC3, stated that the main guide to the Compact rules has been updated and will be available in Spanish in June 2023. MIC3 has copies of the Guide to share upon request. Compact materials from the Commission may be ordered free of charge by going to the Resource page on their website.

RESOURCES

MSDE's Blueprint for Maryland's Future, <https://blueprint.marylandpublicschools.org/>

Maryland Public Schools Strategic Planning Survey,
<https://marylandpublicschools.org/about/Pages/StrategicPlanningSurvey/index.aspx>

Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission webpage, <https://mic3.net/>

Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission Resource webpage,
<https://mic3.net/publications/>

Link to Military SLO interview from Anne Arundel County Public Schools:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Jp92M-kB7M>