



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF **Public Instruction**

Wisconsin State Council of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children

Commissioner Shelley Joan Weiss

Minutes - FEB 29, 2024

1. Call to Order - Shelley Joan Weiss
 - a. Welcome
 - i. [Andi Krizan, President of the Wisconsin Parent Teacher Association](#) and Erica Christensen, WI PTA representatives to our State Council.
 - ii. Susan Piazza, Director, Student Services/Prevention and Wellness, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.
 - b. Welcome
2. Comments from WI State Superintendent Dr. Jill Underly
 - a. Thank you for the opportunity to be present. Thank you for participating in this group. DPI is here for you. Please let us know how we can further support military children. [April will be proclaimed Month of the Military Child](#).
 - b. Please heighten your awareness that the ops tempo is up for military families. The families are aware of this. Alert people to be sensitive.
3. Sharing the 2023-24 WI State Council Member Listing
 - a. [2023-24 WI State Council Member Listing](#)
4. Resources from MIC3
 - a. [MIC3](#) has resources available and please know that DPI links to MIC3 on website.
5. Update on April - Month of the Military Child
 - a. [DPI Website - Resources](#) (2023) Will be updated.
 - b. [MIC3 - MOTMC](#) (Month of the Military Child). Shared last year's proclamations, see below. As well as Fort McCoy video. Please also see holiday video. Thank you to Colonel Messenger for his help.
 - c. [2024 Proclamation](#)
 - d. 2024 Proclamation to be shared - Governor Tony Evers
 - i. [2023 Proclamation](#)

- e. [Fort McCoy, 2023 MOTMC video](#) with support from Tomah Area School District and Sparta Area School District
 - i. Please enjoy this [holiday video](#) from Fort McCoy - always leading the way - always inspiring! They are preparing their 2024 MOTMC video. Thank you Colonel Messenger & team!
 - f. [MIC3 - MOTMC Video](#)
 - g. Resources from [Military One Source for MOTMC](#) Rebecca Boehlke shared that every year Military One Source does a kick-off April with MOTMC. Sticker sheet, poster, toolkit, articles to help military families in a wide-variety of areas. Info will be published on April 1-3 on MTOMC website. We appreciate this strong support.
 - h. Information from [J.D. Englehardt](#), Lead WI Child and Youth Program Coordinator, WI Army National Guard, O: 608-301-8246, M: 608-658-6358 Is providing great leadership. Many thanks for all he does (see below):
 - i. This year the WI National Guard Theme for MOMC is “Code your Adventure.” We are asking Military Kids to draw their own video game avatar and tell us their Military Kids Adventure. We are bringing STEAM/STEM activities to all our events and celebrations what it means to the adventure of being Military connected kids. This year's events are listed below. Also, will be sending out 400-500 “camp in box” with program packets to military families throughout the State of WI. Goodie Box: <https://wicyp.wufoo.com/forms/k3zkih40ahcijo/>
 - ii. Apr 6 Code Your Adventure Purple up Day camp in Milwaukee: <https://wicyp.wufoo.com/forms/zuh5ctw0262sgp/> Aaron Jones and his mother are impressive supporters who spend time with the military families.
 - iii. Apr 13 Military Visit UW Madison and learn about benefits
 - iv. Apr 19-21 Purple up Weekend Camp : <https://wicyp.wufoo.com/forms/zb7eyp80neoc3b/>
 - v. Apr 27 A&A All the Way Purple Up Day Camp: Aaron Jones Camp.
6. Update on Civic & Educational Leader Flights/Tours - Fort McCoy, WI, Brigadier General Joni Matthews, Executive Director of WI Challenge Academy. Her team arranges to fly Educational and Civic leaders to Fort McCoy in BlackHawks. Earlier they hosted a flight from Green Bay. The Challenge Academy has an excellent relationship with the Green Bay Packers. The interaction with the Packers is a wonderful opportunity for cadets. This spring there will be three civic leader flights. April - Madison, May - Stevens Point, June - Green Bay. The team is working successfully to bring awareness to the Madison and Stevens Point area. The Challenge Academy is hosting an open house in April.
7. Shelley added that mentoring cadets was a phenomenal experience. It has been very rewarding to be involved in encouraging others to participate in tours of the academy. Many people are unaware of the opportunities the Challenge Academy offers. Visitors have shared that having the opportunity to listen to the students speak really makes a difference. Visitors are impressed with the statistics of the cadet's success stories. Thank you to the entire team at the WI Challenge Academy for their involvement and strong support.

- a. [Update and invitation to Open House](#)
- 8. Update on Purple Star Schools. The team has been diligently working on this for several years. Information and supporting research has been sent to DPI leadership. The Purple Star team is ready and eager to advance. The only area needed to address is posting the information on the DPI website. Shelley regularly receives emails about the success of Purple Star in other states. Thomas McCarthy will arrange to meet with Shelley to advance Purple Star. He has some good ideas on making all of the information for Military Families more visible on the DPI website. Shelley shared that we have a corporate donor who will purchase Purple Star Banners. This may provide an opportunity to reorganize the pages regarding military families, to serve them in a broader sense. Tom thanked Shelley for continuing to push this initiative forward.
 - a. [Information on Purple Star Schools to DPI](#) (DEC 2023)
 - b. Team has participated in nationally sponsored webinars.
 - c. Team has a corporate sponsor to pay for the first banners for the first of the identified schools.
 - d. Shelley is willing to contact potential application reviewers (American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Wisconsin School Counselor Association, etc.)
- 9. School District websites - resources within districts. If you have a website that supports military resources, please let Shelley know.
 - a. [Tomah Area School District](#)
 - b. [Sun Prairie Area School District](#)
 - c. [DeForest Area School District](#)
 - d. Input from Members on how to encourage districts to share information with military families. If you have ideas, let Shelley know.
 - e. How do we support military spouses who work in the schools? Shelley reaches out to the district to find out who is connected in some way and shares additional information on opportunities and resources.
 - f. Edgewood is offering Master's in Education, 40 districts involved. Director Michael Meissen and Shelley have worked with the Department of Military Affairs, to make this opportunity available to all members of the military and their spouses.
 - g. Rebecca Boehlke shared that [Military One Source](#) offers military spouse education and career opportunities programs, helping them with many aspects. Recertification. Teaching credits and opportunities.
 - h. [MIC3 2023 Annual Business Meeting](#) (no minutes available, but Itinerary is online. [2023 ABM Summary](#). 2024 MIC3 Annual Business Meeting - OCT 2024, Albuquerque, NM
 - i. [Summary](#)
- 10. Legislative Update
 - a. Minimal changes were needed in the WI legislation. One word change needed. The DPI legislative liaison, Kevyn Radcliffe, shared that the changes should be approved and finalized in the fall legislative session.
- 11. Input from Members

- a. Please contact Shelley anytime.
- b. Future Meetings - online
 - i. AUG 2024, FEB 2025 - to Be Announced
 - 1. August 20, 2024 (potential date - to be determined) Shelley will get this scheduled and sent out.
 - ii. MIC3 Annual Business Meeting - OCT 2024, Albuquerque, NM

12. Other

- a. The Interservice Family Committee meeting will be held on 9-23/14, at WI American Legion in Portage. For any military family. The American Legion will speak first. Everyone else has about five minutes, then everyone networks. Rebecca will send information to Shelley for sharing.
- b. Susan Piazza and Andrea Donegan will discuss identifying military family resources and do some out-reach.
- c. [New Legislative Act 95](#) with guaranteed admission to WI Universities.
- d. New UW requirements
- e. We will keep c and d on the radar and see how our military children might be impacted by these requirements. Shelley works with Military Veteran Representative, Joe Rasmussen, at UW Madison and will keep in touch with him on these issues. During April they are going to be hosting students on campus. Shelley will make connections with UW and DPI to better facilitate.
- f. The Council has worked with the WIAA. They have been helpful in situations.. Shelley will do a little harder push with WIAA. DPI has a liaison, Paul Manriquez, with the WIAA. Have an ex-officio, non-voting seat on the board. Tom and Shelley will connect.
- g. Thanks to all Council members and guests for their commitment to supporting Military Children.
- h. Compliments from members to Shelley on her advocacy for Military Children. Her work is amazing and is appreciated.

13. Adjournment