

New York Military Interstate Compact Council

Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 23, 2026

10:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Members in attendance: Debra Jackson, Brittany Phillips, Michael McElduff, Troy Decker, Christopher Arnold, Alison Conners, Kyle Belokopitsky, Wendy O’Sullivan, Carin Mogavero, Christopher DiFulvio, Thomas Breitfeller, Robin Banks, Sonja Draught

Virtual participation: Heather Evangelista, Dan Stuewe

Excused: Kevin Getnick, Lisa Beatha

**Opening Remarks:**

1. Debra Jackson, Commissioner, called the meeting to order at 10:35 AM
2. Commissioner Jackson welcomed those who attended in-person and virtually. She stated she was pleased to see so many who attended in-person.
3. Commissioner Jackson shared that Wendy O’Sullivan will be retiring, and this will be her last meeting with the council. Commissioner Jackson presented Wendy O’Sullivan with a certificate of appreciation for her work and commitment to the NYS Interstate Council.
4. Commissioner Jackson welcomes Carin Mogavera back to the Council. Carin Mogavera stated, she is glad to be back on the team.
5. Discussion of the plus/delta from previous meeting.
6. Commissioner Jackson asked for motion to accept the minutes from previous meeting. Troy Decker made a motion and Carin Mogavera seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously by the Council.
7. Christopher DiFulvio, newly appointed District BOCES Superintendent joined the meeting during a break from his Statewide District BOCES meeting to introduce himself and meet the group. He shared he is looking forward to participating with us.

### **Old Business:**

8. Commissioner Jackson shared seats are still open, awaiting appointments to the Council.
9. The New York State Education Department noted that no changes have been made to current graduation requirements. The council discussed general concerns about how any potential future changes to the graduation requirements may impact students who are covered under the compact when entering or exiting New York State.
  - a. Heather Evangelista added; parents are concerned about how Regents will transfer to other states. Parents have asked can students have their transcripts upon leaving.
  - b. Thomas Breitfeller stated total amount of credits due currently is 22 but may require more at some point. The changes will be watched for impact on military students.
10. JCOPE training must be completed yearly by voting members only. Financial reporting is due by May 15.
11. Interviews will take place for MIC-3 Executive Director position.
12. Training Initiatives and Compact 101/102 see Commissioner Jackson or Lindsey Dablow for any questions. Commissioner Jackson can help with training if we want the program.

### **Briefing on Recent Cases and Resolutions for families entering and exiting NYS.**

13. Washingtonville CSD reached out to NYSED for assistance as a non-resident parent requested a transfer to their school from an area school district. It was recommended that the parent work with their SLO regarding any requests, however since the family was not in transition but simply wished to change schools they did not qualify to transfer to the Washingtonville CSD. Issue was resolved by NYSED.
14. Military family requested a waiver for their child to attend the Discovery Program in NYCDOE. Parent stated it is unfair that her child cannot attend because in her view military students are disadvantaged and should qualify. Lisa Sheehan, Fort Hamilton CYS Director on behalf of the parent wrote: "The solution may be requesting (Military) being added to the definition of disadvantaged overall for all NYC department of education programs." This was discussed and the unanimous opinion was that this is not an action we would take going forward. The Compact covers access to educationally opportunity when students transfer into a school. Voting members voted and were unanimous that we did not support the request regarding the Discovery Program as applicable which has a clear intent to support students who are disadvantaged in their

education due to being underprivileged. Discovery Program is for disadvantaged students, who must live and attend school in a high poverty area.

**15. Acknowledgement of Successes: Shared Successes**

- New Appointee to the Council
- Wendy O’Sullivan shared the success of the Garrison Commander Fort Drum Education Committee. Bi-monthly meeting with the School Districts Administrators, Counselors, BOCES, Superintendents, and Fort Drum Partners.
- Troy Decker conveyed his deep appreciation for the Fort Drum Garrison Team and SLOs, highlighting the significant support and awareness provided to the district in the past 18 months.

18. Commissioner Jackson shared; Stephanie Borrowman, IMCOM DFMWR CYS, School/ Transition Specialist noted IMCOM SLOs are getting a new Data Tracking System and Commissioner Jackson asked the SLOs to help track the MIC-3 NYS cases and asked how can the Council help to track data into the system. This has been a goal of the group.

**Viewing video Bloom with Military Students. Video**

19. Military Families from around the branch of services. Students share their experience as military children.
- Kyle Belokopitsky asked, how can NYS Parents Association support Military Families. PTA across the area provides a platform for Military Families. Discussion ensued appreciative of Kyle’s offer.

**New Business-**

20. April Purple Up Month Celebrations-Commissioner Jackson shared last year the Empire State Building turned purple. They would like to do it again this year. Commissioner Jackson asked everyone to share their photos, activities and stories with Brittany Phillips. Troy Decker and Michael McElduff shared what their school district will be doing for the MOMC. Many great activities and events are in the works.
21. Notice of Proposed Legislation- Uniformed Services Child School Transition Act was shared and discussed. Chris Arnold provided background information on the proposal.
22. Succession Planning- Troy Decker agreed to be second in charge as listed on the MIC-3 web page and will help with succession planning going forward.

**Roundtable Discussion/Parking Lot Items**

23. Purple Star Update- Troy Decker provided an update on the Purple Star. They had a meeting with Benjamin with Veterans Affairs. There will be a meeting this Fall. Funding is available to support the Purple Star Program. Troy Decker also shared the purpose of the Purple Star Program. The Purple Star Program is still under the radar for Upstate NY.
  - a. Commissioner Jackson stated we currently do not have the manpower/resources to take on the Purple Star Program.
24. The Council discussed Homeschool Students participating in the school district JROTC Programs. Wendy O’Sullivan, shared Carthage Central School District, is currently dealing with issues. The Law states, Homeschool Students can participate in school’s JROTC Programs.
25. Kyle Belokopitsky offered to assist with the Senate open seat and additionally offered space in the PTO newsletter for an article on MIC-3. Jackson will reach out to follow-up with Kyle.
26. Jackson shared Military One Source has some best practices for JROTC.

**Discuss plus/delta about this meeting and possible changes going forward**

27. Plus- Well attended meeting, exceptional meeting space, ability to Zoom, and nice having Christopher Arnold attending today’s meeting.
28. Delta- Have pictures of Council meeting, invite a student to the next meeting, and consider having our next Council meeting at Waterview Arsenal. Students will have a better chance of attending.

**Closing Remarks**

29. Next meeting date: September 16, 2026
30. Spring Meeting date: April 7, 2027
31. Troy and Mike will submit dates for future meetings.

**Motion For adjournment:**

Troy Decker moved to close meeting and Sonja Draught seconded the motion to adjourn the Council meeting.