

**CONNECTICUT STATE COUNCIL ON EDUCATIONAL  
OPPORTUNITIES FOR MILITARY CHILDREN**

**and**

**Military Superintendents Liaison Committee**

(Combined meeting)

March 24, 2022

0830-1000

Naval Submarine Base Museum and Library

## **Minutes**

Attendees State Council: Andrea Ackerman, Representative Holly Cheeseman, Jason Hartling, Captain Curtin, Bob Ross, Laura Anastasio, Susan Austin, Kristea Francolino, Miranda Chapman

Attendees MSLC: Groton-Susan Austin, Ada Allen, Peter Bass; LEARN-Kate Ericson; Robert Welt; Norwich- Ashley Eichorn; USCG- Candace Morgan; Navy CYP- Kayla Miner, Miranda Chapman; Ledyard- Jason Hartling; New London- Kristea Francolino; CT Mil Affairs- Bob Ross; US Navy- CAPT Curtin

Guests: Jennifer Bourque, Erica Moser, Chris Zendan

### **MIC3 STATE COUNCIL**

1. The minutes from the 23SEPT2021 State Council were approved.
2. MIC3 is seeking student videos memorializing their experiences with successful education transitions under the Compact. Please check with families to see if anyone is willing to participate!
3. MIC3 is offering monthly Compact 101 training webinars that are geared to school administration, teachers, counselors, and secretaries. Staff members can attend these sessions as may be convenient for them.
4. PurpleUp! Day and MOMC (Month of the Military Child). State Board of Education is promoting the following:
  - Sent out the proclamation to schools
  - SBE will be wearing purple to the April meeting and will have a brief explanation of why
  - SBE is encouraging local districts to do the same (wear purple) for their April meetings
  - Ledyard/Groton videos for SBE Communications Office, Atty Anastasio to check on the requirements for format
  - Please share district MOMC photos/videos with the SDE
  - SDE is seeking an event for April 27<sup>th</sup> for the Commissioner and either the Governor or the Lieutenant Governor to attend.
  - Ms. Bourque noted that the April 9<sup>th</sup> Family Day at the Submarine Library and Museum could be an opportunity to advertise the MOMC and PurpleUp! Day
5. National Guard & Reserve (NGR) Inclusion: The request to include the National Guard and Reserves in the Compact is still under consideration of the MIC3. A court case is currently on appeal that could impact the options the MIC3 was considering. MIC3 will hopefully be ready to vote on a course of action to provide similar protections to the NGR.

## MSLC

6. Letter from Secretary Cardona in support of MIC3 and military children
  - a. Miranda highlighted some areas that were particularly relevant to the group; focused on two of Secretary Cardona's action steps for districts and his final comment
    - i. Educate and train personnel at all levels (leaders, teachers, counselors, nurses, coaches, etc) of the Compact. The Compact elements and rules cross many areas and all staff/programs impacted should be aware of the Compact and how it works.
    - ii. Provide professional developmental and training to educators- training can be done via the virtual trainings that MOC3 offers on the Compact, or Miranda and/or Laura can do in-person training on the Compact at your schools, districts, or other professional development programs.
7. Updated local military student numbers- Miranda provided the updated military student potential enrollments in each local school district in New London County. Bob Ross mentioned sharing a document re: defense spending by state to share in conjunction with the military numbers may be of interest to the group. Will send along in upcoming communications.
8. Local School/Member Updates:
  - a. Kristea Francolino (New London)– Magnet school showcase will be on Thursday, March 31st at 5:30PM. Implemented a year-round K-1 model this past year; expanding to a 2-3 grade year-round model next year.
  - b. Jason Hartling(Ledyard) – Anchored4Life program has been a great addition to Gales Ferry/.Juliet Long school. Implemented a new Kindergarten enrollment process and a kindergarten bootcamp. Expanded the elementary day to address learning loss; showing great gains.
  - c. Captain Curtin – The USS Colorado recently returned from deployment, which can be a period of transition for children. There are sailors who are willing and able to volunteer at the schools as COVID restrictions are lifted. Volunteering is beneficial for the young sailors.
  - d. Norwich – beginning to start up its volunteer program. They will contact the Naval base to provide opportunities for volunteers.
  - e. Representative Cheeseman – Teacher licensing reciprocity is also being addressed. The State Board is expected to approve a reciprocity agreement to include states from Virginia to Maine, including Puerto Rico. In addition, the Niantic Children's Museum is looking at MOMC activities to promote awareness. Social/emotional welfare of children post-pandemic is a focus of the legislature this year. In addition, there are bills aimed at relaxing licensure requirements for military spouses.
  - f. Kate Ericson LEARN – the lottery is being held for the Friendship School and the Regional Multicultural Magnet; Marine Science lottery was earlier in the year. Seats for highly mobile families (HMFs) to be held open for families moving into the area after the lottery is over. Working on MCAPS grant.
  - g. Susan Austin (Groton) – Groton has moved to 5 intradistrict magnet schools— Groton Middle School, the STEAM/IB school, recently received its MYP IB certification. Staffing has been a challenge. Groton is hosting the Northeast DODEA regional meeting at the Mystic Marriott June 6-7. Groton has received a number of DODEA grants for technology, literacy math/STEM and is applying for a world languages grant.

- h. Ada Allen- Thames River Magnet is celebrating its designation as a blue ribbon school. MOMC focusing on the meaning of the MOMC and the significance of the dandelion with art projects. PurpleUp! Day for the school will be April 14<sup>th</sup>. New community coordinator hired and looking forward to accepting volunteers.
  - i. Andrea Ackerman discussed experience with her dissertation: shore duty versus sea duty and its impact on student achievement. In recent years there was no significant difference, but ten years earlier, there was.
  - j. Peter Bass - Groton Middle School: officially an IB school, discussed “Brave enough to Bloom Wherever We Land” and Military Mondays
  - k. Jennifer Bourque: discussed Family Days with activities for families Monday thru Friday during the summer months; Teacher Institute – Project Oceanography. Asked districts to provide feedback on how she can support their programs and activities.
  - l. Bob Ross: noted that if we can adjust and accommodate military children, we can apply it to all students.
9. Upcoming Military-Related Programs, Initiatives or Resources:
- a. Two workshops for parents- 1) Military interstate Compact and 2) Moving with a military student. Fliers handed out and included in email minutes.
  - b. School options fair- school info posted on SUBASE CYP weebly site. Info is updated and there year round for families to explore prior to moving to the area.
10. Upcoming meeting dates:
- a. MSLC meeting dates: 5/26/2022 at Camp Nett at Niantic (verifying location)
11. Adjournment

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*The MSLC is a partnership between Naval Submarine Base New London, the US Coast Guard Academy, and local school districts in New London County for the improvement of school transition, as well as the overall academic and school experiences for both military and transient students.*