

**MSLC/State Council for Military Children**  
**Joint Meeting**  
**May 2, 2024**  
**Meeting at Beacon Point Homes Community Center**  
**100 Tern Road, Groton, CT 06340**

## **MINUTES**

Attendees State Council: Captain Curtin, Jason Hartling, Val Nelson, Rep. Holly Cheeseman, Bob Ross, Laura Anastasio, Andrea Ackerman, Miranda Chapman

Attendees MSLC: Groton-Susan Austin, Ada Allen, Seth Danner, Val Nelson, Matt Brown, Peter Bass; Ledyard- Jay Hartling; Navy CYP-Elizabeth Miner, Kayla Miner; US Navy-Captain Curtin, MCEC- Kathleen O.'Beirne; CT Office of Military Affairs- Bob Ross; Citizen-at-Large-Robert Welt; Subforce Museum Educator-Jennifer Bourque

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Review, amend and approve MSLC/MIC3 minutes from the November 2023 meeting. Motion to approve the minutes By Bob Ross was seconded by Jay Hartling. The minutes from the November meeting were approved by unanimous vote.
3. MIC3 Letter to DSLO: DOD initiatives to change the Compact  
Attorney Anastasio provided the group with copies of MIC3 Legal Counsel's letter to DSLO. She discussed the conflicting views of the ability of outside agencies to change the interstate compact and the concerns that it raises. This could affect States continued involvement with the Compact. At this time, Atty Anastasio does not request support from Superintendent's to raise the issue; however, if efforts continue to advance may request intervention/support.
4. Update on MIC3 ABM: finance, possible virtual ABMs.  
Attorney Anastasio provided updates on the budget review being conducted by the MIC3 Finance Committee, which will be reviewing extensively the use of funds and the needs of the organization to fulfill its mission. Next ABM is in Albuquerque, NM October 14-16.
5. MIC3 Activities: Joint resolution to support MIC3/MOMC  
Discussed Representative Courtney's resolution to support MIC3 and the Month of the Military Child.
6. Cases in Groton: Illustration of how the Compact benefits students.  
Two cases involving reciprocal diplomas. Both students did not have sufficient credits to graduate with a Groton diploma. The Groton counselors were able to connect with their counterparts in the other states and work out an agreement to have the students receive diplomas from their sending schools. Without the Compact, this arrangement would not have been possible. Group discussed how we can use these cases to illustrate the importance of the Compact and its impact on our students.
7. Raising Compact Awareness in Connecticut  
Group discussed effective ways to educate people about the Compact. Superintendent Austin noted that Groton has had Professional Development sessions on the Compact, but she felt that it would be beneficial to do it annually. Attorney Anastasio stated that she is willing and able to do in-person training for the districts or for a more regional group. In addition, the MIC3

webinars are still available (Compact 101 and Compact 201.) Recently MIC3 launched a modular training program that allows staff to engage in shorted modules to accommodate their busy schedules. Ms. Chapman noted that parents on the base do not often participate in parent training sessions that she offers on the Compact. Ms. Chapman does provide Welcome and Good Bye packets via the front office/MFLCs at schools; will work to digitize and get hard copies to schools.

8. State Council concerns, issues, other items

Certification for military spouses: CEU/certification classes at the Submarine Library. There is a military spouse with certification who would like to teach in CT. Attorney Anastasio provided contact information for the Certification Bureau to call and ask for assistance.

9. Quality of Life Survey

Discussion of the issues in the QOL: military pay, education, housing, spouse employment, education, and childcare. Childcare is a newer concern arising among military families. The cost has increased significantly, which can impact a spouse's ability to work. This survey mirrors the findings of the Blue Star Family Survey.

10. Our Community Salutes (OCS) 2024

OCS is a national organization that highlights students who have chosen to enlist in the military post-high school. This is the first year that OCS will be in Connecticut. The ceremony will be held May 18<sup>th</sup> in Hartford. Discussed how students are invited and who attends. CAPT Curtin has a POC and will ask how enlistees are chosen.

11. Local school/military updates - round table

A. Kayla Miner- SUBASE Youth Center - Shared story of former youth who now is a student at sub school; Attended the National 4H conference in Washington DC trip with 4 teens from the youth center. Great experience for the teens.; A student from Groton MS will be competing in CT's BGCA Youth of the Year next week

B. Jay Hartling- Ledyard- Kindergarten registration and waiver process going smoothly; Gallup hill had a " Night at the museum;" Anchored 4 Life programming is going well as several schools

C. Robert Welt- Shared and offered historical letters for a history project to the group.

D. Ada Allen- Thames River ES- Had a successful MOTMC

E. Seth Danner- Charles Barnum ES- Held several MOTMC events; preparing for SBAC.

F. Peter Bass, Groton MS- school has developed a drone club; utilizing EB mobile lab.

G. Susan Austin, Groton- Budget process was touch, appreciated community support.

H. Matt Brown, Fitch HS- NKROTC visited New London NJROTC during the Admiral visit, great experience; would like to emulate the OCS program at Fitch (or locally) if possible.

I. CAPT Curtin, SUBASE Commanding Officer- PCS moving season is upon us; as with civilian agencies, experiencing daycare challenges, working to expand /improve and get back to pre-pandemic service levels; queried if the Impact Aid video helped with data collection; CB invited CAPT to join on a hike with the hiking club, was a great experience with the students; May is Gold Star Family month- honoring those who we have lost while active duty

J. Bob Ross, Director, CT Office of Military Affairs- - continues working on the high school identifier and having military service included in accountability stats

K. Jennifer Bourque, SFLM Educator- May will be working with Waterford ES's for marine science day; June 15<sup>th</sup> will be SFLM family day/Touch-a-truck; SFLM is looking to help spouse get experience in the classroom.

12. Announcements- NTR

### 13. Adjournment

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