

**MILITARY SUPERINTENDENTS' LIAISON COMMITTEE
AND
STATE COUNCIL ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORUTNITIES FOR MILITARY CHILDREN**
<https://oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-formula-grants/impact-aid-program/Joint Meeting>
September 22, 2022
0830-1000
Meeting at Beacon Point Homes Community Center
100 Tern Road, Groton, CT 06340

Minutes

Attendees State Council: Captain Curtin, Andrea Ackerman, Jason Hartling, Kristea Francolino, Val Nelson, Laura Anastasio, Miranda Chapman

Attendees MSLC: Groton-Susan Austin, Ada Allen, Seth Danner, Peter Bass, Phil Piazza; Norwich- Ashley Eichorn; NGR-Michelle McCarthy; Navy CYP-Kayla Miner, Ledyard-Jason Hartling; New London-Kristea Francolino; US Navy-Captain Curtin, MCEC- Kathleen O.'Beirne

Guests: Jennifer Bourque

State Council

1. Review, amend and approve MSLC/MIC3 minutes from the meeting on March 24, 2022. Since there was not a quorum, the approval of the minutes was deferred to the next meeting.
2. MIC3 Training videos and monthly training offerings. Laura discussed the training sessions that are currently offered by MIC3: they are providing a monthly Compact 101 webinar for school staff and for parents. Several MSLC members indicated that they had not received the webinar information and would like to receive it so their staff can sign up. Laura will send the meeting information to Miranda for distribution to the MSLC members. MIC3 is also offering periodic sessions of Compact 201 for school staff who have taken Compact 101. This class focuses on actual case studies allowing participants to apply the Compact to specific fact patterns. Any feedback Laura also encouraged those who take the training to provide feedback and suggestions for improving the webinars. Laura also advised the group that MIC3 might be able to send a trainer to southern Connecticut for a larger training session if there is a need from the in the area.
3. Update on National Guard and Reserve (NGR) inclusion in the Compact. MIC3 will be discussing and voting on how to include NGR in the protections under the Compact. While NGR families who move interstate due to Title 10 orders are currently covered by the Compact, those who move under Title 32 are not. Michelle noted that some NGR families move under Title 32, but the numbers are not significant. The group discussed the difference between "choice" versus moving as a direct result of the orders. The consensus of the group was that it would be better to pursue the option of separate state statute to establish these rights rather than risk the integrity of the Compact through the amendment process.

4. Citation correction to the Compact. Laura presented the citation error in the Compact, which was made when the model Compact language was originally developed. Due to the error (citing 10 USC Sections 1209 and 1211 instead of Chapters 1209 and 1211, the NGR technically are not included at all. Notwithstanding that, the practice of the Compact states has been and shall continue to interpret the Compact to include NGR called up under Title 10 orders. Laura indicated that this year the Department of Education is proposing a bill to make technical changes to a number of statutes within Title 10, including Section 10-15f, which is the Connecticut adoption of the Compact. Laura and SDE will monitor the bill to ensure that no other changes are inserted into the bill.
5. Proposed amendments to the Compact rules. Laura presented the proposed rule 6.102 Eligibility for Extracurricular Participation. The group discussed the fact pattern surrounding the Kentucky case. Jason Hartling stated that he could see nothing that would be unreasonable or difficult to execute at the school level. Kristea questioned the meaning of the term “eligible student.” General consensus was that Connecticut districts should have no serious problems complying with this rule.
6. Summary of the NAFIS Conference and meetings with partner agencies. Laura attended the fall NAFIS conference for MIC3. The conference was excellent with breakouts on recent Supreme Court cases affecting education, the ins and outs of the Impact Aid application, meetings with USDE officials who oversee Impact Aid, updates on the draft bill to attain full funding for Impact Aid, internet connectivity for rural districts and districts on Native American lands (by the FCC Chair), the US Deputy Secretary of Education spoke. MISA and NAFIS are working hard to pass this year’s proposed increase of 57 million for Impact Aid. Laura noted that there were no CT districts who are members of MISA/NAFIS. The reason (as explained by Susan and Miranda) is that the cost of membership and the cost of travel to conferences was high. Jason also noted that the membership fees were high.) The Groton Board, which had been a longtime MISA member, was concerned about the expenditures and decided to eliminate that budget item. Laura indicated that MISA was willing to offer one year of free membership so Groton could determine whether MISA membership would be worth the cost. Susan stated that she would discuss it further with her board.
7. 2023 Key Issues- Defense State Liaison Office- the 2023 Key issues were introduced. (see attachments):
 - a. Initiatives of note that impact military children include: Purple stars schools, open enrollment flexibility, MFLC license waivers license exemption for military family child care providers.
 - i. Purple star schools legislation was passed last year. No movement. Department of Education determining way to move forward with program that is meaningful, successful, sustainable.
 - ii. Will watch legislation to see what is meant by open enrollment flexibility and how it may impact local schools.
8. Department of the Air Force- Support of Military Families (SoMF) Initiative- AF program to evaluate quality of education and license portability- areas that may be possible considerations in strategic basing process. There is no anticipated base realignment at this time. However, looking at how our local area and state measure up on this proposed

evaluation can be beneficial to the local area being a desired duty station for personnel in the future. (attachment)

- a. There are multiple areas to review and each school/district can review data sources to see where they may score.
 - b. Some issues can be evaluated and addressed locally, where others may require local state representative support to pursue.
 - c. Discussion followed on the previous efforts of the MSLC to get the state to consider Military Service as a favorable post-secondary outcome; information papers were submitted in June of 2019, but no there has not been follow up; CAPT Curtin requested history to review, Miranda will send on info9rmation papers and last contacts.
9. Local school and service updates
- a. Ada Allen- TRMS magnet- good start to school year; began with the “Start with hello” program from Sandy Hook promise to increase kindness and inclusivity
 - b. Phil Piazza- Groton Asst Superintendent- Great start to year. Focus on DEI initiative, one element- filled the school libraries with books that are reflective of the community.
 - c. Seth Danner- CB Magnet School- mentioned that he has been pleased and is excited to continue his relationship with Jennifer Bourque and the SFLM education staff. Has been very educational. Working on Veteran’s Day plans. Mentioned that the support CB has received from the FFSC child counselor to run deployment club for the past 10 years is no longer available. Children looked forward to the groups and her absence is a loss for the students.
 - d. Peter Bass- GMS- great start to year
 - e. Susan Austin- opening without restrictions feels good. District received another DoDea grant- Nurturing Global Mindfulness through World Language
 - f. CAPT Curtin- offered his thanks and appreciation to the group for their efforts in addressing issues that impact military children; briefly mentioned volunteers and that we are eager to support as best we can within the processes they set forth for background checks or other requirements.
 - g. Laura Anastasio- MIC3 Annual Business Meeting is October 19-20.
 - h. Michelle Mc Carty- National Guard- recently welcomed two units home, currently not a lot of movements; will be offering Adopt-A-Family program which is open to all military families- will send updated flier out through MSLC distro.
 - i. Kristea Francolino- New London Schools- begin to school is going well; both the middle school and high school under construction; invited the group to the NJROTC pass and review- will send along invitation; brought up the FAFSA challenge and the requirement for all schools to fill it out- may be challenging to meet requirement, many reasons families will not disclose required information i.e. not intending to go to college, undocumented families, distrust of revealing personal and financial data, etc; following up on the global language info from Groton, New London has a dual diploma program with China. Kristea will share more information about the program.

- j. Val Nelson- DoDea grant coordinator, Groton- hosted the DoDea Northeast Regional Conference, Dodea impressed with the work Groton is doing.
 - k. Ashley Eichorn- Norwich Public Schools- good start to Norwich schools; no uniform policy this year, kids are dressing appropriately and celebrating it; planning events and will contact for volunteer support.
 - l. Jennifer Bourque- Subforce Library Museum- Museum education going well, worked with many schools and camps over the summer; staff have created an extended curriculum which will be sent out to the MSLC group; talked briefly re: the Sea Perch program.
 - m. Jason Hartling- Ledyard Schools- great positive start to school year; hiring still a challenge; food service received a Chef of the Year award; building awareness around funding issues as state changes funding formula and the impact on the district, currently 160/166 in funding at 15.2k/student.
 - n. Kayla Miner- Child and Youth Programs- has donated soccer balls for any program interested- 860-448-6843.
10. Announcements.
- a. Upcoming MSLC meetings
 - i. November 17, 2022- 0830-0930 – **Note Date Change due to Veterans Day conflicts; looking for host**
 - ii. January 19, 2023 - 0830-0930
 - iii. March 16, 2023 (combined MSLC/MIC3) - 0830-1000
 - iv. May 11, 2023 - 0830-0930
 - v. June 8, 2023 - 0830-0930 (Volunteer Appreciation Event- tentative)
11. Adjournment.