

**STATE COUNCIL ON EDUCATIONAL
OPPORTUNITIES FOR MILITARY CHILDREN**
and
Military Superintendents Liaison Committee

(Combined meeting)

September 23, 2021

0830-1000

Naval Submarine Base Museum and Library

Attendees State Council: Andrea Ackerman, Representative Holly Cheeseman, Captain Todd Moore, Val Nelson, Bob Ross, Laura Anastasio, Miranda Chapman

Attendees MSLC: Groton-Susan Austin, Phil Piazza, Ada Allen, Seth Danner, Ted Keleher, Val Nelson, Peter Bass; LEARN-Kate Ericson; USCGA- CWO Chris Gibson; National Guard- Michelle McCarty; Kathleen O'Beirne, Robert Welt

Guests: Captain Curtain, Jennifer Bourque

MIC3 STATE COUNCIL

1. The minutes from the 29APR2021 State Council were approved.
2. Captain Moore announced that he will be transitioning to a new command and introduced his successor Commander of the Naval Submarine Base, Captain Curtain, who will officially take over on September 24th. Captain Moore expressed his appreciation for the MSLC and the State Council.
3. MIC3 is seeking student videos memorializing their experiences with successful education transitions under the Compact. Due to the pandemic there were very few submissions nationally, so please let parents know of this program. We would love to showcase the Compact in CT.
4. MIC3 has put together training videos, which are posted on the MIC3 website. These training videos can serve as a helpful introduction to the Compact for new staff members as well as parents.
5. MIC3 Annual Business Meeting (ABM) Update: The ABM, which was to be held in Little Rock, Arkansas on November 4th and 5th has been changed to a virtual meeting due to the continued pandemic. MIC3 has offered training modules in lieu of the break-out sessions held at the in-person meetings. Representative Cheeseman stated the two sessions: Compact 101 and Compact 201 were helpful and informative. Ms. Chapman will send everyone the links to the recordings of these two training sessions so everyone can view them.
6. PA 21-86: the new legislation allowing for military families to establish residency in any district in CT with PCS Orders to CT recently went into effect. Attorney Anastasio asked the group for feedback on how this legislation is impacting registration at the schools. Mr. Ross noted that the legislation was based on a proposal by DoD, which does not take into account the complexities of a state such as Connecticut with a large number of smaller school districts and with magnet schools. He noted that allowing for advanced enrollment into the magnet schools could impact the magnets if the service member's orders change at the last minute. The magnets receive funding based upon their October 1 enrollment, and any empty seats could lower the number of seats for the following year. Captain Moore also noted that for many families the ability to attend school in the district of choice can help the students with their transition to CT so they can attend school in

the district of choice while they are looking for permanent housing. However, if the family cannot find housing in the district of choice, the student might have to change schools. The group noted that policies vary: Groton typically allows families to continue attending the original school, while other districts may only allow for it if they are near the end of the school year. Superintendent Austin recommended that the group draft a model policy for the school districts in the region to consider implementing to maintain continuity in how districts treat families in this situation. Ms. Erikson offered to draft a proposal for the MSLC to consider.

7. National Guard & Reserve (NGR) Inclusion: The request to include the National Guard and Reserves in the Compact is still under consideration of the MIC3. MIC3 asked the Commissioners to present the issue to their state councils and submit a position statement. Attorney Anastasio submitted a position statement that supports no action until more data is available to determine how many NGR families move to other states under non-Title 10 orders. She stated that an initial review of other states' position statements show that the New England states (Maine, New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts) seem to be on the same page with respect to this issue. She noted that if it is shown that there is a need for this change, Connecticut would support the options of having states enact legislation outside of the Compact or having the states enter into an MOU to implement this inclusion. However, Connecticut would not support attempts to change the Compact statute due to the expense and the danger of damaging the uniformity of the Compact.

MSLC

8. Introduction of Subforce Library Museum and Historic Ship Nautilus Programs and Curricula (Jennifer Bourque): Ms. Bourque has developed curriculum following common core and state standards. The museum has re-opened and welcomes back visitors. Ms. Bourque can also bring PK-8 programming to the classroom at your schools. To explore programming options, reach out to her at jennifer.bourque@navy.mil . High school curriculum (developed by local high school teachers) can be found at <https://ussnautilus.org/education/> . Ms. Bourque also can support home school students.
9. Review of School Opening, registration, and summer transition challenges/success: no one reported specific challenges or concerns re: military students and summer transition/registration
10. Local School/Member Updates:
 - a. Bob Ross- at National level, student loans forgiven if work 5 consecutive years at a Title 1 school. Looking into expanding that to 5 cumulative years, so military spouses who are required to PCS can participate in the program. In response to bus concerns (in comments below), Mr. Ross shared that he drove a bus while in college and it was the perfect job- drove in the am, went to classes, drove in the afternoon. Suggested public schools reach out to local colleges for potential school bus drivers.
 - b. Two submarines recently returned from deployments. Construction on Columbia class submarines at EB will increase military personnel by 600 in the 2027-2030 time frame.
 - c. Ada Allen- Thames River Magnet is open and going well. Military Family Life Counselor will begin lunch bunch and Anchored 4 Life training update will be Oct 27th.
 - d. Peter Bass- things going smoothly. Hoping that replacement MFLC arrives as planned on Oct 1.
 - e. Phil Piazza- introduced as new Assistant Superintendent in Groton. Impressed with supports for students in local schools.
 - f. Susan Austin- reports that Groton is experiencing bus issues similar to other districts, down 10 drivers a day (25% of staffing). If National Guard is mobilized to support

bussing, she welcomes them in Groton. Announced that Mary Morrisson school was named a Blue Ribbon School. MM was a school with over 50 % military students. As MM closed and those students transitioned to the new Thames River Magnet School, TRMS will receive the Blue Ribbon.

- g. Val Nelson- Groton completing the final year of the Math DoDea grant. Anxiously awaiting the announcement on the next Dodea grant for STEM and career education. Grantees will be named in the next few weeks.
- h. Seth Danner- working on reviving Anchored 4 Life after hybrid year. Update training in October. Deployment club will be revived with the support of the MFLC and Dianne George –SUBASE child counselor. Exploring alternate plans for Veterans Day for students to recognize service members.
- i. CWO Gibson- A new CMC has reported to the USCGA academy (CMC Maria D’Angelo) and two new ombudsman have been appointed to support families.
- j. Kate Ericson- Magnet school are doing well. Schools are near/at capacity with TFS and RMMS both at 500, and MSMHS at 271. Three Rivers Middle College is the “hidden gem” program for 11th and 12th graders. Students can get their realtors license, associate’s degree, and other credentials prior to graduating high school. LEARN is also participating in the CT Teacher Residency Program which assist candidates with an alternate route to certification. Groton and Norwich are also participating. LEARN is hiring and actively seeking candidates.
- k. Michelle McCarty- 900 National Guard members are currently deployed. Many have returned recently. Transitioning home can be challenging /stressful. NG Youth program moving to in person events.
- l. Kathleen O’Beirne- MCEC had virtual training this summer. Community Coalition for Children hosting their annual event virtually in October.
- m. Ted Keleher – Fitch pursuing the establishment of a National Navy Defense Cadet Corps chapter; appreciated the tour of the Base over the summer in support of the effort and looks forwards to partnership.

11. Upcoming Military-Related Programs, Initiatives or Resources:

- a. Month of the Military Family is November
- b. Veterans Day- with school visitors being restricted, please consider what alternative opportunities are available to recognize Veterans; please contact early if you desire SUBASE involvement or support

12. Upcoming meeting dates:

- a. Proposed tentative meeting dates are: 11/18/2021, 1/27/2022, 3/24/2022 (Combined MSLC/State Council), 5/26/2022
- b. Looking for host location for 11/18, 1/27 and 5/26

13. Adjournment

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.