

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

(Combined meeting)

October 3, 2019

0830-1000

Submarine Force Library and Museum  
1 Crystal Lake Road, Groton, CT 06340

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

Attendees MSLC: Groton-Susan Austin, Elena Pollard, Seth Danner, Val Nelson, Kathleen Miner; Ledyard -Jason Hartling; Lebanon -Robert Angeli; Region 18 LOL -Ian Nevasier; Norwich-Kristen Stringfellow, Kaitlyn O'Leary; New London - Kate McCoy; LEARN- Kate Ericson, Colchester - Charles Hewes; National Guard -Michelle McCarthy; Coast Guard Academy- CWO3 Christopher Gibson; SUBASE-Captain Todd Moore, Miranda Chapman; CT Office of Military Affairs-Bob Ross; Subforce Library Museum-Justin Spielman; Citizen-Robert Welt; MCEC-Kathleen O'Beirne,

1. The minutes from the March 21, 2019 State Council meeting were approved.
2. The minutes from the May 2, 2019 MSLC were approved.

**MIC3**

3. MIC3 – Utah proposed a change to the Compact to include reserve and National Guard relocations not related to PCS. Discussion on whether data collection was done/possible on students moving in/out of state including Army National Guard/Air National Guard, and could also possibly be applied to cover part-time national guard members and reservists.
  - a. Data would be collected by the DoE in each state, then reported to the Compact Commission.
  - b. Data collection for Groton/Ledyard may not be a great burden due to the data collected for impact aid. In addition, the district would have received a request for the transfer of student records.
  - c. However, it would be a challenge for districts in other parts of the state to collect accurate data (since the identifier is voluntary).
  - d. It was also noted that for National Guard families, few, if any, moves are the result of a PCS. National Guard is a state asset and moves are not imposed on families.
  - e. Current compact rules only apply to active duty PCS orders and not moves that are done by choice.
4. Legislative session/education committee proposals
  - Early registration for magnet schools. This bill did not go forward last year. The solution that the southeastern schools put into place was an effective means of

addressing the underlying concern. Expect issue to come up again. Group notes that DoD proposed legislation that is being lobbied to each state is problematic.

**TASKER: pass forward to Bob Ross wording and process that SECT utilizes to address magnet schools and positive outcome measures as model that concern can be resolved at the local level.**

- Treatment of Magnet School students, early registration. LEARN discussed the magnet pilot for admitting students outside the lottery. It became apparent that there was a limited number of military-connected students attending the magnets in the 2009-2011 School years. The registration period for these schools did not coincide with the timing of PCS orders. Therefore, they developed a pilot program for “highly mobile families (HMF),” which could include military families, children of Pfizer employees, and homeless or other highly mobile families. LEARN held a certain number of slots for HMFs over the summer so that these families would have the opportunity to apply. Once school started, the students on the waitlist would take those slots. Bob Ross noted that this was a great example of a local solution by educators to address the problem. Given the unique structuring of grant payments (which varies by state), a uniform approach evidenced by last year’s proposed legislation would have created an unfunded mandate and would have imposed a hardship on the magnet schools.
  - Representative Cheeseman reported that one initiative that may be proposed is a change in start times for schools, which would impact all districts. In addition, there has been some movement to change the Kindergarten start date. At this time, children who will be 5 years old on or before January 1<sup>st</sup> of a school year are eligible to attend Kindergarten. Connecticut is a state that has one of the earliest start dates in the nation. There has been some concerns raised about the range of ages of students in Kindergarten with the early eligibility age and the provision in the statute that allows parents to defer enrollment in school until age 7. The General Assembly may consider changing the eligibility age for Kindergarten.
5. Weighted grades. The MIC3 has received proposals to mandate a uniform approach to grading. Under the Compact, the receiving school must accept credits and can adjust grade (GPA) to new grading system. Some students that transfer, especially in their later high school years, do not have the weighted grades incorporated into the grading at the new high school.
    - a. Grading is not expressly addressed in the Compact.
    - b. There is extreme variation in grading from state to state , district to district.
    - c. Members agreed that the issue of how to treat weighted grades for transferring students is complicated and should be left to the local school districts.
  6. Annual Business Meeting – Colorado. Attorney Anastasio gave a brief synopsis of the itinerary for the MIC3 meeting October 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Main theme is ‘social and emotional well-being of military children.’
  7. April – month of the military child. This year, Governor Lamont issued a formal declaration.

8. MIC3 Public relations and outreach. Attorney Anastasio reported that she attended the National Guard Back to School Fair and provided brochures about the Compact for families.

### **MSLC**

9. Review of school openings, registration, and summer transition challenges/success.
  - a. No challenges or difficulties were reported regarding transitioning military students.
  - b. Groton reported that they tightened up their policies on physicals and immunizations and have had more success getting the records in a timely manner.
10. Subforce Museum presentation by Justin Spielmann, Director of Education. Many programs at the museum for students of all ages. Justin can also come out to present at schools. Information paper will accompany email with minutes.
11. Local school updates- round table
  - a. LEARN- RMMS first FY as an IB early years programme; have new STEM and robotics programs
  - b. Groton schools- new middle school under construction; IB MYP has been granted and underway; CB off to a good start; received a \$100,000 Farm to Table grant ; WSMS recognized for SBAC achievements; MM will be the newest host of a school-based health center
  - c. Kathleen O’Beirne- MCEC- will save MCEC update until next meeting; shared Community Coalition for Children annual conference flier- October 30<sup>th</sup>
  - d. Coast Guard- CWO3 Christopher Gibson - 95% of the CG PCS’s occur in May, June and July; will work with Master Chief to see if families report any concerns with registration/transition.
  - e. National Guard- multiple units from CT still deploying; Adopt-a-family program will occur this year and is open to all branches; flier will be forthcoming.
  - f. New London- November 7<sup>th</sup> will be the fall magnet expo; there is a rumor/belief circulating that NL families will not get spots at NL schools- that is inaccurate; families can apply for spots after October 1<sup>st</sup>; NL is undergoing two large construction projects at the MS and HS
  - g. Norwich- Kristen Stringfellow –new superintendent- introduced herself to the group
  - h. Ledyard- very busy back to school month; officially opened two new schools- MS and Gallup Hill; some staff changes- new MS principal Ryan Earley, GF/JL principal Mark Westcott, Anne Hogsten is new asst superintendent; enrollment has been growing in Ledyard; district moved to centralized registration
  - i. Lebanon- surge in elementary enrollment; received grant to have green house at MS and students growing food that is used in the cafeteria
  - j. North Branford- working with Honeywell to implement a welding curriculum
  - k. Lyme-Old Lyme – established a universal preK program for all 4 year olds in town; welcome tuition students from out of town; currently at 77 students and can accommodate 15 more
  - l. US NAVY – CAPT Moore- recent return of Toledo and Hartford, Colorado out on deployment; October 16<sup>th</sup> is ‘Meet Your Navy Day’ (flier will accompany emailed

minutes); SUBASE is open for organized tours for school groups- the galley and NMSRL were noted as possible tour options

- m. Andrea Ackerman- October 17<sup>th</sup> is the Dr. Martin Luther King scholarship dinner, granting 13 \$20k scholarships, all are invited to attend
  - n. Office of CT Military Affairs- Bob Ross-
    - i. Commissioner of Education invited to attend MIC3/MLSC meetings- opportunity to explore the groups, local schools, and military facilities
    - ii. Attended 2 meetings at the Pentagon- BRAC will look different in the future; a focus may be on sea level rise and climate change in determining impact of asset location; this may be favorable to CT and SUBASE;
    - iii. Also considerations for BRAC are quality of public education and souse licensure reciprocity. USAF is assessing the quality of public schools near its bases. Per Laura Anastasio there is a statute addressing reciprocity for military spouses who are licensed to teach in other states. Other license reciprocity status is not known. Rep. Holly Cheeseman noted that licensure reciprocity needed to be looked into at the legislative level.
  - o. Colchester- Dr. Hewes stated that Colchester is working with EB to establish a manufacturing pipeline. Posited the question on how the MIC3/MSLC group could be an avenue to pursue partnerships in education that could address military sciences future needs locally in industry and in military service. Group discussion followed on how to identify what skills are needed and not available in CT, certificate programs in HS, funding sources, and pathways other than college needing to be supported as successful. The Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) being conducted in partnership with the SCCOG was mentioned- can be discussed at future meeting after release.
12. Handouts – SEAP, Community Coalition for Children, Submarine Force Museum Education Program, Meet Your Navy event, National Math & Science information sheets.
13. Upcoming military-related programs or initiatives
- a. Meet Your Navy Day- October 16
  - b. Month of the Military Family- November
  - c. Veterans Day
14. Members’ Concerns, Issues and Other- NTR
15. Upcoming meeting dates: Seeking schools or districts to volunteer to host. We welcome you to show off the great things you are doing in your schools!
- a. November 14, Location TBD; January 23, Location TBD; March 19, Location TBD; May 14, Location TBD
16. 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.*