

Wisconsin State Council
of the Interstate Compact on
Educational Opportunities
for Military Children

Agenda/Minutes

March 23, 2023, 10 a.m.



1. Call to order - Shelley Joan Weiss, Commissioner
2. Roll Call - Introductions - Shelley Joan Weiss
 - a. Shelley Joan Weiss - Commissioner, Chair (present)
 - b. Dr. Jill Underly - Wisconsin State Superintendent of Public Instruction (present)
 - c. Thomas McCarthy - Executive Director for the State Superintendent
 - d. Andrea Donegan - Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) Liaison, School Counseling Consultant (present)
 - e. Benjamin Jones - DPI Legal Counsel (Kari Race - Designated Substitute)
 - f. Kelly Behling - DPI Representative (Excused)
 - g. Senator Rachel Cabral - Guevera, Legislative Representative
 - h. Representative Shae Sortwell - Legislative Representative
 - i. Connie Lewis - Legislative Staff (Excused)
 - j. Michael Hanson - Superintendent of Tomah Area School District (Military Impacted Schools) (present)
 - k. Sam Russ - Superintendent of Sparta Area School District (Military Impacted Schools) (present)
 - l. Rebecca Walley - Wisconsin School Liaison Officer for Military Families (based at Fort McCoy) (present)
 - m. Col Stephen Messenger - Department of Defense, Military Representative , LTC James LeVelle representing Col Messenger
 - n. Lt Col John Wheeler - guest (present)
 - o. Lynn Sisco - Military Family Representative (present)
 - p. JD Englehardt - Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs, Child and Youth Program (present)
 - q. Rebecca Boehlke - Representative, Military One Source (present)
 - r. Stephanie Hauser- Representative, Executive Director of the WIAA (Excused)
 - s. Angelene Mattes - Representative, WI Parent Teacher Association (excused)
 - t. Derek Campbell - Executive Branch Representative

- u. Stacy Eslick - Executive Director, Wisconsin School Counselor Association (excused)
 - v. Stephen Schroeder - Association of Wisconsin School Administrators (Excused)
 - w. Elizabeth Pease - Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Office Operations Associate (Excused)
 - i. Mary Croy, Office Operations Associate representing Elizabeth Pease (present)
3. Approval of the Agenda
 - a. Motion made by Sam Russ, Seconded, Dr. Jill Underly.
 - b. Agenda approved
 4. Approval of the 28 [September 2022 Minutes](#).
 - a. Motion made by Sam Russ, Seconded Rebecca Boehlke.
 - b. Minutes approved.
 5. Welcome from Dr. Jill Underly, State Superintendent of Public Instruction
 6. Update from Shelley Joan Weiss
 - a. Welcome to Col Stephen Messenger, Department of Defense/Military Representative, Senator Rachel Cabral - Guevera, Representative Shae Sortwell, Legislative Representatives, and Connie Lewis, Legislative Staff Member. We are pleased to have them join us for their first meeting.
 - i. Please note that LTC James LaVelle is attending on behalf of Col Stephen Messenger
 - b. Thank you to Senator Patrick Testin and Lt Col John Wheeler for their service to the Military Children of Wisconsin and to our Council.
 - c. Participated in [Compliance Committee](#) Meetings.
 - i. Wisconsin is current on all compliance issues.
 - ii. Wisconsin is current on fees payments.
 - d. Commissioner Weiss is continuing her attempts to pursue connections with the various branches of the military and the other agencies ([Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Services](#), [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#)) whose children we are supposed to support.
 - i. Trying to connect with the different branches we are responsible for supporting.
 - ii. Wisconsin supports all children whose parents are members of the active branches of the military and the children of the Guard and Reserve.
 - iii. The Department of Defense Education Activities has provided some connections.
 - iv. Let Shelley know if you can connect her with individuals from the various branches.
 - v. Rebecca Boehlke, Military One Source has connections. She and Shelley will discuss further.
 7. April, Month of the Military Child
 - a. JD Engelhardt, National Guard Child and Youth Program - announcement
 - i. Work with Natl Guard Child Need Program.

- ii. Educational goodie packets for National Guard children with the Theme “I am strong.”
 - 1. Over 400 people signed up for packets including families from Wisconsin and surrounding states.
 - 2. “Sold out” of these packets. JD will increase the request for more packets for 2024 based on their popularity.
- iii. Virtual Day Camp on April 11 (grades 1-5) and April 18 (grades 6th -12th)
- iv. The Teen Summit is April 14-16, 2023.
 - 1. Capitol Tour scheduled for April 15.
 - 2. Planning for a legislative representative to talk to the children.
 - a. Note that Shelley has reached out to our current legislative representatives, Senator Testin (past Council member), and Senator Dianne Hesselbein (military family member, parent of military children).
 - b. Note that Shelley has also reached out to Governor Tony Evers to potentially be present.
 - 3. Fourteen team leaders have signed up.
 - 4. Others are welcome to sign up for team leaders.
- v. April 29 day camp at Lambeau with Green Bay Packers. [Aaron Jones hosts this event \(AA All the Way\)](#).
 - 1. 75 military children from Fort McCoy.
 - 2. 50 children of military members currently deployed.
 - 3. 125 military children (general).
 - 4. All tickets are sold out.
 - 5. Wait list.
 - 6. JD is working to expand opportunities for this day camp in the future.
- vi. Quarterly camps and mental health activities. Children of service members besides National Guard are included.
- vii. Will attempt to increase opportunities available next year.
- viii. Has built an email list from participants.
 - 1. Advertise on Facebook and Instagram.
 - 2. Emails participants directly and works to limit emails.
 - 3. People are responding to the email list and events filling up within a week or so.
- ix. Andrea can share information via her lists of school counselors.
- x. You can contact JD for further information: johndaniel.w.englhardt.ctr@army.mil.
- xi. Trying to work on getting Governor Evers to meet with children, but have had trouble this year.
 - 1. Dr. Underly: Kevyn can try to connect with Shelley to assist.
- xii. Teen Leadership Summit: Capitol Tour and Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

1. Will educate them on what military people do.
 2. Leadership opportunities for young people.
 - xiii. How to connect with military commanders.
 1. Sparta and Tomah School Districts and Commanders at Fort McCoy and Volk Field have been very supportive.
 2. Colonel Messenger can help with this.
 - b. Activities planned by others
 - i. Fort McCoy:
 1. Month of the Military Child video. Shared nationally
 2. Family movie night.
 3. Other activities on the way.
 - ii. Sparta:
 1. Purple Up day is April 19th.
 2. Finalizing other plans, building based.
 - iii. Mike Hanson:
 1. Plans for activities are being finalized.
 - iv. Military One Source
 1. Information one main webpage.
 2. Fun stickers for young children.
 3. Backpack pins.
 4. Sesame Street materials.
 5. Get information out to teachers and providers.
 6. Can reach out: Rebecca Bernau-Boehlke, Wisconsin Military OneSource, rebecca.boehlke@militaryonesource.com, 715-441-0077.
 - v. Share with DPI to share on their website.
 - c. Superintendent Jill Underly will have a proclamation.
 - i. We will share this information.
 - d. Governor Tony Evers will have a proclamation.
 - e. The DPI communication team will be sharing information statewide.
 - f. Resources
 - i. [MIC3 - Purple Up Toolkit](#)
 - ii. [Military Child Education Coalition - Month of the Military Child](#)
 - iii. [50 Ways to Celebrate Military Children](#)
 - iv. [National Military Family Association](#)
 - v. [Department of Defense - Month of the Military Child](#)
 - vi. [National PTA - Month of the Military Child](#)
8. Unfinished Business
- a. Shelley has continued to pursue information on the process for Wisconsin to become a [Purple Star Schools State](#). Purple Star recognizes schools that are supportive of military children and the military family. Becky Walley also has additional information. Mike Hansen is willing to be involved. Please send Shelley

an email if you want to be involved in developing this program. Need a team of people. Let Shelley know if you or someone in your organization is interested in participating on the team.

- b. Purple star may be beneficial when applying for various projects.
9. Input from Members
- a. Please share questions and updates with Shelley.
 - i. Colonel Messenger: however we can help with purple star schools. How to gain media exposure throughout the state. Willing to participate in writing or news engagement to get the word out.
 - ii. Shelley: reach out to major news media in this area and in LaCrosse. LaCrosse media has been very supportive.
 - 1. Unique logo for the month of the military child.
 - 2. T shirts - company can ship directly. Next year, set up so people can order t-shirts for the month of the military child .
 - 3. Share websites that are devoted to the Month of the Military Child.
 - iii. DPI is a good resource to get the message out.
 - iv. Sam, Sparta-have some possibilities for media connection. Has been on radio frequently. Local TV: morning live sets.
 - v. JD National Guard is trying to get some media release for the month of the military child.
10. Shelley is working on setting up the Fall meeting in August. Two meetings each year has worked well, but let Shelley know if you think we need more meetings. Thank you Shelley for your help for military families! Thank you to the group.
11. Motion to Adjourn: Sam Russ, seconded Dr. Underly. Meeting adjourned.