

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

Minutes

28 SEP 2022

1:00 pm

1. Call to order - Shelley Joan Weiss, Commissioner
 - a. Thank you to everyone for your patience with technology.
 - b. If you need more information feel free to email Shelley Joan Weiss
2. Roll Call - Introductions - Shelley Joan Weiss
 - a. Shelley Joan Weiss, Commissioner, Chair
 - b. Dr. Jill Underly - Wisconsin State Superintendent of Public Instruction
 - c. Thomas McCarthy - Executive Director for the State Superintendent
 - d. Andrea Donegan - Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) Liaison, School Counseling Consultant
 - e. Benjamin Jones - DPI Legal Counsel (Kari Race - Designated Substitute)
 - f. Senator Patrick Testin - Legislative Representative
 - g. Michael Hanson - Superintendent of Tomah Area School District (Military Impacted Schools)
 - h. Sam Russ (replacing Amy Van Deuren) - Superintendent of Sparta Area School District (Military Impacted Schools)
 - i. New to the group. Introduced himself. Principal of Sparta HS for the last 14 years, very familiar with MIC3. We are here to provide any support we can give the military families, especially the children.
 - i. Rebecca Walley - Wisconsin School Liaison Officer for Military Families (based at Fort McCoy)
 - j. Lt Col John Wheeler, Interim Military Representative (guest)
 - k. Lynn Sisco - Military Family Representative
 - i. Congratulations - she has moved to a principal position.
 - l. JD Englehardt - Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs, Child and Youth Program
 - m. Rebecca Boehlke - Representative, Military One Source (excused)
 - n. Stephanie Hauser- Representative, Executive Director of the WIAA
 - o. Angelene Mattes - Representative, WI Parent Teacher Association
 - p. Derek Campbell - Executive Branch Representative
 - q. Stacy Eslick - Executive Director, Wisconsin School Counselor Association

- r. Elizabeth Pease, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Office Operations Associate
- 3. Approval of the Agenda
 - a. Motion made by **Rebecca Boehlke**, Seconded, Agenda approved
- 4. Approval of the [3 MAR 2022 Council Minutes](#)
 - a. Motion made by **Lynn Sisco**, Seconded, Minutes approved.
- 5. Welcome from Dr. Jill Underly, State Superintendent of Public Instruction
 - a. **The message in the State of Education is All means All. This includes the students we are passionate about in this space. Thanks for being a part of this WI State Council for the Interstate Compact and focusing on this very important group of students.**
- 6. Update from Shelley Joan Weiss
 - a. Welcome to Elizabeth Pease, DPI Associate
 - b. Congratulations to Lynn Sisco on her advancement to Associate Principal at Poynette Middle School.
 - c. Congratulations to John Wheeler on his retirement from the military. (**No longer on the council.**)
 - d. Participated in [Tier Group Meetings](#) (let me know if you would like a recording of Tier Group 4 meeting.)
 - i. Discussion was focused on the need for language changes in the Compact for each state.
 - ii. [Legal Opinion](#) (on language)
 - 1. [Legal Opinion](#) on proposed solutions (National Guard status) no decisions have been made.
 - a. **DPI is working on this issue. One word error in the original model compact language that was shared with all states. WI never included the disputed word (e.g., chapter v. section). Believe it will just be a simple word change and will not have to go through the entire legislative process; should qualify as a technical correction. Thank you to Benjamin Jones, DPI Legal Counsel and Kevyn Radcliffe, DPI Legislative Liaison for their ongoing work.**
 - b. **There have not been complaints or challenges with the existing language.**
 - iii. Major issue of overhauling and correcting the language in all state compacts is cost (estimate is \$1.2 million plus) to be paid to the [Council of State Governments](#). The Council originally coordinated the compact for all states. This amount would translate to a

- potential dues increase for states. The amount is an estimate as it is unknown what is needed in each state. May take up to 4 years.
- iv. Discussion on potential dues increase.
 - 1. **Shelley will not support or vote for a dues increase. The Department of Defense will not support a dues increase nor provide funding to pay for language changes.**
 - v. Will be discussed at the MIC3 annual business meeting in OCT.
 - e. Participated in [Compliance Committee](#) Meetings.
 - f. [End of Year \(EOY\) report](#) submitted prior to the due date.
 - i. Note: As a member of the Compliance Committee I recommended the template to make the process simpler and it was approved by the Compliance Committee. This recommendation was made in response to the low level of responses to the EOY report requirement.
 - 1. **With the consistent EOY template, there may be the possibility of extracting some data. This is the first year of using the template and 100% of the states submitted.**
 - g. Military Representative Appointment
 - i. With the retirement of our former military representative, I requested in JAN 2022 a replacement be appointed (through the designated [DoD procedures](#)). LTC Wheeler stepped in while awaiting an appointment, but he is also retiring. I have sent monthly reminders to the person in charge of appointments.
 - ii. I have not received an appointment. I will continue to pursue.
 - 1. **We have some input, and can make recommendations. We look for someone with an education affiliation and who will have some longevity.**
 - 2. **Becky Walley, State School Liaison Officer has been asked to reach out to the Garrison Commander to make that appointment. She will continue to move through her process. Thank you to Becky for her work on this.**
 - iii. Update on 09/27/2022 - the appointing individual is being replaced at DoD.
 - h. November
 - i. [National Military Families Month](#)
 - ii. [National Military Families and Veterans Month](#)
 - iii. [Veterans Day](#)
 - iv. Please share your ideas on how to promote and how you will celebrate.
 - 1. **Please send any information to Shelley.**

- v. I will work with the DPI communications team on promoting.
 - 1. Thank you to DPI.
- vi. I will work with the Governor's office communications team on promoting.
 - 1. Very supportive of this. Shelley has already communicated with them on this but the Department of Military Affairs takes the lead in NOV.
- i. Attempts to contact other branches we are supposed to serve: (e.g., NOAA, Coast Guard, Navy, Marines, etc.).
 - i. Wisconsin has always consistently supported all children whose parents are members of the active branches of the military and the children of the Guard and Reserve and continues to do so.
 - ii. I have continued 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. Despite my numerous emails and phone calls, I have yet to reach someone who is knowledgeable, but will continue to pursue. .
 - iii. I have requested that the MIC3 staff provide all Commissioners with contacts for these organizations.
 - 1. If anyone has any contacts please share.
 - 2. Rebecca Boehlke will get the information for the commanders of the Reserve in Madison.
- j. Registered and preparing for the OCT 19-20 MIC3 Annual Business meeting in Baton Rouge, LA.
 - i. Shelley will send an update after the meeting.
- k. Other celebrations.
 - i. Lynn Sisco - In Poynette, hosting Veterans Day Assembly, working with 8th grade classes to reach out to veterans (Lynn Sisco).
 - ii. Becky Walley - will send information when she has it.
 - iii. Rebecca Boehlke - Provided a pre-deployment activity in August for a group going to Africa; at the end of October doing Trunk-or-Treat; more information on Child and Youth program FaceBook Page.
 - iv. Mike Hanson/Andrea G. - Tomah highlighted a military family, in *The HOWL*, who'd been sent to Japan; classroom visits from military families in each of the schools; going to have weekly and monthly activities (Shelley requested samples of *The HOWL* and Amanda would send along with a list of everything they are doing).

- v. Shelley updated folks on The Rendezvous at Fort McCoy: Shelley will be connecting with the new leadership and will have more information as we move forward.
- vi. Shelley shared that General Joni Matthews (retired) is new commander at the Challenge Academy (nationally recognized), Shelley has connected and they are working together. Shelley has connected Joni Matthews with Stacy Eslik (Council Member)
- vii. Sam Russ - Sparta Veteran's Day Programs, at the HS a commander comes in, at the middle school they have additional celebrations, invite veterans to come in as well, the Sparta communications coordinator will be invited to future meetings.
- viii. Stacy Eslik - WSCA conference is coming up, MIC3 is welcome to put something into the booklet.

I. Input from Council Members.

- i. Mike Hanson - Could Wisconsin become a Purple Star State? One of the issues is funding. Ohio was very fortunate when they became a Purple Star State they had funding sources. Shelley is working on the best way to bring this into being. Pete Lupiba, Commissioner from Ohio, is willing to work with us. Wisconsin has only a few schools impacted. Purple Star recognizes schools that are supportive of military children and the military family. Becky Walley was on a call yesterday about this and will be happy to gather information, let her know. Mike is willing to be an advocate. Shelley will reach out to a small group within the group to get the groundwork laid - send Shelley an email if you want to be involved.
- ii. Stacy Eslik - Many districts do not celebrate Veteran's Day. Very inconsistent across the state. Is there some education that can be done about that? Are the channels for military families to get support in all districts? Do counselors get informed when a military child enrolls in the district. Worry that some communities politicize the military. The Military Child Education Coalition has wonderful resources (Shelley will share these with everyone).
- iii. Shelley shared Have had difficulties in the past reaching urban areas. You can get a report on who is a military child, and that is a voluntary process, and many military families are reluctant to do this.
- iv. Thomas McCarthy - DPI has looked for years on how to get this information into the WISEdata; because of the issues that Shelley has laid out this has been delayed.

- v. Rebecca Boehlke - Military One Source has the ability to pull information on dependent children for reserve and activity duty by country (divided by age) - 1,210 in Dane County alone. Rebecca B. and Stacy will craft an article about how there are military children in every district and this is an equity issue - Shelley will be following up. The more channels through which information is disseminated the greater the reach.
 - vi. Let Shelley know if you think there need to be more than the two meetings each year (e.g., fall/early spring).
 - vii. Let Shelley know if you need any additional support
- m. Motion to adjourn.