

MIC3 State Council Meeting: September 24th, 2020 MINUTES

9:00 AM-11:30 AM(Noon)

Washington State MIC3 Commissioner, ESD114 Superintendent Gregory Lynch, opened the meeting at 9 a.m. and reviewed the agenda and protocols for the meeting.

Commissioner Lynch provided an overview MIC3 in Washington State, including the foundational work in 2008. He explained the structure of state council which convenes once a year as an advisory and advocacy body of policy makers and experts.

The Commissioner summarized the MIC3 Compact purpose, with the aim to reduce the educational and emotional issues encountered when the children of military personnel are required to transfer from schools in one state to another. It does not cover civilian or DOD families. The compact focus areas are: Educational Records; Immunizations; Kindergarten & 1st Grade Eligibility, as it varies from state to state; Educational Courses and Program Placement; Absences related to parent/guardian deployment; and, Graduation.

The Commissioner went onto to share state and national data. The U.S. Military families include 1.1 million children aged 5-18. Active duty includes 630,000 children, 75% of which are under age 12. The families work for DOD: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Homeland Security, Coast Guard, Uniformed Public Health Services, and the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration. Of these numbers, Washington has 126,234 military children and is ranked 7th nationally for the number of military kids. Washington is ranked 6th in military spending and gets almost 4% of total US Defense funding.

Commissioner Lynch introduced Chris Reykdal, Washington State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Superintendent Reykdal shared his appreciation for the military and their support of the families of the service members. He stated students from military families often show the most rigor, success, and work very hard, though their kids can be more at risk of SEL disadvantages due to mobility. He expressed the value of military installations around Washington as economical engines, creating jobs and strong communities all over the state.

Superintendent Reykdal went onto to speak to COVID and the impact on direct instructional models, and data evidence showing that keeping the instruction stable leads to more success. He acknowledged for our armed forces to be their best they need to know their families are taken care of, and that includes developmentally

appropriate and supportive educational services. He concluded his remarks with a message of appreciation to Commissioner Lynch, for his commitment to the MIC3 work for the past 12 years.

Commissioner Lynch introduced Lt Gen George, I Corps and JBLM Commander, who gave an update on JBLM. They currently have 15,000 K-12 aged youth, and education is a major focus. He said it is important for military kids to be able to access public schools, and he wants youth to see the military as a good option for their life. He is hoping to have an Educator Day at JBLM, to show the community the base and provide an opportunity to meet service members. He ended his remarks with a big thank you to teachers for their critically important jobs.

Commissioner Lynch then introduced JBLM Garrison Commander, Col Skye Duncan. Garrison Commander Col Duncan shared the overarching commitment that JBLM is "a Joint Force Power Projection Platform" that stand for trust and transparency, collaboration, and collective responsibility. JBLM serves 295,713 people, with 9,000 of those in and out each year, 40,000 on active duty and National Guard and Reserves. Readiness to support and defend the U.S. Constitution, and to support and defend the United States. JBLM provides economic benefits to the region, with \$12.1 Billion of Regional Economic Impact. There is 13+ school districts in the surrounding communities and JBLM very much values the relationships and community engagement with all of them. The three things on top of mind for JBLM this coming year:

1. Impact Aid Form – working to tie this to the student's military ID #, which would make reporting much more accurate.
2. Credit transferability – for credits to transfer with students as they move from school to school. This is getting better, thank you, and please keep an eye on it!
3. Add Driver's Ed to transferability.

He concluded with sharing a desire to expand the EFMP, Exceptional Family Member Program, and thanked everyone for allowing service members to volunteer in schools and ask that that please continue.

Next, Commissioner Lynch introduced Navy Rear Admiral Stephen Barnett, Commander Naval Region NW. Navy Rear Admiral Barnett shared his appreciation of what MIC3 provides Navy families. Has had personal experience in needing support to make educational arrangements for his son. He expressed the current additional challenge that military families are facing now are the associated stresses with online learning (like all students, not just military) and the need for more Special Services (SPED) and housing availability. As families deploy and move, there is a serious lack of housing in

some areas that make it difficult for the families to enroll in certain schools or programs, and that becomes an equity issue.

Commissioner Lynch introduced Capt Rich Rhinehart, Commander, Naval Base Kitsap. Captain Rhinehart thanked the Commission and the attendees for support of the Navy and families in the Pacific NW. He included the scope of the base, including the numbers of submarines and aircraft carriers currently assigned to Kitsap, as well as an overview of the other Navy installation sites of NAV MAC Indian Island, Whidbey, Everett and Naval Base Kitsap (which includes PSNS, Bangor, Jackson Park, Keyport, & Manchester Fuel Depot). Manchester Fuel Depot is the largest fuel depot in the continental United States, with 75 million gallons of fuel stored at this strategic location. There are 78,549 employees, civilians and contractors in Naval Base Kitsap, and the economic impact there is \$10.7 billion. He concluded with the acknowledgement that the Navy cannot support their mission without the support of our communities, including schools.

Commissioner Lynch then introduced Capt. Devin Brakob, Director of Comm Personnel Center, NOAA. Commissioner Lynch expressed interest in wanting to start a pilot program to get NOAA more integrated into MIC3. Capt. Brakob explained NOAA has 16 Duty Stations in Washington, and currently record 12 children associated with their service members. He gave a quick overview of the NOAA Corps formed in 1917 (though surveying of coasts began in 1807). He continued with a review of NOAA personnel and the way they rotate and promote, and the fleet of ships, aircraft, fishery vessels and other equipment used by the NOAA. "Readiness, Efficiency, Organizational Excellence".

Commissioner Lynch introduced NW Region DOD Liaison Tammy Perrault of the Defense State Liaison Office. Tammy and her DOD colleagues have helped pass MIC3 legislation in all 50 states. Tammy shared Washington State is a leader in education with MIC3 and sited the passage of the advanced enrollment policy a few years ago. Tammy is currently working on the following efforts in Washington:

1. Virtual Schools – Military kids to participate in virtual schools while transitioning between duty stations, allowing them to finish a class at one school without the residency requirement. Katherine Mahoney of OSPI has been working on this. Representative Mari Leavitt and Senator Lisa Wellman offered to help with this initiative.
2. Purple Star Schools Program – Expand this program into Washington. This program is to advertise schools as "military-friendly" with a purple star designation for demonstrating commitment to kids and families in the military. This program shows its value in increasing connectivity with kids. It has a

designated school staff person, professional development and a page on the school website.

Superintendent Lynch introduced Kristen Wiggins, State Director, Mission Readiness. She spoke about their commitment to preparing youth for careers in the military. This program gives the most vulnerable young people a chance to succeed in the military and prepares youth for life. Mission Readiness lead, Jon Root, stated that only a very limited number of youths qualify for military service. 71% of youth ages 17 – 24 do not meet eligibility requirements for military service due to Education (or lack thereof), obesity, crime, or drug abuse. This leaves only about 30% of youth eligible for recruitment. A focus of Mission Readiness this year is to reduce the educational barriers to military service. Their other challenge is to increase the capacity for ECEAP, as there are currently about 14,200 ECEAP spots but about 2,000 more are needed for Early Childhood Education.

Superintendent Lynch introduced Randy Spaulding, Director of the State Board of Education. Randy gave a board overview. The State Board of Education is a 16-member board of elected and appointed members. Appointed members are approved by the Governor and the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The Board is focused on diplomas. There are 3 parts to a high school diploma in Washington, the High School and Beyond Plan, the Credit & Subject Area Requirements, and the Graduation Pathways Options. Due to COVID, the Board created the Expedited Assessment Waiver Option for 2020 only. It is not valid for the Class of 2021 or beyond. The Board adopted Rules to better support online/hybrid learning:

- Addressing challenges/strengthen ability to respond in emergencies
- Allow private schools to fully online learning
- Support credit-based mastery of learning standards
- Give flexibility on the Washington State history waivers

They are requesting ongoing authority to grant waivers of certain requirements to address emergency situations with credit and pathways requirements.

Commissioner Lynch introduced Mick Hoffman, the Executive Director of WIAA, who shared a link to the 20-21 WIAA Modified Sports Season Calendar. He explained that statewide, there are 225,000 sports program participants.. Most all schools in the state are not participating in sports this fall due to COVID, but they will have an opportunity for coach-specific sports.

Commissioner Lynch introduced Dixie Grunenfelder, Director of K-12 System Supports, OSPI Office of System and School Improvement, reported that the major areas of request from military families to us throughout the year continue to be around enrollment, Special Education services, and graduation requirements. OSPI shows 28,255

Washington public school students identified as having a military parent, and there are continued efforts to improve data quality on this new data point. More data is available on the OSPI [Washington State Report Card](#). There is an expanded focus is on not just achievement but quality and success measures as well. With the military identifier, we can show students from military families show higher rates of attendance, 9th grade success and dual credit enrollment compared to their classmates that are from non-military families. As in past years, Dixie explained the MIC3 commission will be conducting a survey of schools to assess implementation of the Compact.

Dixie introduced Katherine Mahoney, Assistant Director of Policy, OSPI Office of System and School Improvement, reported that there was new Guidance and Rules during COVID on Attendance, Instructional Hours, Apportionment/Enrollment, and Transportation. She explained transportation modifications are guided by the Governor's Proclamation. Katherine shared that due to lower than expected enrollments statewide this Fall, they are giving additional flexibility about how districts count students for enrollment in September. She reviewed the OSPI Legislative Budget Requests for 2021-2023, including:

- Dismantle system inequities
- Invest in school funds for SEL needs
- Ensure access and opportunity to learn
- Pathways to Graduation
- Increase supports for students with disabilities

Commissioner Lynch moved to the Discussion section of the Agenda.

Rep Leavitt asked Dixie Grunenfelder of OSPI about pre enrollment law passed last year. Dixie said she has received a few inquired that have resulted in clarification with district personnel regarding the new law. Rep Leavitt also asked the DOD if the criteria would change for substance abuse being a disqualifier for military service.

Senator Wellman asked what type of student succeeds in the military? Are there certain characteristics? One response was desire, proclivity for job they want to go into. Where is their desire to serve? Passion? Right job = happier employee = more production = better service. Ray Ornelas added "the kids who show up, show initiative."

Major Megan Young suggested the use of transportation to and from childcare as schools start to reopen is critical to dual military and dual working families. Norma Melo, JBLM School Liaison Officer, commented that virtual learning is causing everyone stress, not just military.

Supt Ron Banner of Clover Park School District stated appreciation to all partners.

Supt Tim Ames of Medical Lake School District (Fairchild AFB) stated that at home/online COVID response is their biggest issue. They are doing online and using their paraeducators to help with daily lessons. They are big on wellness in that district and partnered with several local universities to have fitness clinics. He shared that Kindergarten will start in person in October, then two weeks later, 1st grade, then 2 weeks later 2nd grade, and so on, until they get all the secondary phased back to school, and still working on the plan for secondary. They are NOT putting kids on computers for 6 hours a day. Also, due to transportation being funded by ridership based on the number students, he expressed the need for policy change to keep the funding during this time of online schooling..

Norma Melo reminded everyone about the ROTC program which teaches readiness, reliability, integrity, and empathy is a good way to get youth involved in and exposed to careers in the military.

Supt Aaron Leavell of Bremerton School District and President-Elect of WASA thanked the military for their service to the community, their fantastic liaisons, and the good connection he has made with commanders at PSNS and NBK.

Tammy Perrault, Regional State Department of Defense Liaison, stated that the Purple Star Program is needed in Washington to bridge the gap between military and non-military students. Commissioner Lynch added that if we think the Purple Star Program is worthwhile as a group for Washington, it will require legislative dollars to get started. Dixie Grunenfelder added that in the meantime, OSPI could do work to promote the strategies and programming underpinning the Purple Star designation. .

Commissioner Lynch reviewed the schedule of upcoming meetings:

NAFIS on September 21-23, 2020

MIC3 National Meeting in Little Rock, AR on October 1-2, 2020

Also check out this website for a MIC3 Toolkit for Schools and a MIC3 Toolkit for Parents:

<http://www.mic3.net/resources.html>

Meeting closed by Commissioner Lynch at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Ronnie Larson, CEOE, Admin Asst III
OSPI Office of System and School Improvement
9/25/2020