

WA MIC3 State Council (Alphabetical Order)

*Volunteered/selected Oct 26, 2023

Present

Superintendent Ron Banner, Clover Park SD

***Representative Travis Couture**

***Major General Bret Daugherty**

OSPI Dixie Gruenfelder

***Superintendent Michelle Kuss-Cybula, Oak Harbor SD**

Superintendent Aaron Leavell OESD 114

WA MIC3 Commissioner Greg Lynch

Norma Melo, JBLM

***Colonel Kent Park, JBLM**

Representative David Paul

Superintendent Erin Prince, Central Kitsap SD

Superintendent Chris Reykdal

***Senator Emily Randall**

Senator Ann Rivers

***Superintendent Tom Seigel, Bethel SD**

Kelly Scheese, NRNW

***Superintendent Kathi Weight, Steilacoom SD**

Ex Officio State Council Members

WA PTA Executive Director Andrew Estep

WIAA Executive Director Mick Hoffman

***Kitsap County Commissioner Christine Rolfes**

WA SBE Executive Director Randy Spaulding

Overview: Commissioner Lynch welcomed everyone, reviewed today's meeting agenda and provided background information regarding the Interstate Compact. Everyone was reminded the purpose of today's meeting was to meet Compact obligations to host at least one annual MIC3 State Council Meeting and for the State Council to provide direction to the WA Commissioner for any decisions requiring a vote by the WA MIC3 Commissioner during the MIC3 National Meeting in November. The goal of the Compact is to remove barriers for uniform/military connected children attending public schools in WA and throughout the US. Other key points included:

WA hosts the 7th largest military/uniformed population in the United States.

The United States Space Force is the newest service under the Compact.

The United State Public Health Services population in WA is increasing.

WA National Guard and reserve forces on active duty are entitled to Compact support.

The MIC3 National Director, Cherise Imai, will discuss a number of topics that will impact WA.

Commissioner Lynch introduced State Superintendent and MIC3 State Council Member Chris Reykdal.

Superintendent Chris Reykdal

Welcomed everyone, thanked Greg Lynch for Compact leadership and long service as the WA Compact Commissioner. Acknowledged Washington's strong focus on the Compact and the requirement to continue to work on the Compact and mentioned WA pending legislation connected to the Compact that will be discussed later in the meeting. Emphasized the highly mobile uniform/military connected population inside WA and the necessity of providing support to mobile families. Several other WA initiatives connected to the Compact were highlighted including pending legislation assisting military family members who are also teachers as they move between states. Preparing students for military service is another initiative that complements a focus on the economy, and the importance of focusing on a number of different pathways students may choose after high school graduation. Acknowledged west coast military service recruiting numbers could be higher, given the presence of the military and a number of large military installations on the west coast. WA is working on a single platform for high school and beyond plans that will be mobile and digital; wherever a student is transferred the plan will be accessible. The accessible plan should also enhance military recruiting efforts. Acknowledged Dixie Gruenfelder's role as the OSPI lead for the Compact and emphasized both Dixie and Greg Lynch are accessible and can assist with Compact business. Reaffirmed OSPI's role in supporting the Compact and the importance of OSPI's commitment to regular Compact related Communications to all stakeholders. Superintendent Reykdal concluded his remarks by thanking everyone for their service and hard work.

Dixie Gruenfelder was introduced by Greg Lynch.

Anna Marie Defoe, the new OSPI Assistant Superintendent for Student Engagement Support, and Sixie Gruenfelder's supervisor was introduced. Greg Lynch introduced Rear Admiral Mark Sucato, Navy Region Northwest Commander.

Rear Admiral Mark Sucato.

Discussed how difficult public education can be to manage using COVID as an example of a challenging time, and the importance of focusing on every child's needs during COVID. Thanked educators for their support during the pandemic. Mentioned his family experience with two children in the public education system and the challenges of multiple relocations. Highlighted housing availability, affordability and proximity, the challenges of families finding residence, and that the military housing allowance may not always be adequate to cover housing costs. Talked about the importance of providing children support during transition, and the quality of support evident in WA. Expressed thanks and gratitude for a great WA team and accomplishing the intent of the Compact and the Compact Commission. Concluding remarks emphasized the work done by WA and expressed thanks on behalf of the military families and their children. Greg Lynch introduced the WA Adjutant General, Major General Bret Daugherty.

Major General Bret Daugherty.

Discussed the size of the WA National Guard and how the Guard remains involved in the Global War on terrorism for the last twenty plus years. Made the point that the Guard in WA along with the Reserves remain regularly deployed and at one time deployed nearly all the entire WA Guard to an overseas location. More recently the Guard continues to send smaller Guard units overseas and consequently there are a number of children of Guard Members in WA who attend public schools with

absent parents. Mentioned the WA Guard also remains engaged with a number of other countries throughout the Pacific to include Thailand and Malaysia and maintaining the relationship also means Guard Members are also deployed to those countries. Highlighted that in addition to overseas missions the Guard also continues to provide domestic support in WA for missions that include may include flood support or any other state natural disaster. Mentioned his own teaching experience in WA public schools and the importance of the Compact for Guard Members who are frequently deployed. Discussed how the Guard, and more specifically in his role as the WA Adjutant General, can assist with promoting the Compact and also providing state support. Greg Lynch introduced the Deputy Commanding General, I Corps and JBLM, Major General McFarlane.

Major General McFarlane.

Thanked Greg Lynch and the entire WA team for their work. Specifically thanked school district leadership and their presence and importance around being part of today's discussion. Introduced Colonel Kent Park, JBLM Garrison Commander and DOD representative on the MIC3 State Council. Colonel Park. Colonel Park, new to his role, mentioned how excited he is to be part of the community. MG McFarlane acknowledged that based upon his prior service at JBLM in 2005, the JBLM-education partnership has flourished. He mentioned a STEM related program, STARBASE, is a great example of a partnership program with the community that continues to thrive. Another example of a new initiative positively impacting JBLM and the community is a pilot program where Behavioral Health Specialists will be assigned to JBLM Child Development Centers beginning in January 2024. MG McFarlane Highlighted a number of challenges including affordable housing and availability for families. Childcare was specifically mentioned where six hundred (600) families remained on a wait list and only 68% of childcare staff positions are filled. Special Education support was a highlighted third challenge. JBLM supports an Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) where families requiring special education support are provided an opportunity for expected special education support for qualified children.

Colonel Kent Park

Was invited to make additional comments. Col Park mentioned a partnership with Clover Park School District and conversation with Superintendent Ron Banner around additional support for children who have parents who were unexpectedly deployed. Greg Lynch introduced Rear Admiral Richard Schobitz, Director Commissioned Officer Corps, USPHS.

Rear Admiral Richard Schobitz

Thanked Greg Lynch for the invite and the time spent together before today's meeting. Explained the Public Health Services mission to include an increase of USPHS Officers coming to Madigan Army Medical Center, Joint Base Lewis-McChord. Emphasized where USPHS Commissioned Officers were assigned throughout the federal government providing essential services to include but not limited to physicians, dentists, health specialists, therapists, and psychologists. The USPHS Commissioned Officers are America's health responders and the first line to defend against small and large public health threats. RADM Schobitz complimented WA's efforts to promote and support the Compact and the engagement between educators and military commanders. He emphasized looking forward to continuing to work with everyone in support of the Compact. Greg Lynch introduced Cherise Imai, Executive Director MIC3.

MIC3 Executive Director Cherise Imai.

Made the point the MIC3 Compact is only one of six compacts in the United States where all fifty states and Washington, DC has joined. There are over two hundred compacts throughout the US. Emphasized MIC3 has a strategic plan and in the second year of the newest version of the plan. Acknowledged the great partnerships in WA between the military/uniform partners and all stakeholders in WA. Recognized Commissioner Lynch for his fifteen years of Compact service as WA Commissioner and a member of the MIC3 National Finance Committee. Made the point Commissioner Lynch has been asked for a number of years to serve as the Chair of the MIC3 Finance Committee and has been nominated for that office; all state Commissioner will cast a vote during the upcoming MIC3 national elections in Nov 2023. Discussed work around a Compact dues increase in the future; there has been only one dues increase since the Compact was formed nearly sixteen years ago. ED Imai reviewed national legislation involving the review of the MIC3 Compact culminating in a report to Congress in December 2023. While the Compact isn't overseen at the federal level the Congressional report does emphasize the importance of the Compact and supporting military/uniformed service members. Commissioner Lynch mentioned the importance of the recurring WA Compact survey administered to school districts supporting the majority of uniform/military connected children in public schools. The results are regularly reviewed by the MIC3 State Council to assess Compact effectiveness in WA.

WA MIC3 Commissioner Greg Lynch

Presented a number of issues requiring State Council feedback/guidance (refer to slides 11-16). Discussed State Council Membership and additions to the Council and invited feedback from State Council Members. Thanked Major General Bret Daugherty, WA Adjutant General for filling the vacant Governor's representative position. Discussed the MIC3 vacant State Council Vice Chair position last filled by the former Clover Park School District Superintendent, Debbie LeBeau. Superintendent Erin Prince, Central Kitsap School District, a current member of the WA MIC3 State Council was asked to fill the Vice Chair position and has agreed to do so. Reviewed two new Legislator appointments made by their respective legislative caucuses: Senator Emily Randall, 26th District, Bremerton and Representative Travis Couture, 35th District, Allyn. Welcomed four new school district (SD) superintendents: Kimberly Headrick, Medical Lake, Tom Seigel, Bethel, Kathi Weight, Steilacoom, and Michelle Kuss-Cybula, Oak Harbor. The seven Superintendents on the WA MIC3 State Council are serving in school districts around the highest concentration of military installations in WA and represent the majority of the over 26,000 military/uniformed connected students in Washington Public Schools. Discussed adding a new Ex Officio member to the State Council, Kitsap County Commissioner Christine Rolfes. Commissioner Rolfes is the longest serving elected official as both a Representative and Senator on the State Council since the Council was formed in 2009. Commissioner Rolfes expressed her willingness to serve and mentioned the positive impacts of including a County Commissioner from a county serving a large military connected population. Commissioner Lynch called for State Council feedback around adding Commissioner Rolfes as an Ex Officio member, and mentioned the state-wide advantage of including Commissioner Rolfes, and an opportunity to promote and support the Compact with all WA county commissioners. Commissioner Lynch called for State Council feedback around any of the proposed new additions to the State Council. Superintendent Ron Banner, Clover Park School expressed appreciation and thanks to Superintendents Seigel and Weight for their willingness to serve on the State Council as well as

Superintendent Prince for serving as the new Vice Chair on the State Council. Superintendent Tom Siegel thanked Commissioner Rolfes for her willingness to serve and everyone else who volunteered to serve on the State Council. Commissioner Lynch made the point around the importance of the State Council's role going forward and pending Council decisions and feedback around issues like a national dues increase. Commissioner Lynch discussed the WA MIC3 Commissioner position and his retirement as ESD Superintendent in June 2022 and during the fall 2021 State Council meeting he was asked to consider remaining as the Commissioner for an unspecified amount of time and did so. Commissioner Lynch reviewed the current RCW Compact Commissioner appointment process where the Governor is strongly encouraged to appoint a sitting educator. Highlighted the fact in 2009 Governor Gregoire appointed Superintendent Lynch as the WA Compact Commissioner and Commissioner Lynch remains the one and only Commissioner since the Compact was adopted by the legislature in 2009. Commissioner Lynch made the comment while he is willing to continue to serve at some point there will be a need for a new Commissioner, and encouraged conversation from State Council Members around their preference and invited discussion. Superintendent Banner commented on the importance of leadership stability in MIC3, especially considering post COVID impacts, and the consideration around the Commissioner work that would be in addition to the required work from potentially another Superintendent who would seek the Commissioner position. Superintendent Banner made the point Commissioner Lynch has experience and if/when he is ready to move on a new Commissioner be appropriately trained. And while the legislative language around the Governor strongly consider appointing a sitting educator is an important consideration, stability with the Compact Commissioner position at this time is more important. Superintendent Erin Prince made a comment that stability now is most important, and as long as Commissioner Lynch is willing to continue to serve, she supports Commissioner Lynch remaining as the Commissioner. Superintendent Seigel commented that he agrees with Superintendents Banner and Prince. Stability is important and especially considering post COVID impacts he supports no change to the Commissioner position. Superintendent Lynch reviewed the Compact Commissioner demographics across the US for State Council consideration; of the 51 Commissioners approximately 31 or 72% are connected to education, which, includes, state education departments, state boards of education, or education administrators at various levels. About 16% of Commissioners are not connected to education but are either retired military or connected to state Veterans Affairs in some way. The model Compact language, adopted by the WA legislature in 2009 and all other compacting states, allowed sufficient latitude for individual states to decide Commissioner qualifications. Commissioner Lynch called for additional feedback from the State Council and concluded he is willing to continue to serve, and is also committed to providing at least 18 months notification ahead of retirement, which, will allow sufficient time to select and train a new Compact Commissioner.

Commissioner Lynch discussed five new MIC3 rule or rule modifications that will be voted on by Compact Commissioners during the Annual Business Meeting (ABM) in November 2023. He mentioned the proposed rule changes were shared in advance with the State Council. He reviewed the purpose of the rules and the process followed by the State Council to provide the WA Commissioner feedback/guidance ahead of a WA vote during the ABM. He discussed the proposed rule changes are administrative adjustments akin to procedure additions or changes supporting a school board policy (refer to slides 13-15). Commissioner Lynch explained the rationale for each of the five rule changes, recommended the changes be adopted as presented and called for questions

and feedback from the State Council; there were no additional comments from the Council. Commissioner Lynch reviewed H.R 7900 National Defense Authorization Act FY 2023, (slide 16), which, directed a national review of the MIC3 Compact. While the federal government can't direct changes to the Compact, a report by the Department of Defense around how to potentially improve the Compact, the report may influence the Compact in the future. Commissioner Lynch recognize the United States Coast Guard Commander in Seattle, Captain Khalil.

United States Coast Guard Captain Ibe Khalil

Expressed appreciation for being part of the meeting and representing the United States Coast Guard and Rear Admiral Charles Fosse, Commander Thirteenth Coast Guard District in Seattle. Captain Khalil thanked Commissioner Lynch for the Compact work done on behalf of Coast Guard families. He commented on the unique challenges of Coast Guard families. Specifically around affordability and costs of housing, and having to locate in more affordable locations outside metropolitan areas, which, creates additional problems for families being able to access other resources that may not be available in suburban or rural areas. Captain Khalil concluded his remarks but affirming his support of the Compact and being proud to be part of the Compact partnership.

OSPI Dixie Gruenfelder

Reviewed a number of OSPI Compact related initiatives and updates to include the military identifier in student records, and the Purple Star award initiative. Dixie Gruenfelder explained the significance of the military identifier and the ability for the state to look at military/uniform connected student academic progress and other related administrative data like attendance. The general conclusion is military/uniformed students are performing at the same levels as compared to non-military connected students. She made the point that while state data is an important support tool, military school liaison officers, family support specialists and school district staff are instrumental around helping to identify and solve problems in partnership with OSPI. Advanced enrollment was discussed as an example of legislation designed to assist military/uniformed connected families. Other Compact related issues including WA graduation requirements and specifically high school and beyond plans were also discussed. Joel Aune, Executive Director for WASA was introduced and discussed the Purple Star awards program.

WASA Executive Director, Joel Aune

Commented that WASA in conjunction with OSPI is in the process of developing the Purple Star recognition program for implementation. The application process is nearly completed and the promotion/communications of the program is ongoing. School Districts can expect to see additional information about the program beginning in November and December this year with the application process starting in January. Selection for the award and recognition are generally planned for the spring and looking at using the WASA region awards recognition celebrations as a way to highlight Purple Star (PS) recipients. Joel Aune also commented there will be an opportunity to also recognize PS recipients during the state's annual recognition event during the Summer Conference in Spokane. Commissioner Lynch recognized Executive Directors from the State Board of Education, Randy Spaulding, WIAA, Mick Hoffman, PTA Andrew Estep and WSSDA, Tim Garchow. Commissioner Lynch made the point around how the Purple Star program can be promoted throughout WA by a number of other organizations with direct connections to K-12 education. Commissioner Lynch also thanked DOD

Regional Liaison, Tammie Perreault, for her work around the promotion of the PS program. Commissioner Lynch introduced Superintendents Ron Banner and Tom Seigel to discuss lessons learned around Compact implementation.

Superintendent Ron Banner, Clover Park SD.

Superintendent Banner pointed out approximately 33% of students in the Clover Park SD are military/uniform connected students so understanding the compact is important. Considering the focus on COVID and the resulting impacts, maintaining a level of staff knowledge around Compact details remains a challenge. Superintendent Banner discussed the importance of regular Compact training for the staff to include school district administrators, especially considering personnel turnover. Principals receive annual training every August along with school secretaries.

Superintendent Banner also talked about the importance of customer service and how COVID limited the amount of in-person, personal contact. Clover Park SD is focusing on staff reminders/training around the importance of empathy when engaging parents. Superintendent Banner concluded his remarks talking about his father's service in the Army for 26 years and how he experienced a number of transitions between schools without the support of a MIC3 Compact. He also acknowledged the importance of the partnership with Col Park, Garrison Commander, JBLM and LTG Brunson, I Corps Commander, JBLM.

Superintendent Tom Seigel, Bethel SD.

Superintendent Seigel mentioned Bethel SD has over 21,000 students including a large number of military connected students. He also mentioned as a retired Navy Commander his own children experienced transition between a number of schools during 13 different relocations. Superintendent Seigel appreciates that WA was one of the first states to adopt the Compact and the importance of the Compact around easing transitions. He gave examples of how the Compact or compacted connected initiatives can ease transition including academic record transfers, advanced on-line enrollment and immunization requirements. He also acknowledged the military's investment around hiring staff to assist students in school. Superintendent Seigel also acknowledged and thanked the Army at JBLM for an opportunity for school leaders and staff to visit JBLM and learn more about the Army.

JBLM School Liaison, Norma Melo

Acknowledge the great partnership with fellow School Liaison Officers throughout WA to include Navy Region NW and Fairchild Air Force Base in Spokane. Norma Melo thanked Commissioner Lynch for WA Compact support and on behalf of all the School Liaisons in WA, expressed appreciation and thanks for state and school district support and also recognized any issue that is raised to the state level is always resolved. In conjunction with all the School Liaison Officers Norma Melo reviewed a list of common challenges that included: students arriving without completed education records and transcripts, continuing challenges around students completing Washington State History course requirements and associated transcript documentation, critical school support staff shortages, increasing need for in-school student social learning, shortage of health care professionals and access to professionals like pediatricians and psychologists. Norma highlighted the importance of the WA Pathways initiative and the emphasis on multiple post-secondary options. Commissioner Lynch opened the remainder of the meeting for questions and discussion.

Dr. Jen Thomas North Thurston School Board Member commented on her appreciation for attending the meeting and as a military spouse for 24 years recognizes the need for military family support. She emphasized the importance of involving military families and being an advocate as both a Board Director and military spouse. Commissioner Lynch invited Executive Directors Randy Spaulding (SBE) and Andrew Estep (PTA) and Tim Garchow (WSSDA) to make comments.

Executive Director WSSDA, Tim Garchow expressed his appreciation around being able to listen and participate in the discussion. Mentioned WSSDA has a number of communication conduits (magazine, daily e-news) to assist with Compact related communications and WSSDA is able to access about 3000 individuals via their communications conduit.

Executive Director SBE, Randy Spaulding agreed with Tim Garchow about the importance of communications and also highlighted the State Board of Education is ready to also assist with communications efforts. Made mention of the pending Purple Star recognition and certainly willing to also help communicate this new initiative. Expressed an interest in hearing more about the High School and beyond challenges and a pending requirement to send a report to the legislature about this topic in 2025. Mentioned that the SBE is working on a new Pathway around performance based assessment. Randy Spaulding invited feedback at any time and always willing to connect with other stakeholders.

Executive Director PTA, Andrew Estep highlighted Tim Garchow's comments around communications conduits and information sharing and invited Joel Aune, Executive Director WASA, to use PTA as another means of communication around the Purple Star recognition award. He also invited anyone else to share information with the WSPTA and other organizations throughout the state. Commissioner Lynch invited anyone else to ask questions or make comments.

Coast Guard Family Resource Specialist May Chao indicated that the Coast Guard does not have a school liaison officer like the other services and relies of the Department of Defense for information. May Chao thanked Kelly Scheese, Navy Region NW School Liaison Officer, for her support to Coast Guard families. She also thanked all the other Service School Liaison Officers throughout WA for their support of Coast Guard families.

Superintendent Kimberly Headrick, Medical Lake School District was appreciative of the opportunity to join the State Council and represent other school districts and military/uniformed connected families in eastern Washington.

School Liaison Officer, navy region Northwest, Kelly Scheese thanked everyone for their support of the Compact and offered a special thanks to all the School District Superintendents.

Commissioner Lynch concluded the meeting with the following comments. WA has been a Compact participant for nearly 15 years without any non-compliance issues while unfortunately a few Compact states have been involved in non-compliance litigation. Continuous communications between OSPI and other state education departments and Commissioner to Commissioner communications resolved

every Compact issue in WA over the last 15 years. A contributing factor to our continuing success in WA is the involvement of key state and national stakeholders, people who are here today, throughout WA and the participation of our military and uniformed connected commanders and staff. Commissioner Lynch highlighted Superintendent Banner's comments around MIC3 training for school staff and mentioned the on-line MIC3 training resource information can be easily accessed to include a monthly on-line national MIC3 training webinar that is also available. He also discussed the WA MIC3 implementation survey that has been periodically administered to SDs and that the survey will be available within the next few months and encouraged participation. Commissioner Lynch mentioned attending the national MIC3 Annual Business Meeting in November and offered to connect with any/all State Council Members if there were any questions about today's meeting or welcomed an email with comments or questions.