



MEETING/PROJECT NAME:

Montana Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

DATE OF MEETING: April 14, 2020 TIME: 9:05 AM to 10:28 AM

LOCATION: Zoom Meeting

MEETING OBJECTIVE: Business Meeting

PRESIDER: Elsie Arntzen Superintendent, Montana Office of Public Instruction, and BG (R) Hal Stearns, Montana Compact Commissioner

MINUTES PREPARED BY: Christy Perryman, Administrative Clerk, Montana Office of Public Instruction

ATTENDEES

PRESENT COUNCIL MEMBERS

BG (R) Hal Stearns, Compact Commissioner
Representative Edward Buttrey
Tom Moore, Great Falls Public Schools Superintendent
Marjorie Hahn, Malmstrom Air Force Base
Elsie Arntzen, OPI Superintendent
Mark Beckman, Montana High School Association

ABSENT COUNCIL MEMBERS

CPT Michelle Bogden, Montana National Guard

PRESENT INVITED GUESTS

Pete Lupiba, Executive Director, Ohio Office of Budget and Management Communications

AGENDA AND NOTES, DISCUSSIONS, ISSUES (OPEN PRESENTATIONS)

TOPICS AND DISCUSSIONS

Meeting Begins: 9:06 AM

Approval of December 3, 2019 Minutes

- Motion to approve minutes from December 3, 2019 meeting by Superintendent Elsie Arntzen.





- 1st by BG(R) Hal Stearns.
- 2nd by Mark Beckman.
- Minutes unanimously approved

Profile of a DOD School: Wiesbaden, Germany

- BG (R) Hal Stearns
 - DOD schools closed as of March 14, 2020. Distance learning is being provided to all 27,000 American students that are currently overseas.
 - Wiesbaden Germany has students from embassies and the Army. BG(R) Hal Stearns taught students in Wiesbaden Germany from 69-72. He taught English to High School students and was a coach. His wife Sheila taught middle school.
 - Today there are 500 high school students in Wiesbaden that can take AP classes in all subjects. There are 4, 9-10 grading periods in a year. That equals 26 credits by graduation with only 5 electives.
 - Sometimes transition to overseas deployment is easy for students. Sometimes it is hard. We need to ensure educational opportunities for all students.

Purple Star Schools

- Pete Lupiba, Executive Director, Ohio Office of Budget and Management Communications, MIC3 Commissioner of Ohio – In 2007-09, the states formed a Compact to support Military K-12 students in education transition, base to base and school to school called the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3). States will always have their own K-12 Systems. Military Kids should graduate on time with the average of a move to 6-9 different schools across their K-12 experience. Ohio joined the Compact in 2009. Ohio's State Council is set-up with multiple seats: K-12, nonprofits, education associations, Military (Active Duty), educators, counselors, principals, athletics, legal, and more.
- In the summer of 2016, Ohio knew their military families lived in every school district across Ohio (Active, Reserve, Guard). Ohio has one air force base. By the spring of 2017, Ohio leaders had diligently worked with educators, veterans, nonprofits, and military impacted families to support the needs in school districts. This created the Purple Star Award for military family-friendly schools. There are approximately 10,000 Active Duty K-12 students plus an approximate population of 24,000 K-12 students belonging to the Reserves and Guard families in the state of Ohio.
- There are approximately at 300 Purple Star Schools across 6 classes (rounds) since 2017.



- Superintendent Elsie Arntzen moved to create an exploratory committee to move forward with the Purple Star program in Montana.
 - 1st by Mark Beckman.
 - 2nd by Representative Edward Buttrey
 - Motion approved - All in favor

Information update re: Task Force to study education protections for children of National Guard and Reserve Members

- BG (R) Hal Stearns is a member of this MIC3 task force as his duty as a commissioner of the MIC3.
 - Every state of the Union is involved in the compact. Several states have begun discussions of including all students from active duty and the National Guard and Reserve into the MIC3. BG(R) Hal Stearns shared no need to recreate the compact but ensure that it fits all military students. The MIC3 National Guard and Reserve Coverage Task Force will give their recommendations to the MIC3 Commissioner at the 2020 Annual Business Meeting (ABM): Thurs-Fri, Oct 1-2, 2020 in Little Rock, AR.
 - Representative Edward Buttrey – State legislation is centered around active duty and we need to look at state law to make sure all military students are covered. Representative Buttrey will go through the legislation and highlight the changes that need to be made, then he will send his updates to BG(R) Hal Stearns.
 - If we do adjust the language in the state legislation, we will not have to pay more dues to MIC3.

Finance Committee Update

- BG (R) Hal Stearns
 - Montana dues are going to be \$2,300 for this year. Bigger states will pay \$6,900. Dues are moving up for each state. The headquarters only has 3 full time employees.

General Discussion

- Montana MIC3 will have an exploratory committee to start the Purple Star program in Montana. Members are Superintendent Elsie Arntzen, Representative Edward Buttrey, Superintendent Tom Moore, and Marjorie Hahn. They will have a report prepared for the Council in three months at the next MIC3 meeting.
- Great Falls will be having their Purple Up festivities online this year on April 17.



- Captain Michelle Bogden shared by email – The National Guard is hosting some virtual kids’ activities on the Montana National Guard Child and Youth Facebook page. They are also celebrating MTNG Purple up day for military kids on April 16th. NGB has their Purple Up date on April 21st.
- Dylan Klapmeier will contact the General about helping with the Purple Star program.

End of Meeting: 10:28 AM

Thank you for your patience and **Putting Montana Students First** during this uncertain time.