



MEETING/PROJECT NAME:

Montana Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

DATE OF MEETING: April 6, 2021

TIME: 10:00 AM – 10:50 AM

LOCATION: Zoom/Phone Conference

MEETING OBJECTIVE: Business Meeting

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

MINUTES PREPARED BY: Jessica Flint, Communications Program Specialist, Montana Office of Public Instruction

ATTENDEES

PRESENT COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

ABSENT COUNCIL MEMBERS

Representative Edward Buttrey
1st LT Megan Olson, Montana National Guard

PRESENT INVITED GUESTS

Lieutenant Governor Kristen Juras

AGENDA AND NOTES, DISCUSSIONS, ISSUES (OPEN PRESENTATIONS)

TOPICS AND DISCUSSIONS

Meeting Begins: 10:00 am

Approval of November 10, 2020 Minutes

- Motion to Approve minutes from November 10, 2020 meeting made by Commissioner Hal Stearns
- 2nd by Superintendent Tom Moore
- Minutes approved - All in favor.





MIC3 Updates – Commissioner Hal Stearns

- We sent out a press release recognizing Purple Up day and celebrating Montana’s military connected children
- Extending the Purple Star Program to more schools and communities is being discussed nationwide utilizing press releases
- The National Compact has been agreed upon by all 50 states. MIC3 is one of the only fifty compacts in the history of the U.S.
- The National meeting is supposed to be held in late October in Little Rock, Arkansas
- Commissioner Stearns sits on the National Finance Committee and oversees the dues paid to the National MIC3, with the larger population states with larger military population pay higher dues
- Superintendent Arntzen reviewed that OPI and MIC3 sent out a press release to recognize and celebrate Purple Up and April as Month of the Military Child. She also reviewed the Proclamation that will be made by Governor Gianforte to proclaim April as Month of the Military Child and April 16th and Purple Up Day.

Purple Star Program Growth – Superintendent Elsie Arntzen

- OPI and MIC3 are looking to increase the Purple Star Application process to be open twice a year and to have a renewal application available
- Follow up will be done with our first five schools awarded the Purple Star to determine re-enrollment criteria and reported at the next meeting
- Plaques were sent to each Purple Star School
- Developing a coalition group following Ohio’s example will help bring awareness to the Purple Star program
- The coalition group should consist of community sponsors and state partners that will help embrace community support for our Purple Star schools
- April 16th a tour of our Purple Star Schools in Great Falls is scheduled
- Superintendent Tom Moore – we are very excited to host Superintendent Arntzen and Commissioner Hal Stearns to celebrate Purple Up Day
- Thank you to Becky Nelson and Lisa Sapp for all their hard work coordinating the April 16th Great Falls events
- Military appreciation is something Great Falls schools strive to do especially to ease the transition for these families
- Lisa Sapp – Thank you for the partnership for supporting and helping bring awareness to our military families
- Lisa and Jessica will work on scheduling a future MIC3 meeting to be held at Malmstrom

Purple Up Day Events

- Last session OPI had some purple up events at the Capitol





- Coming out of COVID OPI will be hosting a fan window to highlight Purple Up Day and will give out purple up information along with purple ribbons and purple Hershey kisses to encourage legislators to celebrate with us

Other Business

- Superintendent Elsie Arntzen – according to the bylaws we need a representative from the Governor’s office to round out the commission membership. We can also add adjunct non-voting members when appropriate to help build the commission.
- Superintendent Tom Moore – there are military affairs committee members for the local Chamber of Commerce that would love to be involved with the Commission
- Lisa Sapp – a possible representative from Malmstrom would generate interest among the Commanders
- Superintendent Arntzen – with graduation and end of school year approaching perhaps we could consider a Purple Star teacher and embrace those school staff that go above and beyond for our military families
- Lisa Sapp – I proposed a military supporter of the quarter to engage with our Montana schools and will work on developing a small local committee allowing local businesses to support with gift cards or giving them a star.
- Superintendent Tom Moore - Perhaps it could be called Purple Star Heroes
- Superintendent Elsie Arntzen – I’d love to help open this idea up statewide. We will be ready to honor
- Superintendent Tom Moore - I am working on getting graduation events capacity approved and will let the Commission know dates when that is finalized
- Superintendent Arntzen – I can give out honoree diplomas with the MIC3 logo and state seal for those students that seek military service post-graduation
- Superintendent Tom Moore – during the Graduation Matters program a group of us created an honorary seal on a student’s diploma for those students that took 2 or more classes in a concentration. I would like to work towards this in the future to support these students
- Superintendent Arntzen - Perhaps even a letter from General Stearns congratulating those JROTC students
- Superintendent Arntzen – During Senator Tester’s visit to Great Falls reminded me that we should pull in Senator Tester to build a pathway for MIC3 to honor the families
- Superintendent Tom Moore - we briefly spoke about MIC3. Senator Tester wanted to focus on the American Recovery. We did discuss our JROTC Unit and invited him back. I also will encourage him and Senator Daines to visit and learn more about Montana MIC3. We love to have our leaders in Great Falls and celebrating our military families.
- Superintendent Arntzen – I would love to send a letter from our commission to our congressional delegation explaining the Compact but also how we individually support children, students and families



- Superintendent Tom Moore – I can help with a draft that you and General Stearns could sign. We can include a list of our students as well and work on that.

End of Meeting: 10:50 am