

**MEETING/PROJECT NAME:**

Montana Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

DATE OF MEETING: September 27, 2021

TIME: 10:15 AM – 11:00 AM

LOCATION: Zoom/Phone Conference

MEETING OBJECTIVE: Business Meeting

PRESIDER: Elsie Arntzen Superintendent, Montana Office of Public Instruction, and Retired Sergeant Ray Shaw, Montana Compact Commissioner

MINUTES PREPARED BY: Jessica Flint, Communications Program Specialist, Montana Office of Public Instruction, [Jessica.flint@mt.gov](mailto:Jessica.flint@mt.gov) or 406-438-3400

**ATTENDEES****PRESENT COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Ray Shaw, Retired Sergeant, Montana Compact Commissioner

Lisa Sapp, Malmstrom Air Force Base

Mark Beckman, Montana High School Association

Representative Ed Buttrey, Montana State Legislature

Elsie Arntzen, OPI Superintendent

LTC John Bleile, Montana Army National Guard

**ABSENT COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Tom Moore, Great Falls Public Schools Superintendent



## **AGENDA AND NOTES, DISCUSSIONS, ISSUES (OPEN PRESENTATIONS)**

### **TOPICS AND DISCUSSIONS**

Meeting Begins: 10:19AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome and Presentations

State Superintendent Elsie Arntzen

- Welcome to Governor Gianforte's newly appointed and reappointed members of the commission.
  - New Appointments
    - Ray Shaw, Retired Sergeant, Montana Compact Commissioner
    - LTC John Bleile, Montana Army National Guard
  - Reappointments
    - Lisa Sapp, Malmstrom Air Force Base
    - Tom Moore, Great Falls Public Schools Superintendent

Approval of July 21, 2021 Minutes

- Motion to Approve minutes from July 21, 2021 meeting made by Representative Ed Buttrey
- 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark Beckman
- Minutes approved – passed unanimously, no discussion

MIC3 Updates – Jessica Flint/Lisa Sapp

- Commissioner Stearns Report approved by the Commission supporting the inclusion of National Guard and Reserve members and their families under the compact was delivered and confirmed received by the National MIC3.
- Purple Star Schools and Champion Awards applications close October 31<sup>st</sup>. Outreach is necessary to increase applications and nominations for Purple Star recognition.
- LTC Bleile will reach out to Townsend, East Helena, Three Forks and Great Falls High Schools, this week to begin the process with applications to become Purple Star Schools.
- Superintendent Arntzen sends out a monthly forward look to all the school districts and education related associations and has included information on Purple Star Awards in those communications.
- Lisa and Jessica recently met with Jared Shank, Senior Director of Military and Apprenticeship Initiatives and Special Projects for the Ohio Department of Higher Education to discuss their work to launch a Purple Star Campus program. Ohio colleges and universities are developing a system to support and recognize their post-secondary institutions that meet outlined criteria for the provision of college credits to military members and military families using the GI-Bill.
- Superintendent Arntzen and Jessica met with Commissioner Clayton Christian to discuss bring a Purple Star Campus program to Montana and developing it to fit the needs of Montana



universities and colleges while recognizing our post-secondary institutions for going above and beyond for our military and their families. Montana would be one of the first in the nation to implement this program.

- Superintendent Arntzen shared with the Board of Regents the possibility for a Purple Star Campus Program and has also met with MSU President Waded Cruzado to discuss the program.
- Commissioner Ray Shaw will reach out to MSU Alum and President Cruzado to continue discussions relating to MIC3 efforts.
- LTC Bleile shared to move these awards forward in his capacity would be able to utilize his recruited networks to help spread the word and work with family programs to identify how many of the schools have full time National Guard and Reserve connected students in schools to identify specific schools that will help grow the Purple Star program.
- Superintendent Arntzen will develop a letter to initiate outreach to Montana schools that have been identified as meeting Purple Star Award criteria.

#### Legislative Update – Representative Ed Buttrey

- Legislature is spending the bulk of their time on the ARPA stimulus funding and revenue committees in preparation for next session
- Large amount of dollars allocated to Montana from the America Rescue Plan and more is anticipated in June and beyond
- Superintendent Arntzen will share contact information with the DOD contact that flagged the Early Enrollment bill that was introduced by Rep. Marta Bertoglio and passed.
- Superintendent Arntzen produced a video that showcased Vietnam Veteran John Quintrell discussing the meaning of Memorial Day. Next will be a video discussing 9/11 and honoring our military.

#### Purple Star Program – Lisa Sapp

- There is a new Mission Support Group Commander for Malmstrom Air Force Base, Military School Advisor.
- The congressionally mandated support of military families report comparative ranking of 157 Air Force and Space Force installations. Malmstrom and Montana was not ranked very well due to the data compilation being weighted on enrollment.
- It has been approved to host a Malmstrom Education Pre-K-12 Summit and the April MIC3 at Malmstrom Air Force base in conjunction with the summit. The event will take place during a different week than Purple Up Day.
- Representative Ed Buttrey expressed a critical portion of the report being the viability of existing missions in bases and new missions in bases, anything we can do to make sure Montana is a desirable place for missions is critical.
- The report is enabling a discussion with leaders across the state and in Montana. This summit will be the first hosted on Malmstrom Air Force base and has the potential to seriously support and engage our military families.



- Superintendent Arntzen expressed interest in identifying indicators in the report that Montana can spotlight as successes and potential improvements for our military community.
- Commissioner Ray Shaw, Representative Buttrey, Lisa Sapp, and Jessica Flint will work together to increase participation and interest in the Summit.
- Lisa Sapp expressed appreciation for support and collaboration.
- The next meeting will be early November to discuss potential indicators in the report.
- Jessica to discuss with each commission member prior to the meeting.

#### Other Business

- Superintendent Arntzen honored former Commissioner Hal Stearns with a plaque.
- Superintendent Arntzen asked for the next meeting agenda to include a motion to add BG (R) Commissioner Stearns as an adjunct member in creation of a legacy group added to the Commission.

End of Meeting: 11:00 am