



MEETING/PROJECT NAME:

Montana Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

DATE OF MEETING: Wednesday August 24, 2022

TIME: 10:01 AM – 11:00 AM

LOCATION: Zoom

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

Colonel Christopher Karns

Lisa Sapp, Malmstrom Air Force Base

Representative Ed Buttrey, Montana State Legislature

Elsie Arntzen, OPI Superintendent

Tom Moore, Great Falls Public Schools Superintendent

Brad Livingston, BG (R)

Brian Michelotti

ABSENT COUNCIL MEMBERS

LTC John Bleile, Montana Army National Guard

Hal Stearns, BG (R)

AGENDA AND NOTES, DISCUSSIONS, ISSUES (OPEN PRESENTATIONS) TOPICS AND DISCUSSIONS

Meeting Begins: 10:01AM

Pledge of Allegiance



## Welcome and Presentations

- Scott Lemmon, Director of Admissions and Enrollment Strategy, Montana University System, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education
  - Sundi West, Department of Military Affairs, Deputy Director
  - Janene Felter, Montana Military OneSource Consultant
  - Rebecca Richards, Montana Empowerment Center
  - Ed Veiga, Senior Director Government & Corporate Relations, National Math & Science Initiative
- Approval of April 12, 2022 Minutes
- Motion to Approve minutes from April 12, 2022 meeting made by Superintendent Tom Moore • 2nd by Brad Livingston, BG (R)
  - Minutes approved – passed unanimously, no discussion

## Purple Star Schools Best Practices – Lisa Sapp

- Lisa attended the Military Children’s Education Coalition Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.
- During a panel discussion on Purple Star Schools and Best Practices several ideas were outlined o Potential best practices are:

- ♣ Checks and balances system needed

- What does compliance monitoring look like?
- Do our requirements offer adequate support
- Is it necessary to increase rigorousness in requirements for Purple Star Schools. For

Example:

- o School liaison identifies and informs teachers of the militaryconnected students in their classrooms and the special considerations military family’s students should receive
- o School provides professional development for additional staff on special considerations for military students and families
- o Local School Board pass a resolution publicizing the school support for military children and families

- Colonel Karns discussed his desire to see the Purple Star Schools increase stretch goals related to the designation.



o Adding specific measurable goals related to education and to the DOD support to military report card identifiers

o Some options include:

- ♣ Strong peer support program for students PSC'ing in and out
- ♣ Sponsorships to provide school tours and acclimation and navigation help
- ♣ School to hosting a military support family night event
- Superintendent Arntzen discussed timing appropriateness for the additional requirements to be implemented in the new cohort of Purple Star School designees

o Best practices to be provided to schools as well to implement

- Lisa will provide an informational email to the Council to allow for feedback and ideas on checks and balances for Purple Star Schools

o 2023-24 School year will implement any additional requirements

Purple Star Schools Application - Jessica Flint

- Jessica submitted for the Council's consideration to open the 2022-23 school year Purple Star School's and Champion's application process September 15th and to close the process November 30th
- Council members agreed and will announce new Purple Star Schools and Champions in December

Purple Star Schools Campus - Jessica Flint

- Jessica shared a recap of the progress of the Purple Star Campus application draft
- Scott Lemmon shared his excitement for the opportunity to work with campuses to amplify services to better serve veteran families and military-connected students
- Scott Lemmon mentioned the barrier that we may come up against is the time component in compliance monitoring for these awards
- Lisa asked for clarification between the award and designation differences between K-12 Purple Star Schools and the Colleges and Universities

o The award is intended to mirror the Purple Star Schools K-12 awards without using any terminology that will confuse with the Purple Heart Campus Designation

o Moving forward the Purple Star Campus Committee meetings will work on further application and award development



## Member Change to the Council Motion

- Representative Ed Buttrey discussed the legislation statutorily supporting and outlining the creation and development of the Montana State Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.
- The legislation outlines the members belonging to the State Council and allow for the addition of members by majority vote of the Council members with voting rights in effort to support the Council's mission
- Understanding that extracurricular activities are important and impactful in the lives of military connected students the Council had approved the addition of Montana High School Sports Association (MHSA) Executive Director Mark Beckman as a member to the State Council. Now that Mr. Beckman is retired and the new MHSA Executive Director Brian Michelotti has been announced, Representative Buttrey Motioned to add Brian Michelotti to the State Council membership in Mark Beckman's stead.
- Lisa Sapp seconded the motion, adding that it is best practices across other state councils to the benefit of our military-connected students.
- No further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Colonel Karns expressed his appreciation and gratitude to Superintendent Arntzen and Superintendent Moore for their advancement of initiatives serving military families and military connected students.

End of Meeting: 11:00 am