

## **NYS Interstate Compact Council Meeting**

**Tuesday, March 26, 2019**

**NY State Museum, Board Room**

Present: Jackson, Casey, Sheboy, Todd, Evans, Jadin, Beatha, Koch, Carl, Decker,

### **Minutes**

Meeting called by Dr. Jackson at 10:30, as there were new members present each individual introduced themselves and their position/title.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of 9/19/2018 (Casey) seconded (Todd) and approved.

Dr. Jackson reviewed each council position, elaborating on roles/responsibilities, nomination and/or appointment process and possible term conditions. In addition, the vetting process was reviewed: ethics training, fingerprinting and financial disclosure. All open positions were reviewed and discussed; one individual/position is still in the appointment process. Mr. Salvatore Nicosia (author, Empowering our Children), previously represented the temporary president of the senate, will remain as a valued non-voting member. The Governor's "Appointment Office" has a name change, now titled "Center for Recruitment and Public Service".

Dr. Jackson addressed a request by JCOPE and noted all policy appointments have been added to the NYS database. Notices for filing will be emailed to voting council members on April 15. Of note, for council members with other employment in the database this appointment is not primary. Only voting members have been added as policy makers.

Mr. Todd shared, based on information in the ethics training policy makers cannot accept any gift, to include purchase of a meal, that exceeds \$15.00.

Dr. Jackson added that all positions and titles have been updated on the MIC3 website.

Ms. Casey shared that assessment/exemption codes for all NYS approved student management systems have been established. This will eliminate negative ramifications as districts implement the Interstate Compact (IC) with substitute assessments taken at a previous school.

Mr. Todd was pleased to see the IC highlighted in a recent weekly newsletter to district leaders. The subject matter referred to the revised coding. This article will help bring widespread awareness of the IC assessment changes.

A rich discussion took place with brainstorming on outreach and primary Point of Contact (POC's) to communicate the IC across NYS, noting most issues revolved around the geographically dispersed military member assigned within NYS but outside the parameters of a military installation. Dialogue included:

- ~ Outreach from NYSPHSAA to all NYS athletic directors
- ~ Contact recruiting districts and battalions
- ~ Ongoing professional development opportunities

Dr. Jackson requested feedback regarding the newly implemented template for military students transferring to NYS. Ms. Carl stated that in the West Point area, issues have centered on military family members either not providing sending school contact information, either in a timely matter or at all OR not assisting with the communication process when the contact at the sending school is nonresponsive. Most families go above and beyond to assist, however a few families approached the IC process as the school's responsibility.

Ms. Casey offered to develop an information page to be filled out by parents; this will be posted above the template.

Dr. Jackson brought attention to another concern from the field regarding a student's data/score/pass/fail noted on the transcript. Ms. Casey advises school guidance staff to utilize the notation field, on the transcript, to identify usage of the IC as an alternative exam. Mr. Koch asks if the BOCES Regional Information Centers could have a predetermined statement provided in a drop down menu adding that without explanation this may impact the military student's admission process.

Another concern from the field pertained to transitioning military students that utilize the IC waiver process are only eligible to graduate with an Advanced Regents diploma (not honors diplomas or mastery status). It would benefit families and guidance to have this information clarified in the FAQ. Ms. Casey will have this information added immediately.

Mr. Decker asked if the template could elaborate on Algebra 2 (to add trigonometry) as the definition of Algebra 2 has been a consistent issue in the Ft. Drum area. Ms. Casey will add the links to the standards on each Regents exam to the template.

Dr. Jackson highlighted districts such as Maryland who have switched to from end of course exams to semester exams. Other states/districts are considering this shift. If anyone has knowledge of a student transferring to NY from Maryland, reach out as Maryland can administer an end of course exam to ease the transition to NY.

Ms. Casey mentioned other nuances even within NYS, such as 44 NYC credits/22 NYS credits and schools that do not administer the Regents exam.

Dr. Jackson brought council's attention to the MIC-3 survey and concerns such as chronic absenteeism, states that offer/not offer assessment tests, and advanced student enrollment legislation.

Dr. Jackson provided an update on the Annual MIC-3 meeting she attended, of note a new chairperson, John I. "Don" Kaminar from Arkansas was elected. Adding she now has a role on the leadership development committee in addition to the finance committee.

Dr. Jackson provided a finance committee update. New York has paid their FY dues, which is based on military student numbers set at a rate of \$1.15 per child. Military student numbers are down in NYS. Also reviewed were the fiscal matters regarding The Council of State Governments as per Kentucky legislation.

Adjourned for lunch: 12:00 PM

Reopened meeting 12:45 PM

Strategic Planning Brainstorm session:

Communication was outlined as a key next step. Including: schools, active bases, parents/families, advocacy groups, policy makers, decision makers, recruiters, bodris, pre-K leaders. Also reach out to leadership: NYS PTA, School Boards, AAA, Realtor Offices, Mayors Office of Veteran's Services, Installation Family Services, National Guard & Reserve, Dept. of Military & Naval Affairs, NYSCOSS as an agenda item (breakout or breakfast session). Also to consider, real-estate agencies, National Guard, Army Reserve, Mayor's office of Veteran's services.

There was a question about a MIC-3 App or make website more mobile friendly. Also using social media blasts.

Mr. Evans highlighted a Month of the Military Child event scheduled on April 17<sup>th</sup>. He will forward details to Dr. Jackson to disseminate.

Succession planning was another key next step. Ensuring council membership as designated is in place and will continue. Also ensuring a contact from the fiscal authority for sustainability.

Compact language/policy ongoing refinement was cited as a council responsibility. Keeping up-to-date regarding issues, problem solving on cases, to inform areas that may need language and/or policy changes to better serve military students and their families.

NEXT STEPS:

~Dr. Jackson to forward Mr. Evans' information to all members to encourage student participation in the April 17, 2019 event

~Mr. Todd to outreach to fill "representative from military installation"

~Ms. Beatha to outreach to Assembly leadership re: Andrea Stewart Cousins' Senate appointee

~Ms. Beatha will introduce IC to Dept. of Veterans Affairs - downstate.

~All will brainstorm organizations/individuals to become permanent members of the NYS IC Council and relay contact information to Dr. Jackson

~ Mr. Evans will check with the state regarding possible housing of a NYS Compact website

~Ms. Casey to update Q/A and template with links as discussed

~Mr. Sheboy to reach out to NYSCOSS for participation by council at their Fall-Saratoga conference

Council members reviewed what worked well (Delta pluses); smaller room, one table as opposed to the U shape, all members engaged, and openness for new members.

Adjourned at 2:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Michi Carl