

DRAFT MINUTES

STATE COUNCIL ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR MILITARY CHILDREN

October 11, 2018
9:30 a.m. (following the MSLC meeting)
Groton Board of Education
1300 Flanders Road, Mystic

Members present: Valerie Nelson, Jason Hartling, Laura Anastasio, Dr. Hamlet Hernandez, Captain Whitescarver, Miranda Chapman. Also present: Susan Austin, Assistant Superintendent, Groton.

1. Discussion, amendments, and approval of the minutes of the May 3, 2018 meeting. Due to a lack of quorum, the minutes shall be reviewed and approved at the next State Council Meeting.
2. Next MIC-3 Meeting in Cleveland, OH. Proposed rules changes. L. Anastasio presented the two rule changes under consideration for the MIC-3. First, MIC-3 proposes a 15% increase in dues for the states. Connecticut's dues will likely increase by approximately \$500, which the SDE pays. Because the amount is not significant, Connecticut will likely support this proposal. Second, the Rules Committee has proposed a change in the rules to include a requirement that each state hold at least one meeting of its state council (or the equivalent) each year. Some states have not held regular meetings of their state councils. In Connecticut, the state council meets two times per year, so this rule will not change Connecticut's state council meetings.
3. Student Testing/Military Identifier – implementation and use of data. 2017-18 was the first year of implementation of the military identifier. L. Anastasio provided summary reports comparing the performance of military connected students to non-military connected students. Military students overall performed better than the statewide non-military students. In addition, attendance/participation percentages were higher with military connected students.

Groton Assistant Superintendent noted that the Groton mayor had suggested that military students had a negative impact on their state assessment performance, which is simply not true. Also noted was the mayor's attestation that military children comprised the majority of the special education students, which is also not true. Members noted that there often is a public perception that military students have poor attendance and poor performance, which is misinformed. Dr. Hernandez asked if perhaps the Commissioner would be willing to inform the public that military children do perform well. Ms. Nelson and Assistant Superintendent Austin also noted that DODEA requires the district to submit detailed reports on student performance. It would be interesting to see if DODEA has been able to put together a comparison to show how well these students perform in comparison to the non-military population to dispel negative public perceptions. L. Anastasio said she would see if she could discuss that issue with the DODEA representative at the MIC-3 meeting. Also discussed: how the self-identification has been working? Groton engages in constant verification of this status due to the requirement for obtaining impact aid.

Also discussed was the idea that a national ID that could be used for assessing the performance of these students over time could be very helpful for educators. Once a student leaves the State of CT, there is no ability to see if that student continues to progress and to what degree (the SASID is only for CT). The data is informative, but incomplete because the population moves from state to state.

4. Graduation Requirements – amendment to C.G.S. Section 10-221a and impact on military children.

Ledyard and Groton have both amended their graduation requirements to meet the 25 credit requirement that will officially go into effect for 2019. Ms. Chapman asked if the change from specified subject areas to broader categories of courses (such as humanities) could create a problem for students if they do not complete coursework such as 4 years of English. Members stated that their graduation requirements still specify typical courses that would translate to other states. Members discussed different approaches to the one credit mastery-based diploma assessment—Capstone projects and NYP projects. Another difficult area to address was subsection (d) of the statute, which provides for support and remedial services, including summer school and online courses.

5. Public relations and outreach.

Ms. Nelson suggested that it might be helpful to do a regional presentation for school guidance counselors at the regional professional development activities. There was one scheduled for March 8th. Ms. Austin will contact LEARN to see if we can present a brief summary of MIC-3 rules for military students.

6. Composition of State Council.

7. Selection of a military-connected parent representative to participate in the Commissioner's Roundtable for Family and Community Engagement in Education.

Ms. Nelson and Ms. Austin will contact L. Anastasio with a parent who might be better able to travel to the Hartford area for these meetings.

Announcements.