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Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3)
Wednesday, January 22, 2020 – 10:00am
Nevada State Council

Meeting Locations:

All meetings will be video conference from both locations.

OFFICE	ADDRESS	CITY	MEETING ROOMS
Department of Education	2080 E Flamingo Rd., Suite 114	Las Vegas	Board Room
Department of Education	700 E Fifth St.	Carson City	Board Room

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

STATE COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

In Las Vegas:

State Commissioner Gonzales
State Council Member Steve Staggs
State Council Member Carol Padilla
State Council Member Brittney Miller
State Council Member Delana Cardenas
State Council Member Col. Anthony Figiera

In Carson City:

State Council Member Danielle Bazzone
State Council Member Bart Thompson
State Council Member Michele Taylor
State Council Member Summer Stephens
State Council Member Marva Clevon

Remote:

State Council Member Kelly Frisch
National MIC3 Executive Director Cherise Imai

STATE COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

State Council Member Col. Scott Leonard
State Council Member Lt. Col. Jason Wild
State Council Member Fred Wagar
State Council Member Eric Killian

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT:

In Carson City:

Henry King, Assessment, Data and Accountability Management

In Las Vegas:

Martha Warachowski, Office of Educator Effectiveness and Family Engagement

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Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order; Roll Call; Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Gonzales called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.
Roll call attendance was taken as reflected above. It was determined a quorum was met.
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Gonzales.

Agenda Item #2 – Public Comment #1

Carson City:

No Public Comment

Las Vegas:

No Public Comment

Agenda Item #3 - Welcome and Introductions of Council Members

Commissioner Gonzales welcomed everybody to the meeting.

Introductions:

Because the Council has a number of new members, Commissioner Gonzales requested that members introduce themselves, state the role they serve on the Council and give a brief background.

Commissioner Gonzales: Nevada Department of Education Deputy Superintendent, former teacher, high school principal and associate superintendent at Clark County School District.

Member Taylor: School Liaison Officer, Naval Air Station-Fallon, 4 years on Council.

Member Clevon: Director of Special Services for Lyon County School District, formerly at Churchill County School District where she worked with military families.

Member Stephens: Superintendent of Churchill County School District, former teacher at a Nebraska military base, worked at various organizations connected to the military.

Member Thompson: Executive Director of the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association (NIAA), works with students on eligibility requirements for interscholastic sports. Has served on Council for 3 1/2 years.

Member Bazzone: School Liaison Officer, Marine Corp. Base Mountain Warfare Training, Bridgeport CA, Educator for 12 years.

Member Cardenas: Child and Youth Program Coordinator for the State of Nevada National Guard, former Educator and Principal, her role provides opportunities for National Guard Youth to build resilience.

Member Col. Figiera: Nellis Air Force Base Mission Support Commander, Active Duty for 22 years, oversees the Child and Youth Services and the Airman and Family Readiness Center at Nellis.

Member Padilla: School Liaison Office at Nellis Air Force Base, former Youth Director at Nellis Air Force Base.

Member Miller: Assemblywoman, currently has 5 cousins serving in the military, in her current role as an Assemblywoman it has been one of her major initiatives to sponsor and pass legislation that supports military families.

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Member Frisch: Regional School Liaison Officer for Navy Region Southwest, oversees the Navy School Liaison Officer Program for the Southwest. Has been a School Liaison for 11 years.

Agenda Item #4 - Commissioner's Report:

Over the last five years the Nevada Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) has seen a dramatic drop in transferring and graduating student cases that have risen to the State level and are in need of Council's assistance. In the past the Council would assist 1 to 2 students per year mostly related to Nevada's former high school proficiency exams. Now most cases have been resolved at the local level. The cases that have risen to the State level have to do with athletic eligibility. Thanks to AB 342 and NRS 385B.130, this now states that children of military families that transfer schools are immediately eligible to participate in any state sanctioned sports and in any other State sanctioned interscholastic activities. Commissioner Gonzales thanked the School Liaison Officers and NIAA for all of their support to students over the years.

On October 23rd and 24th the full Commission held its 2019 Annual Business meeting (ABM) in Colorado Springs, Colorado, it was hosted by Colorado Commissioner Keith Owen. At the meeting the Commission voted to adopt the 3 year, 2020 - 2022 strategic plan which is focused on successful education transitions of military connected students.

Each commission member has received a copy of the new plan.

Commissioner Gonzales asked if there were any questions from the members.

Member Cardenas asked what the Commission attributed the decrease in issues rising to the State level to?

Commissioner Gonzales deferred to Education Program Professional (EPP) Henry King. Commissioner Gonzales stated that Mr. King who has been with the Council throughout the different transitions that have taken place over the years would be the best person to answer Member Cardenas's question.

Mr. King attributes the decrease to Nevada no longer requiring that a student pass the High School Proficiency Exam to graduate. The exam requirement sunseted in 2015.

Item #5 - Introduction of Cherise Imai, National MIC3 Executive Director to provide the History and Mission of the Compact

Commissioner Gonzales introduced National MIC3 Executive Director Cherise Imai. Executive Director Imai.

Executive Director Imai was unable to attend in person and will be presenting remotely.

Executive Director Imai started her presentation by saying that the last State Council meeting was held in 2016. The Executive Director went on to state that she was very pleased to be helping the Nevada State Council relaunch the State's participation in the Compact at the national level. Executive Director Imai went on to give her background and the overall mission and objectives of the compact. The compact allows for states to work together collaboratively and jointly without federal intervention. She went on to outline what the compact can do and what it can't. Executive Director Imai explained the history of compacts in the United States. Executive Director Imai went on to explain the Compact's rule making power. Rules are based on State statutes and the Model Compact. She outlined how rules are modified or changed. All changes are vetted and voted on at the Annual Business Meeting in October. The rules of the Compact supersede any inconsistent State laws, statutes and Board of Education policies.

Council enforcement powers: in the past the National Council has only used their enforcement power when a State Council has not paid their dues or has failed to appoint a Commissioner. Executive Director Imai presented information statistics on all States, this included Military dependents by State and how National Defense spending effects the State of Nevada GDP and economy. The presentation went on to outline who the MIC3 covers, children of active duty, retired and reserve members. It also covers children of members who perish while on active duty and medically discharged veterans, uniformed members of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps (USPHS). Executive Director Imai went on to state that the Compact helps level the playing field for military students and supports uniformed treatment with their civilian peers.

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The Compact focuses on key educational and transitional issues. Executive Director Imai went on to state that one of the best things and one of the core values of Compact is that it allows for States to have those important conversations about how to keep these kids in school and how to do what is really best for them throughout the United States in the context of (1) Transfer of records and enrollment, (2) Graduation, (3) Placement and attendance, (4) Eligibility, (5) Educational records. Executive Director Imai closed out her presentation by explaining the duties and responsibilities of National, State and Regional Council members and commissioners, she then went on to inform Council members about what the Council can do to help educate stakeholders and schools about the Compact. There are brochures, guides, rulebooks and informational posters available from the Commission.

Executive Director Imai asked for questions from members.

Member Cardenas asked if the number (5986) of military students in Nevada as stated on the Military Dependents by State slide only include active duty military family students?

Executive Director Imai stated that that the number on the slide only included military family students from the Army, Navy, Air force and Coast Guard. MIC3 National is working on getting the data for all of the military families that the Commission serves.

Item #6 - Report on the Interagency Council on Veterans Affairs

Education Program Professional (EPP) Henry King states that he has some new numbers from the Nevada Department of Education data people. 10747 is updated self-reported is number of military family dependents for Nevada. EPP King is unsure exactly who this number encompasses, if it consists of just active duty military family dependents or if includes reserves dependents. He went on to state that one of the statistics that stood out to him was that, at the time the data was pulled there were 2210 public charter school students. Coral Academy and Somerset Academy have 646 of the overall 10747 military family students. Mr. King stated that he believes that one of the challenges moving forward is getting that statistical breakdown of data to include all data points that encompass the term "military families".

Member Stephens stated that she feels that one of the struggles that the State faces is the way in which the data is collected. Infinite Campus being one method. Over the years the consistency of when and how the data has been collected has been a real issue. She would like to see NDE support the school districts in their data collection efforts.

EPP King agrees that the NDE is perfectly situated to help design a reporting mechanism that will turn out the exact type of data that is being looked for.

Commissioner Gonzales stated that she and EPP King would send out the numbers to the Council members once they were finalized.

Item #7 - Purple Up! – April is the Month of the Military Child

Commissioner Gonzales announced that in April, the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission along with many other organizations, nonprofits and public entities will celebrate the important role of military children while their service member parents are servicing the nation. Across the nation, states, communities and schools celebrate this month in various ways, including wearing the color purple. This year the Commission has chosen April 22nd as the official Purple Up! For Military Kids day. Commissioner Gonzales asked that everybody support celebrating a day or month by coordinating, supporting and/or attending a Purple Up event at schools, in communities and in organizations. Commissioner Gonzales will be coordinating and supporting a gubernatorial proclamation designating April as the month of the military child.

Member Cardenas commented that the Nevada National Guard has a annual event that celebrates the month of the military child. The event is called Spring Fling and is open to all military families regardless of their military status.

Member Padilla also commented that Nellis Air Force base and Coral Academy are looking at April 17th to celebrate Purple Up Day. She suggested that all of the celebrations should be on the same day to make it bigger and better.

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Item # 8 - Interstate Compact Success Stories

Commissioner Gonzales announced that on April 1, 2020, criteria related to a project that gathers stories related to successful education transitions of military children under the Military Interstate Compact in 30 second videos. A rubric is being created to ensure consistent video content. The videos will be shown at the 2020 Annual Business meeting to demonstrate how the Compact makes a difference. Commissioner Gonzales would also like to show the videos at upcoming Council meetings.

Item #9 - Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Gonzales requested input on future agenda items.

Member Miller stated that there are 2 things that she would like the Council to look at. She was recently on the selection panel for top quality military academies. She also states that she realizes that not every student has the academic grades to get into a military academy. She would like the council to look at the possibility of bringing a junior military academy to Nevada.

Commissioner Gonzales stated that she would work with MIC3 National to see if that would be something that the Council could look at. Perhaps a representative of a military junior college could give a presentation at a future council meeting

Member Miller also stated that there is a group out of California that would like to educate graduating youth and commissions like this one regarding the military and military careers.

Commissioner Gonzales stated that she will also bring this suggestion up to National and get back with Member Miller.

Member Stephens suggested that the council look at ways to ensure that students who are on a certain career pathway as they transition to a different school have an opportunity to continue on that pathway perhaps through online content.

Commissioner Gonzales expounded further on this topic. She stated that she is aware that a lot of students are in technical career courses in high school and when they transfer, especially if it's to a smaller city, they may not have opportunities to continue their career path. She puts great importance on finding avenues to allow those students to have successful transition outcomes. She stated that she is working with NDE's Career Technical Education division to make sure that those students have opportunities to follow their chosen career paths even its only offered online. This is part of Perkins 5, federal funding.

Member Col. Figiera expressed concern on issues that both the Superintendent and Principal at Coral Academy had brought up with him. Recently their school ratings had come out and while the middle school had a 5-star rating, the elementary school had a 2-star rating. In large part it was due to their rate of absenteeism. The school has been working with the parents around this issue. Unfortunately, often there is a time difference between when family members come back from deployment and schools being out of session. Needless to say, that families want to be together as much as possible during those times. The school is concerned that the 95% of the school population that are military students are being unfairly judged for absenteeism.

Commissioner Gonzales stated that she will have the Nevada Department of Ed team look into this issue and possibly come up with ways to alleviate this problem.

Member Taylor would like to see some data collection done on average graduation rates at the County, State and National levels for comparison and brought to the next meeting. Member Taylor stated that many times when she is talking to student's parents they are concerned about State of Nevada graduation rates and how it's going to impact their children graduating.

Commissioner Gonzales clarified her request: asked if Member Taylor was looking for total number of Seniors versus graduating Seniors at the district level and then duplicate the same type of statistical data comparison at the County, State and National level. Member Taylor stated that yes that is what she is looking for.

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Commissioner Gonzales requested that the Council take up Agenda item #11 before item #10.

Item # 11 - Next meeting

Commissioner Gonzales and council members had a discussion regarding the date for the next meeting. The Council felt that mid to late June would work best with everybody's schedule. Commissioner Gonzales stated that EPP King would send out a email in a couple weeks to council members with dates that might work.

Agenda Item #10 – Public Comment #1

Carson City:

No Public Comment

Las Vegas:

No Public Comment

Agenda Item #12 - Adjournment

Member Cardenas - Made a motion to adjourn

Member Padilla - Seconded that motion

Meeting was adjourned at 1:05 PM