

Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission (MIC3)
Nevada State Council
Thursday, NOVEMBER 5, 2020 – 3:00pm

Meeting Location
Due to the circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the State Board of Education met via videoconference. In accordance with Governor Sisolak’s State of Emergency Directive 006, Section 1, no physical location was designated for this meeting. The meeting was livestreamed on the Nevada Department of Education’s (NDE) website.

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION MEETING

STATE COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Via Videoconference

- State Commissioner Felicia Gonzales
- State Council Member Col Anthony Figiera
- State Council Member Bart Thompson
- State Council Member Steve Staggs
- State Council Member Nicole Jullanant
- State Council Member Carol Padilla
- State Council Member Summer Stephens
- State Council Member Delana Cardenas
- State Council Member Holly Payne
- State Council Member Brittney Miller
- State Council Member Celica Yacuta
- State Council Member Marva Cleven
- State Council Member Eric Killian
- State Council Member Fred Wagar

STATE COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

- State Council Member Lt. Col Jason Wild

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT

- Martha Warachowski, Office of Educator Effectiveness and Family Engagement

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE

Via Livestream

- Kelli May Douglas

1: CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Meeting called to order at 3:10 PM. by State Commissioner Gonzales.

Roll call was taken, and a quorum was established.

State Commissioner Gonzales led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2: PUBLIC COMMENT #1

No Public Comment

3: APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 22, 2020, Nevada State Council meeting

State Council Member Bart Thompson moved to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2020 meeting.

State Council Member Summer Stephens seconded the motion. Motion passed.

4: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS AND NDE REPRESENTATIVE

State Commissioner Gonzales introduced new council members Holly Payne, MWTC School Liaison, Nicole Jullanant, Navy Air Station Fallon School Liaison, Cecilia Yacuta, Navy Region Southwest Regional School Liaison. Each of the new council members gave a brief bio.

Kelli May Douglas, Southwest Regional Liaison at the Defense-State Liaison Office, DoD, Military Community & Family Policy requested that although she is not a Council member, she would like to attend the meetings. Ms. Douglas explained her role as Southwest Regional Liaison.

State Commissioner Gonzales introduced a new Nevada MIC3 point of contact. Education Programs Professional KellyLynn Charles will be moving into the role previously held by Henry King.

5: COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

State Commissioner Gonzales restated the MIC3 mission of providing consistency across States and was drafted with the intent to avoid conflict with existing State codes where possible. It replaces widely varying state policies that affect transiting military-connected students and supports uniform treatment for these students as they transfer between school districts and member states. Commissioner Gonzales goes on to state that while the Compact is not exhaustive in what it covers, it does address the key issues encountered by transiting military families and students deal with such as eligibility, enrollment, placement, and graduation.

The MIC3 is only the 4th Compact in 50 years to be adopted by all 50 States.

State membership on the Commission demonstrates Nevada's commitment to military-connected students and our support for successful education transitions.

The Commission conducts annual business meetings in the fall. This meeting allows State Commissioners to come together and provide input on issues that have come up in the year in their states. It also offers the opportunity to attend workshops, discuss and vote on bylaw changes that may impact their States. The meeting also allows attendees to hear about best practices in managing issues that come up regarding the Compact.

In 2020 the meeting was held virtually on October 1 and 2, 2020. There were forty-seven Commissioners in attendance. Five ex-officio also participated along with many, many other commission members. Forty-seven States were eligible to vote at the meeting. Three states are currently seeking commissioners for their states.

During this annual meeting, voting was held for the 2021 Commission Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer.

The meeting featured a panel discussing many of the issues facing today's military-connected families. The panel focused on race, inclusion, and diversity. Guest speakers included a military parent with a blended family, a representative from Blue Star families, and MIC3 State Commissioners from Missouri and New Hampshire. The two Commissioners from Missouri and New Hampshire shared their perspectives and programs that focus on race, inclusion, diversity.

Executive and standing committee reports were presented which included updates on state compliance under the compact, steps that have been taken to resolve any compliance issues, annual reporting by individual State Councils and end of year reporting. Data collection provisions included in State statutes were discussed.

State Commissioner Gonzales was proud to report that Nevada did not have a unique issue that rose to the national level.

Commissioner Gonzales went on to talk about the Nevada Council's communication plan for Purple Up!, The Month of the Military Children, and the Compact external language that supports military-Connected Families

Other updates and reports that were made include an update on the status of the three-year strategic plan, which can be found on the MIC3 website, and reports from the U.S. DoD State's liaison's office and ex-Officio's organizations.

The National Guard and Reserve Taskforce presented their recommendation to include all National Guard and Reserve dependents even if not on Title 10. The Commissioners at the meeting expressed the desire to meet with their State Councils to determine their position and impact but first voted to forward the recommendation to the Executive Committee to determine next steps and a way forward on considering that these dependents be included like those on Title 10.

The Commission presented on new programs and features. The MIC3 website is migrating to a new mobile friendly platform. The new Mine80 mobile app will include a link to the Commission website and resources. There are also new training materials.

The next Annual Business Meeting will be held in Little Rock, Arkansas on November 4 and 5, 2021.

Commissioner Gonzales spoke about April being the Month of the Military Child or Purple Up! She went on to talk about how and why the nation celebrates this month.

Commissioner Gonzales asked for comments and/or feedback on the information she had given.

6: SCHOOL LIAISON AND MEMBER REPORTS (*Information/Discussion*)

Commissioner Gonzales asked to hear from the School Liaison Officers and other members with something to report.

Commission member Bart Thompson informed the Council that Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association (NIAA) has started to work on how student transfers will look in the 2021-22 school year. Thompson also stated that NIAA Nevada looks at military-connected student transfers first. Military-connected student athletic program transfers have been in a hold status because the NIAA has been focused on getting the Spring, Fall, and Winter sports programs up and running safely.

Commissioner Gonzales requested that Member Thompson provide further background on the legislation that has provided military-connected students with more opportunities to participate in athletic programs.

Member Thompson stated that the legislation did not provide much help in-regards to the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association (NIAA). It did however encourage an increase in meetings such as this one.

The legislation did reinforce the guarantee that military-connected students who are here in Nevada because of parents being transferred between bases be accorded athletic eligibility via high school sports. These students still go through the transfer process to determine if they are truly military-connected students.

Member Stephens reported on the efforts that were put into creating an appropriate plan for reopening childcare services on the military bases located in the Churchill County School District. Member Stephens and her staff worked closely with SLO Nicole Jullanant to ensure that the district school reopening roll out plan will be successful.

Member Stephens went on to state that this was Churchill's the first year using online registration from Infinite Campus. She believes that it was a huge improvement for military families and gave them the ability to register before they get to their new base.

She also stated that her goal for the new year is to continue to ensure that military-connected students and their families are fully supported as they arrive in Churchill County School District.

She is also looking forward to supporting and growing CTE programs across the State. Member Stephens feels that it is very important that as CTE students relocate to Nevada there is a program available that meets their needs.

Commissioner Gonzales commended Member/Superintendent Stephens on her good work regarding CTE programs in Nevada.

Member Padilla would like to reach out to the other SLO's in Nevada to set up regular monthly or quarterly meetings.

7: MILITARY EDUCATION LIAISON (*Information/Discussion*)

Commissioner Gonzales asked the council members if any of them remember who the last Military Education Liaison was? This is a position on the council that has remained unfilled. It is a nonvoting support position. Commissioner Gonzales is seeking the help of the Council to see if they know of anyone who would be willing to step in to fill the position.

The person that holds this position should have access to resources and can advocate and promote MIC3 and the work of the council.

Commissioner Gonzales asks if there is any discussion regarding the Military Education Liaison. There is no discussion.

8: PURPLE STAR SCHOOLS PROGRAM (*For possible action*)

NDE staff member, Martha Warachowski gave an introductory presentation on the Purple Star Schools Program to the State Council. State Commissioner Felicia Gonzales wants to further support Nevada's Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission ideals by starting a Nevada Purple Star Schools program. She also asked if there were Council Members that would be willing to help review the Purple Star Schools applications as they come in.

Member Wagar from the Nevada Department of Veteran's Services asked if there is a Purple Star Schools designation for a broader body of schools, for instance can Nevada get all the schools to join the program and be a Purple Star Schools state? If we could possibly get all the different schools and districts to join, could we get the DoD or Department of Education to recognize that effort?

Member Stephens, Member Jullanant, Member Padilla, Member Cardenas and Member Wagar stated that they are willing to help in any way possible.

Kelli May Douglas, Pacific Southwest Regional School Liaison Officer clarified that at this time the Airforce does not take the number of Purple Star School into consideration when making decisions about base location or airmen placement.

Commissioner Gonzales stated that she would like to see this program move forward. If the Council endorses the program, she is willing to take the request to the Superintendent of Public Instruction so we can support it out of the Nevada Department of Education.

Commissioner Gonzales asked for a motion from the Council to support the program. Member Wagar makes a motion to move forward with the Purple Star School program and for Commissioner Gonzales to work with the Nevada Department of Education to support the program. Member Miller seconds the motion. Motion passes.

9: INTERSTATE COMPACT SUCCESS STORIES UPDATE (*Information/Discussion*)

Commissioner Gonzales asks that the Council recall that in the last meeting in January 2020 she talked about the Interstate Compact Success video program. The purpose of the program is to capture stories of successful education transitions of military-connected students under the Interstate Compact through 30 second videos. Submitted videos meeting the parameters outlined in the Video Submission Packet below will be shown at the 2021 Annual Business Meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas on November 4-5, 2021. Unfortunately, with everybody turning their attention to the COVID-19 pandemic and with schools transitioning to distance learning the program did not get up and running.

Anyone interested in submitting a video may print the Video Submission Packet documents. The deadline to submit videos and the necessary documentation to your state Compact Commissioner no later than Tuesday, June 1, 2021, by 6:00 PM Hawaii Time. Information can be found at <https://mic3.net/successful-compact-transition-videos/>.

10: NEVADA STATE COUNCIL GOAL SETTING (*For possible action*)

Commissioner Gonzales asked for ideas for future goals for the Nevada State Council on anything that they would like to accomplish. She suggested that the goal of having a robust Purple Star Schools program would be something that she would like to see. She asked if there were any members that have any suggestions for other goals.

Member Wagar asked Commissioner Gonzales if now would be an appropriate time to discuss enrollment regarding military-connected students transitioning to Nevada? Commissioner Gonzales explained to the Council that Member Wagar is talking about advanced enrollment. There are States that have adopted advanced enrollment in some form or fashion whether through the legislature or by other means. She went on to say that Member Wagar, Ex- Officio Kelli May Douglas, and herself had been discussing the challenges that went along with advanced enrollment. Commissioner Gonzales recognizes that districts like Churchill County can be very flexible around advanced enrollment due to their size. But then we have Clark County School District which, due to its size would be very difficult to offer advanced enrollment. If a military-connected family was living on base, they would possibly be able to do advanced enrollment because they would know what their address was going to be. However, many families move to Nevada and then look for housing. It would be very difficult to know which of the 350 schools their children would be attending before they have that home address and know which school zone that they might fall into.

Member Wagar stated that the goal would be to change the regulations regarding a student having to live in the same school zone as the school that they will be attending. He expressed the thought that allowing students to live in a different zone then the school that they wanted to attend might be away around the issue that Commissioner Gonzales brought up.

Member Miller stated that in certain situations they do have open enrollment per what Member Wagar is suggesting. It is a process that includes seeking permission from a school's principal to see if the school has room to except more students. She went on to say that they call them zone waivers. Then an additional concern is the lack of busing to the out of zone school.

Member Miller asked if there was a something like a “Welcome to Nevada” packet that is provided to incoming military-connect families?

Member Padilla offered that she is the focal point on the education piece. She reaches out to inbound and outbound families. With the inbound families she gives them information on Clark County School District (CCSD), charter and private schools in the area. She has frequent conversations with CCSD around zone variances. When families have a permanent change of duty station (PCS) they get assigned a sponsor from their assigned base to support them as they leave. Member Padilla reaches out to all inbound and outbound personnel to help with transitions.

Member Wagar asked Commissioner Gonzales to clarify that when a military-connected member comes to Nevada, as soon as they find housing, they can enroll their kids? Commissioner Gonzales stated that they can enroll their kids as soon as they have a permanent address. She went on to say that they can do on-line registration at any point prior to getting here. The assignment for a specific school with in CCSD must wait until they get here. Commissioner Gonzales stated that there are also some amazing charter and private schools in the Las Vegas Valley that incoming military-connected families might want to look into.

11: FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

12: NEXT MEETING – TBD

13: PUBLIC COMMENT #2

There was no public comment.

14: ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 4:38 PM