

Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission (MIC3)
Nevada State Council
Wednesday, November 14, 2023
3:00 p.m.

Office	Address	City	Meeting Room
Department of Education	2080 E Flamingo Rd.	Las Vegas	Board Room #114
Department of Education	700 E. Fifth St.	Carson City	Board Room
Department of Education	Virtual/Livestream	N/A	N/A

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION MEETING STATE

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

State Commissioner Felicia Gonzales
State Council Member Elizabeth Erway
State Council Member Steve Staggs
State Council Member Brittney Miller
State Council Member Melanie Murphy
State Council Member Nora Luna
State Council Member Cecilia Yacuta
State Council Member Rachel Stewart
State Council Member Steven Staggs
State Council Member Colonel Kevin Mares
State Council Member Kristina Aubert
State Council Member Kelli May Douglas

STATE COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

State Council Member Derild Parsons
State Council Member Mark Resendez

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT

KellyLynn Charles, Office of Educator Development, Licensure, and Family Engagement

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE

Captain Carly Donner, US Marine Corps
Staff Seargent Bryson Hooker, US Marine Corps

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

Meeting called to order at 3:00 PM by State Commissioner Gonzales. Rollcall was taken and quorum was established. State Commissioner Gonzales led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT #1

No Public Comment

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 14, 2023, NEVADA STATE COUNCIL MEETING

State Council Member Colonel Mares moved to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2023, meeting. State Council Member Kristina Aubert seconded the motion. Motion passed.

4. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

Before new members were welcomed and introduced themselves, Commissioner Gonzales recognized Ms. Martha Warachowski. Martha is retiring from the Nevada Department of Education at the end of the month. She has provided this Council with invaluable support and has been an integral part of the team to stand up the Purple Star Schools program here in Nevada. Martha will be greatly missed, and we wish her well in her retirement.

Commissioner Gonzales welcomed our new members. Melanie Murphy is the new Naval Air Station School out of Fallon, Nevada. Sydney Ashenbrenner is the new Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center Liaison. Superintendent Derild Parsons is the superintendent of Churchill County School District. Rachel Stewart is the representative for the Lyon County School District. Elizabeth Erway, the Child and Youth Lead Coordinator, will be the new National Guard representative. Mark Resendez is the new Education Representative. New members in attendance at the meeting briefly introduced themselves and shared their enthusiasm for joining the Council.

5. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT AND ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING UPDATE

Commissioner Gonzales reminded the Council the purpose of the compact is to provide consistency across all States, and it was drafted with the intent to avoid conflict with existing State codes where possible. It replaces widely varying state policies that affect transitioning military-connected students and supports uniform treatment for these students as they transfer between school districts and member states. She stated that while the Compact is not exhaustive in what it covers, it does address the key issues encountered by transitioning military families and students such as eligibility, enrollment, placement, and graduation. State membership on this Commission demonstrates Nevada's commitment to military-connected students and our support for successful education transitions. Commissioner Gonzales personally thanked the members for taking the time to participate in this council today.

Commissioner Gonzales shared that the Commission conducts an annual business meeting in the fall in order to allow State Commissioners to come together and provide input on issues that have come up throughout the year in their states. It also offers the opportunity to engage in discussions within Tier groups, discuss and vote on bylaw changes that may impact our States. Commissioner Gonzales stated the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission, or MIC3, held its Annual Business Meeting on November 8th and 9th, in Richmond, Virginia. The event, hosted by Dan Dunham, Virginia's Compact Commissioner, included over 120 attendees including state compact commissioners, ex-officio members, state and district personnel, and military school liaison officers, such as Kristin Aubert, representing various branches of service. Highlights included Keynote speakers, Dr. Lisa Coons, Superintendent of the Virginia Department of Education; Craig Crenshaw, Secretary of Virginia Veterans and Defense Affairs; a presentation by Jermaine O'Sullivan, Team Lead at the US Department of Education Military Affairs in the Office of Communications and Outreach; and a robust Defense State Liaison Office policy priority update from our very own Kelli May Douglas.

Commissioner Gonzales informed the Council the executive officers of the commission were elected with Connecticut Louisiana Commissioner Ernise Singleton as the Chair, Minnesota Commissioner Daron Korte as vice chair; Washington Commissioner Greg Lynch, as treasurer; and Connecticut Commissioner Laura Anastasio will continue to serve as past chair.

Commissioner Gonzales reminded the members that a secondary issue was discovered regarding the Compact. She stated there is an incorrect citation in the model language of the Compact. Since last year, nine states have made this correction, and Nevada will soon be one of them. Following the end of the 2023 legislative session, Nevada is in the middle of the codification process for Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) and this is one issue the Legislative Council Bureau has flagged to be corrected when title 34 is processed. When the new version of NRS is published at the end of this codification process, this correction will be included.

Lastly, Commissioner Gonzales was happy to report that Assemblywoman Erica Mosca introduced and passed assembly bill 185, named the Military Dependent Bill, which provides for public and charter school enrollment preference and accommodations such as advanced enrollment by utilizing the address of a military installation,

allows for parents to apply to schools with a lottery process, and provides for distance education accommodations.

Commissioner Gonzales closed out this section after no further questions.

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

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

State Council Member Aubert stated that some of the challenges she faces in Nevada, deal with placement, especially of kindergarten students. A kindergarten student moving from Georgia was denied enrollment at a charter school in Nevada. She was able to resolve this MIC3 compliance issue at the lowest level. It was simply a misunderstanding that the compact still applies even though the Nevada Department of Education guidance memo did not include the provision for military students. She stated transfers during senior year as a challenge as well. A student transferred to Texas during his senior year and could not meet the graduation requirements. She facilitated on-time graduation for this student from his previous Nevada high school. Member Aubert stated all MIC3 compliance issues resolved at the local level. Schools have been responsive to information and guidance from the School Liaison. She has also noticed that parents are coming to Nevada more aware of the compact, and she has continued to brief the compact to all stakeholders (leadership, parents, and educators).

Member Murphy and Member Ashenbrenner stated they are seeing the same challenges with kindergarten and graduation questions as Member Aubert mentioned. Additionally, they also have noticed an increased awareness of the Compact amongst their families.

7. PURPLE STAR SCHOOLS PROGRAM UPDATE (*Information/Discussion*)

Commissioner Gonzales asked to hear the update on the Purple Star Schools (PSS) program including the application process. She introduced KellyLynn Charles to present. Ms. Charles shared that three schools were awarded the Purple Star in April. She thanked the members who reviewed the applications. One school decided to hold off on applying to try to encourage other schools in their rural district to apply. Ms. Charles looks forward to them reapplying when the 2024 application opens. She shared that they will be starting an annual renewal form process in April. Schools will submit evidence of what they completed this year, along with what they hope to do in the upcoming year. Ms. Charles asked for questions. There were none.

8. MARINE CORPS (USMC) OPTION OF THE NAVAL RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS (NROTC) 4 YEAR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (*Information/Discussion*)

Staff Sergeant Hooker and Captain Donner introduced themselves. Captain Donner shared she is the Marine Corps 4-YR NROTC Scholarship Coordinator, and they are excited to be before the Council to share information on the NROTC Scholarships available to Nevada's students. Staff Sergeant Hooker shared a presentation on the benefits, eligibility requirements, schools with NROTC programs, obligations of accepting the scholarship, and the academic requirements. Captain Donner went on to explain there are multiple scholarships and briefly shared each one.

To close out the presentation, Captain Donner shared the military has paid for her bachelor's and master's degrees, as well as 3 civilian industry recognized IT certificates and given her leadership and travel opportunities that go well beyond those of my high school peers. She asked the Council for assistance in sharing the opportunities with the larger community and asked if there were any questions. There were none.

9. NEVADA STATE COUNCIL GOAL SETTING (*Information/Discussion/For possible action*)

State Commissioner Gonzales opened the floor to KellyLynn Charles to provide updates on Nevada State Goals, to revise or develop goals as necessary for 2024. Ms. Charles started with the 2022-2023 Goals presentation for Cultural and Structural goals. She reminded the Council there are Cultural Goals and Structural Goals, both broken into short-term, mid-term, and long-term goals. In the short-term goals, the media campaign goal is currently in progress and the webinar goal was met. In the mid-term goal, increasing

the number of PSS in Nevada was met as we currently have 29 schools and 2 districts. The long-term goals, both goals were in progress. We are making progress with increased relationships with the recruiters to increase site visits by military personnel to schools to show that the military is a viable career option. The presentation on the NROTC Scholarship by Captain Donner, US Marine Corps is part of that goal. The next goal was regarding the Nevada guard as a champion of mental health efforts. Ms. Charles has provided resources and training on military children during times of crisis to the Purple Star School Points of Contacts and added the information to the Military Children in Our Schools Course. For the structural goals, there were 2: increase data accuracy and specificity of military connected students and work to assist all districts and schools on Impact Aid applications. Both goals were in progress.

KellyLynn opened the floor for questions. There were no questions.

KellyLynn asked if the members had suggestions for new goals, goals to continue, or goals to revise for the coming year. Member Colonel Mares suggested having 50 Purple Star Schools and 3 districts by next year as a goal. Members agreed the other goals could be continued for the next year. Member Murphy motioned to set the goal of 50 Purple Star Schools and 3 Districts, and to continue the rest of the goals as listed. Member Stewart seconded. Motion passed.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items from the Council.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT #2

There was no public comment.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 PM