

ITEM

ITEM 1 – WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

1. Chair Kathleen Berg opened the meeting and with Kate Wren Gavlak gave the welcoming address.
2. The Chief of Staff of Navy Region Southwest, Captain Chris Plummer gave an opening statement welcoming the Commission to San Diego and congratulating them on the job that they are doing.
3. The meeting was called to order, and the roll was taken by Executive Director Stephen Hogan. Thirty-eight states were represented, which duly constituted a quorum.
4. Chair Berg introduced the new Executive Director to the Commission, BG Stephen Hogan.
5. Chair Berg gave an overview of the agenda. The minutes of the 2012 Annual Meeting were then approved by unanimous consent.

ITEM 2 – PUBLIC COMMENT

6. Kelli May, the Regional School Liaison Officer (SLO) for Marine Corps Installation West, read a letter to the Commission, a copy of which is attached for ease of reference. The chair added that this matter is being looked at by the Executive Committee.

ITEM 3 – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

7. Chair Berg talked about the following:
 - a. **Growing Pains.** Borrowing from an article she wrote for the recent MIC3 newsletter (article entitled “Growing Pains . . . and Opportunities” attached), the chair spoke about the change of executive directorship from BG(R) Norman Arflack to BG Stephen Hogan and how well the transition had gone so far. She spoke about military families’ and the public’s growing awareness of the Compact and of some recent requests made to the MIC3 national office.
 - b. **Opportunities.** MIC3 had been asked to endorse initiatives such as the Common Core State Standards as well as to endorse a university grant proposal and for the director to serve on their advisory board. The Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) offered to contract with MIC3 for human resource services, and the Military Impacted Schools Association (MISA) offered training support, if their travel expenses to conduct training could be covered by MIC3. There was also a request from the Department of Defense (DoD) to support their initiative to have all states include a military identifier in their state education databases. These requests were all opportunities for self examination to determine the true purpose of the Compact and the Commission. (Attachments to these minutes include the MCEC letter and the MIC3 response to MCEC as well as the DoD white paper on military identifiers for state databases.)
8. Chair Berg elaborated that during their self examination, the Executive Committee, assisted by General Counsel Rick Masters, conducted a close review of the establishing document (the Compact) and the limits of the commission’s legal scope of authority and responsibility. They established that, as a government entity, the Commission has a limited scope: to ensure execution of the rules that have been agreed to by all of the members. That is the purpose for which dues are collected from the member states.

MIC3 is not an advocacy group or policy making organization. MIC3 is to carry out what the members have already agreed to, and needs to remain the honest broker among states, schools, and military families, unaligned with other organizations and responsible to the member states and the long-term viability of the Compact. This will be expanded on by general counsel in his report.

9. The Executive Committee recently completed a housekeeping task by removing rule 2.103; this was never adopted by the states that were represented at the second annual meeting when it was proposed. There is no real effect of the change, other than to avoid confusion.

ITEM 4 – GENERAL COUNSEL

10. MIC3 General Counsel Rick Masters spoke on the issue raised by Kelli May during the public comment period and assured everyone that the Executive Committee was already aware of this. He would keep the commission updated as they attempted to resolve the issue.

11. Masters provided the members with some additional updates, which were included in the docket book and are attached to these minutes (a summary of the NCOSEA meeting and summary of the MCEC meeting he took part in representing MIC3).

12. Masters stated that he and Arflack travelled extensively during the year visiting numerous states, helping ease their transition as they became members of the Compact. They also maintained ongoing dialogue with the non-member states.

13. General Counsel Masters provided the members with a handout detailing frequently asked questions from a legal perspective; this is also attached to the minutes.

14. General Counsel Masters spoke about MIC3's status for tax purposes. He confirmed that MIC3 is not classified as a 501c3 non-profit organization, but, rather, MIC3 is a government entity. This has implications that were addressed earlier by the chair and were reiterated by general counsel.

ITEM 5 – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

15. Director Steve Hogan echoed comments made by the general counsel that the first priority was to obtain membership of the four remaining states and, secondly, to provide as much assistance to the member states as requested. Finally, he added that the dues collection was at 87% and thanked the members for their assistance in obtaining these funds.

ITEM 6 – COMMITTEE REPORTS

16. **Compliance.** Committee Chair Laura Anastasio stated that it had been a very quiet year with the Compliance Committee.

17. North Carolina asked for a template of a state council to assist in setting one up, especially in situations where a council may change all at once with a change in local government. General Counsel Masters stated that the minimum make-up of the state council is shown in Article VIII of the Compact language.

18. **Rules.** Committee Chair Mary Gable stated that the rules committee had not been required to meet during the year.

19. Ohio asked for clarification on ART status as it pertains to the Compact. General Counsel Masters stated that this would need to be a change in statute and could not be accomplished by a rule change. They may have to seek guidance from the local JAG or from DC.
20. **Public Relations and Training.** Committee Chair Rosemarie Kraeger thanked everyone on the committee for their help and participation during the year.
- a. Chair Kraeger explained that since the development of the guide for parents and school administrators, over 20,000 had been distributed.
 - b. Chair Kraeger added that they had recently completed their first webinar and showed an excerpt. She then went on to explain and show the members how to navigate through the website to find the various training resources.
 - c. Chair Kraeger encouraged everyone to utilize the resources on the website.
21. Chair Kraeger stated that they had been working on producing a simple flow chart for use by parents as a guide to utilizing the Compact.
22. The members were asked to provide ideas regarding the commissioner training that is now conducted the day before the annual meeting beings.
23. Chair Berg added that the toolkit, initially produced in 2012, would be updated and made available.
24. **Finance.** Director Hogan gave the finance brief on behalf of Treasurer and Committee Chair Pam Deering. He stated that 80% of the budget was committed in 5 areas:
- National Meeting, Indirect Costs, Salary and Benefits, Consultant Expense, Travel
25. Director Hogan noted that through good stewardship MIC3 has generated a surplus every year. The surplus at the end of FY14 is projected to be at \$750,000. The director added there would be a few increases due to healthcare costs and the short overlap of executive directors.
26. The FY13 audit is ongoing and roughly 65% completed; there are no anticipated issues.
27. The projected revenue for FY15 is \$670,255. This optimistically accounts for the non-member states. The only other increase projected for FY15 is from the audit company, which will now charge slightly more than it did previously when it treated MIC3 as a nonprofit.
28. A question was raised regarding the fund balance MIC3 needs and if the commission needed to look at how to manage the excess funds. Director Hogan mentioned that 80% of the funds were committed annually and that one of the initiatives they were looking at was increasing training efforts, which would require additional expenditures.
29. Deanna McLaughlin said she noticed the salary levels had not changed for the staff and asked why this was. Chair Berg explained that there had been increases in salaries approved in August by the Executive Committee and that these would be reflected in budgets going forward.

ITEM 7 – ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF BG(R) NORMAN ARFLACK

30. Chair Berg gave a speech on the accomplishments of BG(R) Norman Arflack, the previous MIC3 executive director, and thanked him on behalf of the Commission. Kathy Facon read a letter from Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy expressing her most sincere thanks for everything that he had done during his tenure. There was also a small presentation from the state of Hawaii.

31. Director Hogan spoke about his association with General Arflack, followed by BG(R) Norman Arflack, who gave a heartfelt speech about his role as MIC3's first executive director and about the reason for his retirement.

ITEM 8 – PRESENTATION ON THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA)

32. Rick Masters, Sarah Forster, and Rosemarie Kraeger gave a presentation on IDEA. The audio commentary of this presentation can be accessed via the website at www.mic3.net

ITEM 9 – BREAKOUT BRIEFINGS

33. The following points were taken from the breakout briefings:

Breakout 1

- LTC French applauded her group, which consisted of a variety of SLOs as well as commissioners.
- They initially discussed the placement and attendance topic. They felt it was about the working relationships and discussed how to use these to ensure that needs of the students were addressed.
- The group talked about the virtual training school, the global school. LTC French also mentioned that the group discussed how the Compact addresses non-compliance issues.

Breakout 2

- This group got through 15 scenarios.
- The group agreed that this is one of the best aspects of the annual meeting. The chance to discuss with colleagues the various aspects of the Compact was invaluable.
- For the most part the group's answers to the scenarios matched. Those that did not bred new conversation.
- Shelly Joan Weiss added that Nevada and Arizona were doing a lot of work regarding online schools and that this may be an area the Compact should monitor.

Breakout 3

- This group stressed the importance of understanding the Compact and that while everyone wanted to help that there was a requirement to stay within the boundaries.
- The group tried to convey the message that we are not trying to give military children an advantage but rather ensuring they are not disadvantaged.
- Immunization – They discovered that immunization is not even standardized within some states.
- Kindergarten – It was noted that in some cases class sizes were restricted, so even if the Compact did apply there may not be an option to use it.
- High School Sports – It was pointed out the Compact does not cover areas which are run by

- private associations but that there was normally an appeals process.
- It was discussed that it would be useful to have a high school sports representative on a state council.

Breakout 4

- The group started with eligibility and applicability and came to a lot of the same conclusions as previous groups and the scenario answers.
- Along the same lines as cheerleading, student government was discussed, and it was asked if a school would be required to hold a special election. They went back to what the Compact said, and it was clear that it provided the child was given an "opportunity."
- They discussed virtual schooling, virtual education, and its definition. They felt this area was very murky and that this was just the tip of the iceberg.
- When handling a possible violation, they looked at it from different perspectives. From the perspective of a parent they are looking for the chain of command, who do they go to first? Typically they didn't want to go to the national office, but in some cases this happened. When this did occur, they were then directed to the correct point of contact.

Breakout 5

- This group got through most of the questions, beginning by discussing immunization. One of the commissioners suggested that sometimes just calling may resolve the issue and that communication is essential.
- They talked about the cheerleading scenario and that the intent was to level the playing field. Mark Oettinger raised the issue of being a valedictorian. In Vermont the valedictorian of each of the 60 high schools can go to the state university for free. If you, therefore, have districts that require 1, 2, or 4 years of residency to qualify for a class rank or to be a valedictorian, this may be a potential volatile area.
- While discussing virtual schools/home schools they found this to be a third and fourth area in which the Compact does not literally apply, so what do we do in these cases?
- They talked a little about end-of-course testing and felt the Common Core State Standards may help out in a few years.
- They discussed having bigger and more inclusive state councils to assist the commissioner.

ITEM 10 – ELECTION OF OFFICERS

34. The following officers were unanimously elected for 2014:

Chair – Brig Gen (Ret) Kathleen Berg

Vice Chair – Kate Wren Gavlak

Treasurer – Bob Buehn

ITEM 11 – SAN DIEGO TEAM PRESENTATION

35. Kate Wren Gavlak introduced the team from San Diego who gave a short presentation on best practices from three of their school districts. The audio version can be heard via the website www.mic3.net.

Chair Berg thanked the team for their presentation, emphasizing the hard work that is done by the School Liaison Officers.

ITEM 12 – NEW COMMITTEE REPORTS

36. Brief reports were given by the new committee chairs.

a. Finance – Treasurer and Committee Chair Bob Buehn stated that the procedures would stay the same and they would stay in touch with the national office electronically.

b. Rules – Committee Chair Mary Gable reiterated that they were a standing committee that was always available. They discussed some issues from the previous day but that it was incumbent upon the states to resolve a lot of these issues, although the ability to go to the national office for assistance is always available.

c. Compliance – Committee Chair Mark Oettinger applauded the presentation given by the team from San Diego, adding that he felt the key was collaboration, support, professional development and education, and a willingness to help at the national level. His committee spent time talking about how they would gather the facts regarding the specific case that was brought to the Commission. He finished off stating that his approach was a collaborative one, with high utilization of SLOs, clear dissemination of policy, and professional development in support of this.

d. Training and Public Relations – Committee Chair Rosemarie Kraeger spoke about how they wanted to complete the remaining 3 webinars in the coming year. She asked if there was a way that the scenarios could be scrubbed and added to the website. The committee would also be discussing the “virtual” topic and how, as a MIC3 organization, this would be addressed. She also mentioned being on panels or giving presentations at national conferences. They would also look at National Guard issues. A final mention was the possibility of having an award that would spotlight successes rather than focusing on the negatives.

ITEM 13 – NEW BUSINESS

37. Chair Berg added that there would be a follow-up email that would contain an updated list of attendees from the annual meeting. Commissioners could use that list to contact people they met at the meeting. She mentioned the distribution at a previous meeting of some San Diego school district document that showed how the district had established the Compact as policy. She suggested making that document available to the state commissioners for possible use.

The chair urged that the evaluation feedback form, which would be sent to attendees in the days following the meeting, be completed and returned without delay.

ITEM 14 – 2014 ANNUAL MEETING

38. There were presentations for Tennessee (Nashville), Florida (Orlando), and Georgia (Atlanta) as possible locations for the 2014 annual meeting. The decision on the location of the meeting is to follow, but the date for the annual meeting was approved as 13-15 Nov 2014.

39. Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Richard Pryor", is positioned in the upper left quadrant of the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Richard Pryor
Operations Coordinator
MIC3

Copy to: Website