

**MINUTES OF THE INTERSTATE COMMISSION ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY CHILDREN ANNUAL MEETING HELD IN NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE, 13-15 NOVEMBER 2014**

PRESENT	Kathleen Berg	Hawaii	Chair	
	Raymona Bevel	Alabama		
	Marcy Herman	Alaska	Vice Chair	
	Jeremy Lasiter	Arkansas		
	Kate Wren Gavlak	California		
	Cheryl Serrano	Colorado		
	Laura Anastasio	Connecticut		
	Susan Haberstroh	Delaware		
	Bob Buehn	Florida		Treasurer
	David Bockel	Georgia		
	Brian Riegler	Illinois		
	Laura Snyder	Indiana		
	Tom Beasley	Iowa		
	Craig Neuenswander	Kansas		
	David Thompson	Kentucky		
	Gary Jones	Louisiana		
	Sarah Forster	Maine		
	Mary Gable	Maryland		
	Tanya Rioux	Massachusetts		
	Russ Gullett	Michigan		
	Daron Korte	Minnesota		
	Brian Henry	Missouri		
	Hal Stearns	Montana		
	Scott Swisher	Nebraska		
	Richard Vineyard	Nevada		
	Carolyn Protzman	New Hampshire		
	John Aslanian	New Jersey		
	Paul Aguilar	New Mexico		
	Robert Conway	New York		
	Davina French	North Dakota		
	Pete Lupiba	Ohio		
Pam Deering	Oklahoma			
Karl Streckewald	Pennsylvania			
Rosemarie Kraeger	Rhode Island			
Dino Teppara	South Carolina			
Alan Kerr	South Dakota			
Deanna McLaughlin	Tennessee			
Glen Shanks	Texas			
Mark Oettinger	Vermont			
Melissa Luchau	Virginia			
Greg Lynch	Washington			
Col Chris Cmiel	West Virginia			
Shelley Weiss	Wisconsin			
Gary Hartman	Wyoming			
Keith Mispagel	Military Impacted Schools Association			
David Splittek	Military Child Education Coalition			
Kathy Facon	DoDEA			
Eileen Huck	National Military Family Association			
Rick Masters	General Counsel			
Stephen Hogan	Executive Director	Secretary		

IN ATTENDANCE	John Mathews Richard Pryor	Program Specialist Operations Coordinator	
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**ITEM**

**ITEM 1 – MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

1. The 2014 MIC3 Annual Business Meeting was called to order and the roll call taken. Forty six voting members, four ex-officio members and four staff were present, representing a quorum legally sufficient for the conduct of business.

**ITEM 2 – AGENDA AND CELEBRATION MILESTONE**

2. Hawaii State Commissioner and Commission Chair Kathleen Berg asked for the approval of the agenda, which was moved and seconded. The motion passed and the agenda was approved.

3. Chair Berg solicited any participant that wished to make a public comment to the Commission. Seeing none, the floor was closed to public comments.

4. Chair Berg announced the celebration milestone of universal membership to the Commission. Since the last meeting, all fifty states and the District of Columbia had adopted the Compact. Berg indicated that only four other interstate compacts in the nation had universal adoption within the last fifty years. Berg praised the efforts of the founding members, DoD, school officials, ex officio organizations, and federal and state legislators for achieving this all important milestone. The history read by Berg can be viewed via the resources page at mic3.net.

5. Chair Berg introduced special guest speaker the Second Lady of the United States Dr. Jill Biden, who addressed the Commission by video. Dr. Biden congratulated the Commission on obtaining universal membership, and offered her continued support. Dr. Biden stated that challenges towards implementation were still areas of special emphasis, and she stressed how the Commission makes a daily impact on the lives of military families.

**ITEM 3 – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE**

6. Commission Chair Berg made a report on behalf of the Executive Committee, firstly by introducing all of the members: Kate Wren Gavlak, commission Vice Chair and California State Commissioner; Bob Buehn, Finance Committee Chair/ Treasurer and Florida State Commissioner; Rosemarie Kraeger, PR and Training Committee Chair and Rhode Island State Commissioner; Mark Oettinger, Compliance Committee Chair and Vermont State Commissioner; Mary Gable, Rules Committee Chair and Maryland State Commissioner; Cheryl Serrano, Past Commission Chair and Colorado State Commissioner; Kathy Facon, Commission Ex Officio Member and DoD Representative; Rick Masters, MIC3 General Counsel; Stephen Hogan, MIC3 Executive Director.

7. Chair Berg reported that several improvements towards communications were incorporated within this body, including streamlining the processing of meeting minutes, holding quarterly Executive Committee meetings, and the inclusion of an awards and travel policy.

8. Chair Berg introduced a proposed amendment to the bylaws for later discussion; the inclusion of Ex Officio members reports for this meeting, and the construction of a ready reference for school administrators. Additionally, Berg indicated that to build more depth in the Executive Committee, that vice chairs be appointed within the standing committees. Berg also mentioned that coordination was ongoing with the National Federation of State High School Associations, and that the National Office was engaged in strategic planning for the National Commission’s future viability.

#### **ITEM 4- EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

9. Executive Director Stephen Hogan stated that support to the state councils was the ongoing priority. He reported that he attended and participated in several state council meetings, Ex Officio gatherings, and other agencies of interest that were in support of the MIC3 effort.

10. Hogan reported the primary objective of the MIC3 National Office was to maintain the current membership at the universal adoption milestone; this afforded the Commission a great deal more credibility than if any non-member state existed. To achieve this, ongoing collaboration with those states with “sunset” clauses would continue.

11. Hogan related that another significant strategic tenant was to improve connection to military families, and to gain the trust and confidence of those families that the Commission was acting as a coordinating agent on their behalf. Lastly, the National Office will collaborate with those agencies of impact with like interests, in order to shape the culture in caring for military families

#### **ITEM 5- GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT**

12. General Counsel Rick Masters reported that through collaboration with the Department of Defense, and the outlying state legislatures, the universal adoption milestone was made possible. He wished to personally thank those individuals and agencies that aided in this effort.

13. Masters indicated that the General Counsel’s involvement in the Executive Committee seeks to help the individual committees and state commissioners as much as possible. He also was available to interpret or provide guidance as necessary to any commissioner who had a question based in the legal area.

14. Masters further indicated that he was also participating in outreach efforts, as indicated earlier, and intended on briefing the Council of School Attorneys at the National School Board Association conference and the National Federation of State High School Associations in the spring of 2015.

15. Masters reported that since the last annual business meeting he had issued one advisory opinion that dealt with the eligibility of those service members serving under Title 32 US code, and determined that Compact protections only applied to those under Title 10 USC.

#### **ITEM 6 – EX OFFICIO REPORTS**

16. **DoDEA:** Executive Committee Advisor and Ex Officio Kathy Facon reported that she served the National Commission by representing those 86,000 children enrolled in DoD schools. In this role, Facon was the chair of a committee that was, in all but name, similar to those state councils from the voting membership.

17. Facon indicated that one of the greatest challenges facing DoDEA was incoming students who had taken honors courses, but did not gain credit in DoDEA for weighted grades. Facon also expressed challenges in getting the proper information to all of the individuals of impact in a system that is essentially worldwide. Further, Facon indicated that marketing at the DoD level was ongoing: the central feature of this campaign is that the Commission is being used as a collaborative tool.

18. Washington State Commissioner Greg Lynch applauded the responsiveness of DoDEA and Kathy Facon personally, stating that it was a positive influence in a fast changing education environment. Lynch added that certain educational initiatives could require waivers, and that these waivers added undo complexity when required from military students. Lynch asked that this be considered as a topic for future discussion.

19. Chair Berg asked if DoDEA graduation requirements could be exported to the membership, and Facon agreed.

20. **MISA:** Mr. Keith Mispagel, representing the Military Impacted Schools Association (MISA) introduced his

organization and explained how they were connected to the overarching effort. He related that MISA builds partnerships with military parents, the U.S. Congress, DoD, military leadership associations, and local communities that are the most highly impacted by high density military resident areas.

21. Mispagel recognized those MISA districts within the Commission, noting that many of the state commissioners are members of both organizations.

22. **MCEC:** Dr. David Splitek, representing the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC), introduced his organization and explained how they were connected to the overall effort. Dr. Splitek indicated that MCEC is doing a great deal of training regarding the impacts created by the high mobility of military children, and MCEC was also involved in advocacy.

23. Dr. Splitek indicated that MCEC was tied to many other agencies to create local coalitions that were like minded and responsive. Listing the three priorities of MCEC, Dr. Splitek indicated that they were college preparation, data quality, and training.

24. Several Commissioners and participants began a dialog regarding the student military identifier. Chair Berg indicated that while this subject was well outside of the Commission's scope of advocacy, it would prove a useful discussion between commissioners that had any questions. Berg recommended a possible venue for discussion on the MIC3 website forum.

25. **NMFA:** Ms. Eileen Huck, National Military Family Association (NMFA) indicated that her association was an advocate organization for all issues that centered on the military family. Ms. Huck indicated that NMFA has begun using technology to access its constituency, and explained how this managed to speed up access and be a more comprehensive resource for frequently asked questions. Chair Berg asked if the NMFA presentation could be placed on the MIC3 web site for easy access, and Ms. Huck agreed. The presentation can be found on the resources page at mic3.net.

## **ITEM 7- COMMITTEE REPORTS**

26. **Finance Committee:** Commissioner Bob Buehn, Finance Committee Chair/ Treasurer and Florida State Commissioner, reported that the FY 2014 audit was complete, and reported to be "accurate and within accepted accounting practices". Buehn briefed that the execution of the FY15 budget was underway and projections were roughly unfolding as expected.

27. Buehn reported that dues collection was at 80% percent. Also, two additional line items were added for discretionary spending for both the EXCOM and National Office. Buehn further reported that at the conclusion of FY15, the budget would have additional surplus funds.

28. Commissioner Paul Aguilar (NM) asked a question regarding staff pay raises, and was informed that none were planned for FY16. After a short discussion, the FY16 budget was adopted with a 5% pay raise allowance included.

29. In view of the surplus, Chair Berg asked Buehn how much of a reserve was reasonable for operating expenses. Buehn replied that general practice varied from between a full year to two years' worth of surplus funds held in reserve for operating expenses.

30. **Compliance Committee:** Commissioner Mark Oettinger, Compliance Committee Chair and Vermont State Commissioner, stated that the Committee's emphasis would be on communication and collaboration instead of hard line enforcement. Oettinger stated that commissioner vacancies was an ongoing issue, and he was chiefly concerned with those states that had been members states for an extended period of time, but had not yet appointed a commissioner.

31. Oettinger indicated that the Committee was also sensitive to the late payment of dues by the states. Through

collaboration by the Committee and the staff, many of these issues have been resolved.

32. Oettinger spoke to what he referred to as “substantive” issues, dealing with the core purposes of the Compact, and the enforcement of the basic Compact rules. He again stated the ultimate preference was for a recommended solution that mediates instead of dictating compliance.

33. **PR and Training Committee:** Commissioner Rosemarie Kraeger, Rhode Island State Commissioner and PR and Training Committee Chair, reported that the Committee conducted four webinars within the fiscal year. Kraeger praised the efforts of Commissioners David Bockel (GA) and Deanna McLaughlin (TN) and General Counsel Rick Masters on their performances as webinar facilitators.

34. Kraeger reported that the Committee’s other emphasis was the strategic communications plan. This plan was evolving to include new technologies and audiences that had not been previously considered.

35. In support of the Training and PR Committee; Commissioners Oettinger (VT) and Buehn (FL) and Virginia’s Military Education Liaison Melissa Luchau conducted a presentation on best practices for state councils. This training presentation can be viewed via the resources page at mic3.net.

36. **Rules Committee:** Commissioner Mary Gable, Maryland State Commissioner and Rules Committee Chair, gave an update on the Rules Committee initiative providing notional and real world case studies/scenarios for training purposes. Gable indicated that coordination was ongoing with Rick Masters, MIC3 General Counsel, regarding some disclaimer language used in conjunction with the posting of these documents.

37. Gable noted that the scenarios would be helpful for new commissioners or to inform those who were not necessarily knowledgeable on how the Compact was applied, but she emphasized that the scenarios did not represent the only method to address the issues that were presented. Gable recommended that these scenarios be managed as resources solely for the Commissioners, and not published for public view.

38. Gable introduced Commissioner Deanna McLaughlin (TN), who provided a presentation on the Tennessee management of assistance requests, and how they pertained or did not pertain to the Compact. This presentation can be viewed via the resources page at mic3.net.

## **ITEM 8- NEW BUSINESS**

39. **Past Chair Amendment to Bylaws:** Chair Kathleen Berg indicated that the Past Chair had always held a position on the Executive Committee, but upon examination of the bylaws, it was discovered that the position was not included. To maintain the current practice of including the Past Chair as a member of the Executive Committee, an amendment to the bylaws, requiring a two-thirds vote of all members of the Commission, would be required. The issue was tabled to the following day.

## **ITEM 9- BREAKOUT SESSION REPORTS**

40. *Breakout 1 - Shelley Joan Weiss – Wisconsin Commissioner*

- Kindergarten scenarios were discussed.
- Numerical and letter grades; schools did not have the right to change transcripts. (A credit was a credit.)
- Weighted grades; schools were finding individual solutions.
- Communicating/ training of the Compact for school personnel
- AP classes at high school and the presenter spoke about their college board who gave a presentation of the situations facing military children.

*Breakout 2 - David Bockel – Georgia Commissioner*

- Kindergarten was discussed; the group agreed that parents would always find a way to circumvent the system.
- Managing expectations of the parents and the schools to the extent that more understanding of the Compact at the lower level could result in earlier resolution of issues.
- Military Family Education Liaison (MFEL) and how it was truly a state role.
- Weighted and numerical grades versus letter grades were discussed. Commissioner Jones (LA) discussed providing a cover letter with the transcripts explaining the differences.

*Breakout 3 - Paul Aguilar – New Mexico Commissioner*

- Kindergarten; the group agreed that regardless of the rules families will always try and beat the system.
- Should a distinction be made between PCS and TDY assignments?
- Charter schools, home schools and online schools, and how the compact pertains to those particular pieces
- Virtual schools as parents move from state to state so there was no disruption for the student?
- The role of the MFEL and how they felt these were appointed on a case by case basis in each state.

*Breakout 4 - Davina French – North Dakota Commissioner*

- Kindergarten rules and looking at considering possible rules changes to the language.
- Appointment of a representative from the legislative branch to the state council.
- They discussed how to get people to attend state council meetings that have been appointed and maybe there was a requirement to re-visit that at the state level.
- The position of the MFEL was discussed and they talked about who could fill that position, should it be a civilian representative from the military side or an educator.
- Guidance on compliance from the National Office. What recourse do states have, what are the limits and the ‘teeth’ available especially for education purposes for new Commissioners?

*Breakout 5 - Pete Lupiba – Ohio Commissioner*

- Kindergarten enrollment issue was discussed and they saw no reason to make further changes.
- The gap in transitions during PCS and being placed in temporary housing may mean that the child is enrolled sooner but then they may need to move a second time when a permanent home is located. It is a balance and one that families struggle with.
- Home schooling and charter schools. While they are publicly funded schools, they may not be public school divisions and does the Compact apply?
- They discussed building relationships with athletic associations and if possible including a representative on the state council?

**ITEM 10- FORUM PRESENTATION:**

41. Richard Pryor, MIC3 Operations Coordinator, gave a presentation on how to use and access the protected information on the FORUM located on the MIC3 website. The presentation can be viewed via the resources page at mic3.net.

**ITEM 11- ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS/ ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OUTGOING CHAIR:**

42. The following nominations were made, and elected by acclamation: Kate Wren Gavlak – Chair; Rosemarie Kraeger – Vice Chair; Bob Buehn – Treasurer.

43. A presentation was made to the outgoing chair, Kathleen Berg.

**ITEM 12- NEW BUSINESS, 2015 ABM VENUE**

44. California Commissioner and Commission Chair Kate Wren-Gavlak brought forward the amendment to the bylaws tabled the previous day, detailing the addition of the Past Chair to the Executive Committee. The revised motion was made, seconded, and approved.

45. Chair Gavlak invited any State Commissioners who wished to host future annual meetings to give a short presentation: Commissioners Lynch, Aguilar, and Buehn each put forth recommendations for their home states, of Washington, New Mexico, and Florida respectively.

46. Wisconsin Commissioner Shelley Joan Weiss asked for the dates to be set at each Annual Business Meeting for the following year, which would greatly assist in personal planning. Commissioner Weiss suggested that the Commission consider having one reception rather than two, and that venues be selected two years in advance.

47. Chair Gavlak thanked MISA and the Air Force Sergeants Association for their support and sponsorship.

48. Having no further business the meeting was adjourned.

BG (R) S HOGAN  
Executive Director MIC3

Action Items. ABM and status as of 3 March 2015

1. Connect with NMFA for interactive web site connection- R Pryor, Complete.
2. Identify Mark Takai's replacement and develop relationship with this ExO. S Hogan, Working
3. 5 % of the budget earmarked for staff pay raises, beginning 1 July 2015. J. Mathews, Complete.
4. Standardize ABM Docket book by topic, add items of interest as attachments. J. Mathews, Complete
5. Conduct/ follow up strategic communications with Education Lawyers. R. Masters, Complete.
6. Investigate and determine if "Twitter" supports MIC3 communication goals. R. Pryor, Complete.
7. Post Melissa, Mark, and Bob's presentation to the website R. Pryor, Complete.
8. Past Chair bylaw updated. J Mathews, Complete.
9. Scrub scenarios for FERPA- post when complete. R Pryor, Complete.
10. Research Charter/ Online school and provide framework for discussion. S Hogan, Working.
11. Guidance on compliance issues on State Council vacancies (Davina) EXCOM, Compliance Comm, Pending.
12. Temporary or on base housing placement. EXCOM, Rules COM, Pending.
13. National Athletic Association follow up and framework S Hogan, R, Masters, Complete
14. Post Deanna's PowerPoint to website. R Pryor, Complete
15. Redbook orders follow-up. R Pryor, Complete
16. Follow up to Commissioners for case studies R Pryor, Rules Comm, working
17. Awards Policy posted/ solicit awards. R Pryor Complete/ EXCOM working.
18. Follow up with DODEA for military schools grad requirements. J Mathews, Complete
19. MCEC training at states/ overseas. S Hogan, Pending
20. Appointment of Military reps- streamlined. S Hogan, Pending.
21. Update Strat Communications plan. S Hogan, Complete
22. Follow up with Commissioners that did not sign up for a Committee- designate J Mathews, Complete
23. Follow up with Penn State/ Dr. Kohler. J Mathews, Complete
24. Military student identifier S Hogan, Complete
25. Surplus Dues and execution plan, S Hogan, Finance Comm, Working
26. Commissioner attendance at meetings vs. National office, as available (MISA, MCEC, etc) S Hogan Working
27. Annual Meeting location and dates/ calendar- R Pryor, Working
28. Follow up with Dr. Biden's office- S Hogan, Working.