



**2017 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 26-27, 2017**

**Call to Order**

National Commission Chair Rosemarie Kraeger (RI) called the meeting to order on Thursday, October 26, 2017 at 8:35AM ET.

**Roll Call**

Executive Director (ED) Cherise Imai called the roll and a quorum was established.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

STATE	SAL	NAME	STATE	SAL	NAME
ALABAMA	Dr.	Douglas Ragland	NEVADA	Mr.	Scott Bensing
ALASKA	Ms.	Marcy Herman*	NEW HAMPSHIRE	Dr.	Kathleen Murphy
ARIZONA	Mr.	Charles Tack*	NEW YORK	Dr.	Debra Jackson
ARKANSAS	Mr.	John "Don" Kaminar	NORTH CAROLINA	Mr.	E. Alex Erwin III
CALIFORNIA	Ms.	Kate Wren Gavlak	NORTH DAKOTA	Ms..	Davina French
COLORADO	Ms.	Cheryl Serrano	OHIO	Mr.	Pete LuPiba
CONNECTICUT	Ms.	Laura Anastasio	OREGON	Ms.	Cindy Hunt*
DELAWARE	Dr.	Susan Haberstroh	PENNSYLVANIA	Mr.	Robert Staver
FLORIDA	Mr.	Robert Buehn	RHODE ISLAND	Ms.	Rosemarie Kraeger
GEORGIA	Dr.	Robin Hines	SOUTH CAROLINA	Ms.	Yolande Anderson*
HAWAII	Dr.	Kathleen Berg	SOUTH DAKOTA	Mr.	Alan Kerr
IDAHO	Mr.	Pete Koehler	TENNESSEE	Ms.	Deanna McLaughlin
ILLINOIS	Mr.	Brian Riegler	UTAH	Mr.	Ben Rasmussen
IOWA	Ms.	Margaret Seales	VERMONT	Mr.	David Young
KANSAS	Mr.	C. Neuenswander	VIRGINIA	Mr.	Daniel Dunham
KENTUCKY	Mr.	Blaine Hedges	WASHINGTON	Mr.	Greg Lynch
LOUISIANA	Dr.	Clay Corley	WEST VIRGINIA	Mr.	Christopher P. Cmiel
MAINE	Ms.	Sarah Forster	WISCONSIN	Ms.	Shelley Joan Weiss
MARYLAND	Ms.	Mary Gable	WYOMING	Mr.	Gary Hartman
MASSACHUSETTS	Mr.	J Clarke Orzalli	DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	Ms.	Taneka Miller
MICHIGAN	Mr.	Russ Gullett	USDOD REPRESENTATIVE**	Ms.	Kathleen Facon
MINNESOTA	Mr.	Daron Korte*	MCEC**	Dr.	David Splitek
MISSOURI	Dr.	Brian Henry	MISA**	Mr.	Kyle Fairbairn
MONTANA	Mr.	Hal Stearns	NFHS**	Mr.	Davis Whitfield
NEBRASKA	Mr.	Brian Halstead	NMFA**	Ms	Eileen Huck

\*Designee

\*\*Ex-Officio (Non-Voting)

**NOT IN ATTENDANCE**

STATE	SAL	NAME	STATE	SAL	NAME
INDIANA		VACANT	NEW MEXICO	Mr.	Paul Aguilar
MISSISSIPPI		VACANT	OKLAHOMA	Dr.	Pam Deering
NEW JERSEY		VACANT	TEXAS	Mr.	Michael Morath

**MIC3 National Office Staff in Attendance:**

1. Cherise Imai, Executive Director
2. Richard Pryor, Communications Associate
3. Rick Masters, General Counsel

**Welcome Remarks**

Chair Kraeger (RI), welcomed the membership to the 2017 Annual Business Meeting of the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission. She thanked the Commissioners for their engagement and stated the work the Commission does makes a difference. Chair Kraeger thanked the National Office for their support and planning the meeting. Both have stepped up and taken the Commission to a new level. She also expressed appreciation to the Executive Committee (EXCOM) for their dedication and commitment.

**Opening Remarks**

The State Commissioner of Education for Rhode Island, Mr. Ken Wagner, addressed the Commission and provided opening remarks. He thanked all for their service to military families and emphasized the importance of providing the support and tools they need to be successful.

**Public Comment** - none**Agenda**

**Commissioner Deanna McLaughlin (TN) motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Kate Wren Gavlak (CA). The motion passed.**

**Minutes**

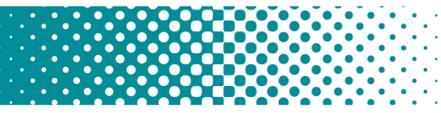
**Commissioner Shelley Joan Weiss (WI) motioned to approve the minutes with corrections, seconded by Commissioner Wren Gavlak (CA). The motion passed.**

**Executive Reports****National Chair Report**

Chair Kraeger expressed appreciation to the EXCOM, who dedicate 6-10 hours a month on average to Commission efforts. On behalf of the EXCOM, they were thrilled with the changes under the leadership of Executive Director (ED) Imai, including the development of the Commission's first strategic plan in July 2016 to which they are committed and for which they are accountable; the new branding and logo are evident in the new collaterals, which have been distributed, as well as on the new and updated website. She concluded that under ED Imai's leadership, she has taken the Commission to the next level which was needed. At the EXCOM Strategic Planning Session two summers ago, the consultant, Fahy Mullaney, talked about the maturity of an organization, and we are seeing that maturity now. The Compact is still young and will continue to grow.

**Executive Director Report**

ED Imai expressed appreciation for the Commission's support and guidance during her first year at the National Office. She has spoken with a majority of the members one-on-one over the past year to connect and understand how their state oversees the Compact. She was pleased with the passion and dedication of the members to the Commission and their role. We have been focused on the way ahead to achieve the goals and action items outlined in our strategic plan within our Committees. ED Imai stated that it is important for the National Office to be in sync with the Strategic Plan, and the EXCOM approved aligning the staffing roles. Formerly the Operations Coordinator, Mr. Richard Pryor has a new role as the



Communications Associate for the Commission. There is currently one vacancy for the Training and Operations Associate, which will be filled in the upcoming year.

### **General Counsel**

General Counsel Rick Masters expressed appreciation for being able to see the Commission grow over the past decade. His purpose is to assist states with compliance under the Compact. One of the critical situations that we have with several states is meeting the requirement to appoint a Commissioner and create a State Council. Both are critical as installations within each state for stakeholders to reach the Compact. These functions are central for military families, education officials and others to contact for assistance. Currently we have several states that have not made their appointments or composed their State Councils to fulfill their obligations under the Compact. Where this is happening, we are challenged to take action. He recommended Commissioners have a succession plan in place if there are new Governor elections, they resign, or there are other transitions taking place—to ensure there is continuity under the Compact. General Counsel Masters reported there were seven Legal Advisories published this year.

#### **1. Proposed By-Laws Change: Separation of the Public Relations and Training Committee into two separate committees.**

- a. General Counsel Masters reported that at the in-person EXCOM meeting in April, they concluded that the Public Relations (PR) and Communications Committee had a vast workload and it was a large amount for one Committee to oversee.
- b. For efficiency and effectiveness, the EXCOM determined that the PR and Communications Committee be separated into two separate Committees: Communications and Outreach, and Training in order to accomplish their Strategic Plan goals. Thus, the By-Laws amendment was necessary, and revised language was drafted.
- c. Chair Kraeger added that the EXCOM assessed the workload and agreed that the separation would allow for the Strategic Plan Goals assigned to these Committees to be accomplished in a timely manner.
- d. **Commissioner Davina French (ND) motioned that the PR and Communications Committee be separated into two separate Committees: Communications and Outreach, and Training. Seconded by Commissioner Deanna McLaughlin (TN). Motion passed unanimously.**

### **Rhode Island Showcase – Parent Panel**

Military parents and students attending school in Rhode Island shared their experiences during this session facilitated by Naval Station Newport School Liaison Officer, Pamela Martin. Chair Kraeger expressed appreciation for the panelists and reminded the Commission that the work is all about children, and the Compact has made us better educators for all students.

### **Presentation: Social Media and Making Connections**

Ms. Corey Lennon, Middle School Technology Coach, South Kingston School Department and Commissioner Shelley Joan Weiss (WI) briefed the Commission on using social media and other best practices to share their story and promote the Compact within their states. MIC3 Communications Associate Richard Pryor expressed his gratitude for Ms. Lennon, who assisted Commissioners during the evening reception with setting up and using their social media accounts to promote meetings and activities. Chair Kraeger thanked both Commissioner Weiss and Ms. Lennon for sharing their expertise and examples to help the Commission.

### **Tier Groups**

Chair Kraeger encouraged everyone to complete the post-Annual Business Meeting (ABM) survey that is distributed to attendees to obtain feedback, so the event may be improved every year. Last year, there were suggestions on improving training, providing opportunities to talk and network, and more discussion on case studies. The Commissioner Only Session was a prime example of changing the format based on responses received. Another item was providing Commissioners more time during the Tier Groups meetings for discussion.

Each Tier Group was asked to highlight three points from their discussion:

1. Group #1 – Commissioner Designee Daniel Dunham (VA) reported a lot is being done in states to educate stakeholders. The group discussed the need to present at state education conferences on the Compact, and that Commissioners need to receive data on where the military students are, and the cases that reach the National Office. This will demonstrate that states are reaching folks at the grassroots level and a majority of the cases are resolved there. The last item is working with institutions of higher learning to reach those working with military connected students and service providers (such as the University of Maryland and John Hopkins University) to educate them on the challenges that military families and students encounter (educating the educator).
2. Group #2 – Commissioner Clarke Orzalli (MA) reported that Tier Group members may or may not have a base/installation located in their state. A majority in this category are widely dispersed students, and their location is unknown. They are hopeful that the Military Identifier will indicate where these students are located. They discussed connecting with the Recruitment Commands and Service Ombudsman to connect with the active duty members as well as spouses.
3. Group #3 – Commissioner Pete LuPiba (OH) reported reaching out to school counselors and having a key point of contact within the State Department of Education were important connections for their states. Also, conducting State Council training and outreach was necessary.
4. Group #4 – Commissioner Weiss (WI) reported that they need the time to meet. They felt it was important to create an MIC3 application to access Compact information.

### **Breakout Sessions Report**

#### **Education and Military 101**

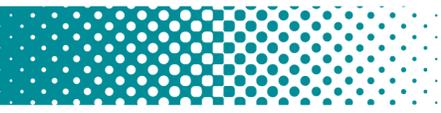
Commissioner Mary Gable (MD) reported the breakout session included a discussion surrounding the importance of knowing your state. For members that are not military affiliated, the military briefing was beneficial. Commissioner Kathleen Murphy (NH) added that it is important to be aware of changes in your state regarding curriculum, assessments, and social emotional learning for students.

#### **Effective State Councils**

Commissioner McLaughlin (TN) reported the first session was composed of primarily Commissioners, and the second was attended by non-Commissioners or School Liaison Officers. Several states do their State Councils differently and there is no one “right” way to form or operate your Council meetings. The key is to be familiar with your state statute requirement regarding public meeting notices, agendas, and appointment of Council members.

#### **Managing Compact Cases**

Commissioner Weiss (WI) thanked Commissioners Robin Hines (GA), Craig Neuenswander (KS), and Designee Dan Dunham (VA) for their teamwork on the facilitation of the discussion, as well as the participants. Attendees walked away with a sense of both the similarities and uniqueness of the cases. Areas discussed were placement, housing, athletics, and the importance of Council membership as referrals and assisting with cases and resources. In addition, they shared a copy of Commissioner McLaughlin’s (TN) case management form, which will be posted on the website. Overall there was an



understanding that there is an increased need for accommodating children, whether or not they are under the Compact – and the focus always needs to be on the children.

### **School Liaison Officers (SLO)**

MCEC Representative Dave Splittek reported several themes: a specific targeted effort by SLOs to build relationships with schools is important in resolving issues; professional development on the Compact is needed for schools. Persistent issues were transfer of credits and weighted grades, kindergarten age entry and parents' awareness of the school calendars, and transition between different course schedules (for example going from a seven-course schedule to a block schedule). Overall, very committed individuals who try their best to help ensure smooth transitions so kids may graduate on-time. Commissioner Douglas Ragland (AL) added that they discussed the importance of “educating the educator” and for Commissioners to connect with their School Liaison Officers.

### **Leadership Development Committee**

Commissioner Gavlak (CA) yielded the floor to Commissioner Laura Anastasio (CT) for the Committee report. Commissioner Anastasio (CT) reported the Committee discussed next steps. It was determined that once the Committee has developed a process and plan, they will work with the Rules Committee on proposed language for a By-Laws change at the next ABM to provide guidance for those interested in holding a leadership position. Commissioner Taneka Miller (DC) said she understood that the office terms are two years and asked what prompted the change. Commissioner Anastasio, replied the By-Laws reflect a one-year term though the expectation is that the Chair would serve for two years. Past practice has operated under two- year service. General Counsel Masters said the statute requires annual elections be held.

Commissioner Anastasio listed the members of the Committee: Kate Wren Gavlak (CA), Daron Korte (MN), Marcy Herman (AK), Craig Neuenswander (KS), Cheryl Serrano (CO), and Shelley Joan Weiss (WI).

1. **Elections and Slate of Candidates** – Commissioner Gavlak presented the Slate of Candidates:
  - a. **A nomination for Chair was made for Commissioner Kraeger (RI) by Commissioner Greg Lynch (WA) and seconded by Commissioner Bob Buehn (FL). Motion passed unanimously.**
  - b. **A nomination for Treasurer was made by Commissioner Pete LuPiba (OH) for Commissioner Bob Buehn (FL) and seconded by Commissioner Kathleen Berg (HI). Motion passed unanimously.**
  - c. **A nomination for Vice Chair was made for Mary Gable (MD) by Commissioner Cheryl Serrano (CO) and seconded by Commissioner Robin Hines (GA). A floor nomination was made by Commissioner Yolande Anderson (SC) for Commissioner Pete LuPiba (OH) for Vice-Chair and seconded by Commissioner Deanna McLaughlin (TN).**
    - i. Two minutes were provided for each candidate to address the Commission.
    - ii. Confidential paper ballots were cast by members present, counted by the National Office staff, and the result was for Vice Chair, Commissioner LuPiba (OH).
    - iii. Chair Kraeger thanked Commissioner Gable (MD) for her service and support in the past year as Vice Chair of the Commission, and congratulated Commissioner LuPiba (OH) as the new Vice Chair.

**Ex-officio Reports**

**National Federation of State High School Associations** – Representative Davis Whitfield presented on the background of the NFHS and how the organization supports students.

**Meeting Recess** – At approximately 5:30PM ET, **Commissioner Berg (HI) motioned to recess the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Murphy (NH). Motion passed unanimously.**

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**Reconvening**

National Commission Chair Rosemarie Kraeger (RI) reconvened the meeting on Friday, October 27, 2017 at 10:45AM ET.

**Standing Committee Reports**

**Finance** – Commissioner Buehn (FL) reported that overall, the organization is in good fiscal standing, and the recent audit revealed no findings. However, in the past several years the Compact has recognized a decrease in the number of military dependents.

1. The Commission dues are based upon this number, and in the past several years there has been a decrease due to military downsizing, which has impacted the Commission's finances. We have been able to weather this due to our strong reserve. The Committee explored options, and this past August, we approved the investment of \$350K of our Reserve in Vanguard. We hope going forward that the potential gains will offset the dues decrease. Dues collections are going well.
2. Commissioner Buehn present the proposed FY2019 Budget, approved by both the Finance and EXCOM, for the Commission's approval. He projected the Commission would need to pull \$15-20K from the reserve to balance the budget. He stated costs have increased and highlighted various points for the members: rising costs for the Kentucky Retirement System for staff as well as for the ABM. Commissioner Serrano (CO) said the intent of the reserve was to have 18 months of operating costs for the organization to ensure continuity. She asked if the Committee is looking at the dues formula and a possible increase. Commissioner Buehn (FL) reflected that some Members may remember that a couple of years ago the Commission explored reducing dues. The Committee will explore other sources of revenue, including changing the dues structure and ways to increase revenue in the next year. Commissioner Lynch (WA) added that in a lot of states, the Compact is an unfunded mandate, which will need to be addressed.
3. **Commissioner Lynch (WA) moved to approve the proposed FY2019 Budget, seconded by Commissioner Don Kaminar (AR). Motion passed unanimously.**

**Compliance** – Commissioner LuPiba (OH) reported that the Committee, along with Vice Chair Laura Anastasio (CT), discussed cases. He thanked the Committee for their support as well as ED Imai and General Counsel Masters for their guidance.

**Rules** – Commissioner Kaminar (AR) thanked the Committee for another year of great work and recognized how much they have accomplished. He recognized the Vice Chair, Commissioner Taneka Miller (DC), and Commissioner Gable (MD), who he succeeded as the Rules Committee Chair. Commissioner Kaminar advised all to read the *Legal Advisories* available online and referred to the *Unique Case Submittal Form*, which is being developed.

**Public Relations and Training** – Commissioner French (ND) reported that her team has been great in helping develop the rebranding and new website. She thanked the National Office, ED Imai and Mr.

Pryor, for their support. Commissioner French expects some growing pains as the committee separates into two new committees; however, she expressed her appreciation for all the work done during the past year.

### **Ex-officio Reports**

**U.S. Department of Defense (DOD)** – Representative Kathy Facon reported that a resource guide for the Military Representatives has been developed, which will be provided to them upon their appointment.

**Military Impacted School Association (MISA)** – Chair Kraeger thanked MISA for sponsoring the evening reception. Executive Director Kyle Fairbairn reported that a new Memorandum of Understanding had been signed with the Commission that will allow the MISA and MIC3 to provide joint training in MISA School Districts. There is no cost affiliated with the training and no funds will be exchanged between the Commission and MISA. As both organizations share similar missions, ED Fairbairn viewed this as an opportunity to ensure schools are aware of the Compact and its provisions.

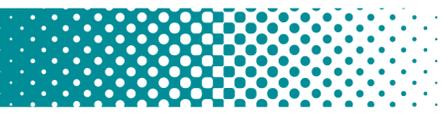
**Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC)** – David Splitek updated the Commission on the Zuckerberg Foundation grant and a recent report that was released. The information reflects what MCEC already knew, and they will continue to research transcripts and credit alignment.

**National Military Family Association (NMFA)** – Eileen Huck explained NMFA is an advocacy organization that supports all military families. She provided an update on its activities and efforts to address a variety of issues, such as a high quality of education. The recent topic circulated on the Hill has been Vouchers for Military Students. NMFA is happy to be a resource for the Commission and states.

**Special Guest: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration** – CAPT Amilynn Adams, Senior Advisor to the Director, Office of Marine and Aviation Operations provided an overview of NOAA, their operations, and activities.

### **Comments on the Commission Elections**

- Commissioner Serrano (CO) commented that she felt we did a lot of damage yesterday, and several people approached her afterwards who didn't understand what happened. A lot of healing will need to take place; she didn't know how long that would take. Commissioner Serrano (CO) commented on how hard the Commission works, that she had been here since the beginning, and if people had issues with how the organization was run they should have addressed it a different way before yesterday. She referred to the docket book's leadership history and the practice of two-year terms, although the Compact holds annual elections. The Compact is about assisting military children. Commissioner Serrano (CO) expressed her feeling that it had become a political entity, which had been avoided up to this point. Going forward a process would be in place to avoid a situation like this in the future. She reiterated that many people did not understand what took place yesterday; however, she felt strongly the need to voice her reflections.
- Commissioner Russ Gullett (MI) said he is an elected member of a local school board and they have annual elections. He was confused by Commissioner Serrano's statements and asked her to explain why she felt the organization was damaged by an election that followed a democratic process.
- Commissioner Serrano responded that when the meeting began it was assumed individuals would continue in their roles and serve a two-year term, a process that has been followed since day one. Yesterday's events were different from past elections. We were not expecting a school board



elections process. When people have put the time and effort into their positions as they have done, then the expectation is they will move into leadership—and continuity is important for the organization. In the beginning, there were only 11 members states, and she was asked to be the Chair. It was just that it was a different process from what Commissioners were used to. It was a different process in previous years. At least 15 Commissioners came to talk to her after yesterday's events, and they said they did not understand what happened.

- Commissioner Sarah Forster (ME) commented that as someone who has been part of the Commission from the beginning, it was important that those in leadership have the experience necessary to lead the organization. In previous years, the Vice Chair has become the Chair and both have served two years each.
- Chair Kraeger promised that as a Commission, we were going to heal and remain focused on the children, and that we will come out of this stronger.

**Military Representatives to State Councils** – Bill Hampton, Military Community and Family Policy, Defense Liaison Office, U.S. Department of Defense provided an update regarding Military Representatives. There is an approved Department of Defense Instruction on the Compact, and an established appointment process. Currently there are 33 appointments and efforts continue to fill vacant positions by working with the states. Targeted efforts in the next year: appointment, training, improve feedback to the service members and the Department. He emphasized that continued communication is critical. If Commissioners have transitions in Military Representatives, they should contact Mr. Hampton within 30 days of the departure. Mr. Hampton concluded that the senior military leadership officials appreciate the engagement of the Commission and want to ensure that everything is in place.

**General Attendee Report** – Chair Kraeger explained that last year the survey feedback revealed that General Attendees to the ABM wanted more engagement. To address that request, three separate sessions were included for General Attendees.

Ms. Debbie Patch, School Liaison Officer, Navy Region East – Best Practices and Challenges

- Best practices
  - Continual professional development for schools
  - Educating military families
  - Networking with SLOs across the country to ensure engagement
  - Briefing at our regional and state meetings
  - Ensuring MIC3 info is provided for inbound families
- Challenges
  - Access to school districts
  - Lack of active MIC3 State Councils
  - School perception or belief that they do not need to follow the Compact
  - Variation in education models
  - Perception of rigor of education in states
  - Compact flexibility would result in audit issues for districts

Ms. Kelly Frisch, School Liaison Officer, Navy Region Southwest – Compact Needs and Tools

- Creating a tool for reporting at the installation level
- Create a standard operating process for data collection (work with national office)
- School requirements data for enrollment
- Adding a generic SLO email and info on State webpage

Ms. Wendy Nakasone-Kalani, Director, School Support Services, US Army Garrison Hawaii

- Produced a Parent FAQ for distribution to parents regarding what the Compact does and doesn't cover.

### **Future Annual Business Meetings**

Commissioner LuPiba (OH) encouraged members to attend the 2018 ABM in Cleveland, Ohio. Future Meetings will be held as follows: in 2019 Colorado Springs, CO, hosted by Commissioner Serrano (CO) and in 2020 Nevada, hosted by Commissioner Scott Bensing (NV). Commissioner Kaminar presented for consideration the State of Arkansas as a locale for the 2021ABM.

### **Closing Comments**

Commissioner Gable (MD) thanked the Commission for their support. Chair Kraeger and the Commission expressed deep appreciation for ED Imai and Associate Pryor for their hard work in planning the ABM. Chair Kraeger said feedback provided last year was incorporated into this year's meeting. Commissioner McLaughlin added that she heard this sentiment from Members as well. The panelists and incorporation of other Commissioners in the program was well received. Chair Kraeger encouraged everyone to complete the post-ABM survey, as it is crucial for planning the following years' ABM. She thanked Commissioners Anastasio (CT), Orzalli (ME), and Murphy (NH) for the donations in the swag bag and expressed her gratitude to everyone for their commitment and support of the Commission and all military students.

### **Adjournment**

**Commissioner Serrano (CO) motioned to adjourn at 11:56AM ET, seconded by Commissioner Gable (MD). Motion passed.**