

**Massachusetts Council of Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission**  
***Meeting Minutes***

*November 29, 2018*

*1:00 pm – 2:30 pm*

*600 Washington Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 7005, Boston, MA*

Attendees:

***Members:***

**RADM Clarke Orzalli** USN (ret), Commissioner, Massachusetts MIC3

**Ken Gordon**, Massachusetts State Representative, 21<sup>st</sup> District (on conference call line)

**Paul Moran**, Chief of Staff representing Secretary, Massachusetts Department of Veteran's Services

**Tom Moreau**, Designee for Secretary of Education James Peyser, Massachusetts Office of Education

**Cliff Chuang**, Senior Associate Commissioner of Educational Options, Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

**John Sills**, Superintendent of Bedford Public Schools

**DOD Liaison** – LCOL Kenneth Ferland USAF – Deputy, 66<sup>th</sup> Air Base Group – Hanscom AFB

***Ex-Officio Members:***

None present

***Other Guests:***

**Christine Cowen**, Military Family Education Liaison to MIC3, Military Connected Student Specialist, Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (on conference call line)

**Laurel Wironen**, School Liaison – Hanscom AFB

Agenda:

- I. **Welcome and Introductions**
- II. **Vote to Approve Minutes from March 26, 2018 Meeting**  
Minutes approved
- III. **Discuss Activity since March Meeting**
  - a. **Cases – Christine Cowen**

Discussed various inquiries from parents and school districts – two homeless military related cases of which Sarah Slutterback, the Homeless Coordinator for DESE handled with Laurel Wironen and districts; inquiry about course credit once moved to area; inquiry about kindergarten entry age; inquiry about school choice; inquiry about preschool coverage by MIC3; inquiry by lawyer concerning MIC3 and Valor Act requirements by district; inquiry by two school districts about military connected students rights and requirements; one inquiry from military parent and school enrollment with ex-wife, phone call from MIC3 about correct spelling of my name on website; I shared information about the program at October trainings conducted by my Educational Stability Team with districts; Upcoming DESE Educational Stability Team Steering meeting with Laurel Wironen invited to share information and network between all of my teams programs.
  - b. **Meeting with Education Committee Chair**

Commissioner Orzalli and Rep Gordon met with Alice Peisch – Chairman of the Massachusetts House Education committee to make her aware of the MIC3 Compact on 26 July 2018.

- c. **Month of the Military Child Proclamation** – was signed by the Governor and Lt Governor and presented by Secretary Urena to Commissioner Orzalli at Fenway Park at the Army- Navy Baseball game on the 20<sup>th</sup> of April. He delivered it to Laurel for posting on Hanscom base. We need to look at better ways to disseminate information such as the proclamation of military child with schools.
  - Commissioner Orzalli shared information about the MIC3 program at October training sessions with Veterans Service Officers.
- d. **Dues** – Commissioner Orzalli thanked Mr. Moreau and the Dept of Education for Massachusetts paying annual dues on 21 September 2018

#### IV. **Ex-Officio Members**

Commissioner Orzalli mentioned guidance counselor; discussion ensued; and we will outreach to the MA School Counselors Association (MASCA) – which recently published an article in their monthly newsletter about MIC3 written by Commissioner Orzalli. There was a discussion on whether an ex-officio student member of the council would be of value and determined not to be best use of the student's time.

#### V. **Review of MIC3 Annual Business Meeting**

- a. **Priorities** – shifting to better methods to get the word out to ensure parents and schools are aware of the compact.
- b. **Best Practices**
  - Commissioner Orzalli, is not an employee of the state, and this makes some of the logistics concerning meetings a little harder to orchestrate such as arranging for space for the meeting and ensuring there is an appropriate phone for dial in members.
  - Ohio has started a purple star campaign to recognize schools for their programs to support military connected students. Virginia has adopted the program as well. Commissioner Orzalli will forward information to the council to determine if we can adopt or adapt the program for Massachusetts.
- c. **Student Distribution**

Commissioner Orzalli stated that more detailed distribution of student numbers was made available at the annual business meeting. The largest population of students in Massachusetts are associated with US Coast Guard service members.
- d. **Additional Items**
  - Training for new members of the state council was discussed and determined to be adequate with Q and A portions of the ??? website.
  - Some states submit annual reports of activities and accomplishments to the Governor. It was determined that the number of students and low number of cases did not warrant the preparation of a non-required report.
  - Commissioner Orzalli noted that there was a student panel at the annual meeting and it was very informative to many in attendance. Superintendent Sills will investigate

whether this might be worthwhile for a Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents meeting.

- Commissioner Orzalli noted that discussion of the National School Voucher initiative occurred at the meeting. Note that students using vouchers to attend private schools would not be covered by the compact.
- There are differences in states definitions of disabilities and requirements for IEP's. Discussion determined that addressing student needs was paramount and difference in terminology would not be an issue in Massachusetts.
- LCOL Ferland noted that some state colleges and universities consider a diploma from an in state high school in determining eligibility for in-state tuition. MIC3 practice of sometimes obtaining diploma from previous school in order for the student to graduate with their class may create confusion with registering for an in-state school.

**VI. Status of including Military Designation in ESSA requirements**

This data is now being collected through SIMS

**VII. Public Comment\***

None

**VIII. Discussion and Next Steps**

- Commissioner Orzalli will distribute the following information from National:
  - Purple Star Program from Ohio
  - Annual Report of MIC3
  - Military Guidebook Link
  - New Demographics Data on students in Massachusetts
- Commissioner Orzalli will contact USCG for representation on Council
- Commissioner Orzalli will inform national about issue with In-State Diploma  
Cliff Chuang will assist with getting MASCA ex-officio representative
- Cliff Chuang will work on getting Commissioner Orzalli a DOE email address to facilitate information via social media.

**IX. Adjourn**

2:30 pm

Ken Gordon and Christine Cowen participated by conference call. They indicated connection not good. Christine will work with Clark to come up with minutes.