

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

*November 22, 2019*

*1:00 pm – 2:30 pm*

*600 Washington Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 7004, Boston, MA*

Attendees:

***Members:***

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

**Ken Gordon**, Massachusetts State Representative, 21<sup>st</sup> District

**Francisco Urena**, Secretary, Massachusetts Department of Veteran's Services

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

**Christine Cowen**, Military Family Education Liaison to MIC3, Military Connected Student Specialist, Designee for Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

**LCOL Charles Silvanic, Jr.**, Deputy Commander 66<sup>th</sup> Air Base Group

**CAPT Michael Hudson**, Commander USCG District Cape Cod.

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

**Stuart Ivimey**, *Massachusetts Department of Veteran's Services*

**Andrew Preston**, *Massachusetts Department of Veteran's Services*

***Ex-Officio Members:***

None present

***Other Guests:***

**Mary Bridget Burns**, *Researcher, American Institutes for Research*

**Agenda:**

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Introductions were made. Commissioner Orzalli mentioned that Coast Guard has not been represented at national meeting, so it is great that we have representation at state level. The Coast Guard makes up the most military members in MA. Coast Guard representative Hudson heard about MIC3 from California counterpart.

**II. Vote to Approve Minutes from November 29, 2018 Meeting**

Minutes approved

**III. Discuss Activity since November 2018 Meeting**

**a. Annual Report to Compact**

Commissioner Orzalli attended the national MIC3 conference/meeting.

Military Impacted Schools presentation at conference.

Discussion about data. Commissioner Orzalli handed out data on student numbers and resulting dues assessment. He explained about how dues are calculated based on numbers. The due structure assessment changed this year for the first time since the compact was initially impacted in 2007. He mentioned three full time staff and the dues cover his travel to the annual

conference/meeting. He is on the finance committee and explained that the national office is with the council on state governments in Kentucky. As a Quasi-Governmental agency, MIC3 employees are in the Kentucky retirement system which has a very high employer contribution which has contributed to the rising costs of the compact. The finance committee is working to identify ways to mitigate retirement costs in the future.

Discussion followed about data. Only active duty and activated reserve military family members are covered by the compact. Retirees and reserves are not covered by the compact, which makes validation of the DOD supplied data difficult. ESSA data collection does not differentiate different categories of military families. The latest DOD data reflect 2469 military family members covered by the compact. Christine Cowan mentioned that for 2018/19, we have reported 7,493 students and 316 districts.

**b. Cases – Christine Cowen**

Discusses various cases that have come up since last meeting. We had 9 cases. Commissioner Orzalli mentioned we are a small state with very distributed population so that many cases come to our attention as there is lack of familiarity with the compact in many school districts. He mentioned one unique case involving custody issue, that was brought to our attention that we need to make sure we do not get involved in. He mentioned some key cases and information that were discussed at the national meeting that related to some of the cases:

- A high school course taken in middle school must have an associated High School transcript in order to count towards high school credit.
- An issue with consolidated testing and end of course testing was discussed. Commissioner Orzalli identified a potential issue with MCAS requirements if a transferring student takes a course with an end of course exam or consolidated test that occurs in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Under the compact, an end of course test can be used in lieu of a consolidated test as not all states have consolidated testing requirement. Other state commissioners have advised parents to ensure an end of course test is administered prior to transfer in order to ensure the testing requirements are met at the receiving state with a consolidated testing requirement.
- Not all school systems have a gifted and talented program, and the compact does not require schools to stand up any program to accommodate a student transferring in. Schools are required to provide equivalency – which for this program is to allow the school to up-place students in other courses offered within the Local Educational Authority. A case came up in Massachusetts this year in this area, and Commissioner Orzalli worked with School Liaison Laurel Wironen and the local school districts to have the parent work with the school system involved to accommodate the student.

Information about MIC3 was presented at annual fall Orientation sessions by Educational Stability Team (Christine). In the Spring, the Educational Stability Team will be joining efforts with colleagues to hold a conference in the Spring. Commissioner Orzalli will make note of it that he may be needed to do a session.

**IV. Ex-Officio Members**

Clark mentioned that Cliff Chuang was looking into finding a school counselor, school principal, and school superintendent representation onto the council. Secretary Urena mentioned that rather than finding representation, we could just identify a designated point of contact to share information esp. large districts that would work. *(Christine Cowan followed up with Cliff Chuang and suggested that information about MIC3 could be shared on forums, DESE Commissioner's weekly update, and then MASS, MSSA, and MASCA. He would be happy to facilitate any information sharing as he has strong contacts at all 3 orgs.)*

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

### **a. Election Results**

Commissioner Orzalli mention that he needs the state council's permission to seek national office, but is currently not seeking this additional duty.

### **b. Strategic Plan**

Discussed cancelation of last meeting. Commissioner Orzalli mentioned we are required by the compact to have at least one meeting a year. By Massachusetts law our meeting is required to be a public meeting. He mentioned that virtual meetings are very difficult to accomplish given the public meeting requirements.

Discussed data: It was mentioned that recruiters attend schools, colleges to recruit from large student population and that we have many colleges but no military network. We can get word out maybe through military orders about role of compact to parent – include a flier in addition to having posters. Commissioner Orzalli mentioned that fliers and brochures can be ordered through the MIC3 website. Commissioner Orzalli offered to talk to the Coast Guard, and will work with Capt. Hudson to schedule.

### **c. Priorities**

Commissioner Orzalli mentioned that national priorities include better communication to all stakeholders in the MIC3 network. Communication also is the biggest issue to address at the state level.

### **d. Best Practices**

Ohio initiated a Purple Star School Program which has been adopted by many other states. We should look at whether this makes sense for Massachusetts. Commissioner Orzalli to discuss with Jon Sills to see if there is opportunity in Bedford Schools.

## **VI. Public Comment**

Mary Burns presented her concern about how school ask for identification of military connected students. She presented two alternative forms she drafted, which includes the mention of funding. (Note there is no funding associated with MIC3). She says that the forms schools are using are not getting completed because of the wording which is like other states. Therefore, the data is off. She says the wording is disrespectful to military families. Mary stated that we are missing kids because of the definition. Christine mentioned that the wording or definition of who qualifies is taking from MIC3 and the Valor Act. Tom Moreau will follow up with Rob Curtin to discuss definition and data collection. Mary also shared information that the council could contact spouses' associations to get word out. There may be websites. Capt. Hudson mentioned that there are national and local chapters for spouses. The regional chapters must register with the national chapter. There is a

regional spouse group for Coast Guard down the Cape.

*(The schools are using the definitions from the MIC3 and the resulting Valor Act. See below:  
<http://www.doe.mass.edu/sfs/mic3/guidelines.docx>*

*Look at page 3 definition of MIC3 Brochure:*

*<https://indd.adobe.com/view/f41d20ad-3121-4c98-ab68-61c4b7daec69>*

*<http://www.doe.mass.edu/sfs/mic3/>).*

## **VII. Discussion and Next Steps**

Commissioner Orzalli mentioned April is the month of military child – purple month. We need to work on getting a proclamation signed by the Governor such that it is in place for April. He indicated a public event near the beginning of the month would assist in getting information out to a larger audience. He mentioned it fell through the cracks last year and therefore wants to start the process earlier this year. There are no changes to the language from the last proclamation. Representative Gordon indicated he would also work on a proclamation from the legislature.

## **VIII. Adjourn**

2:30 pm.