

ARIZONA STATE COUNCIL MINUTES
Thursday, December 9, 2021

PRESENT	<p>Bruce DuPlanty Lee Fernwault</p> <p>Brig Gen Christopher Sandison Jamie Sheldahl Alyssa Sylvaggio Bridget O'Neal Candice Brown Col Chuck Dudik Elizabeth "Betsy" Fleming Col David Ciesielski Jeff Jennings Lt Col Cheryl Schubert Nikola Winkel Paula Smedes Stacy Holland Col Anthony Mullinax Kim Lopez</p>	<p>Compact Commissioner State Superintendent Designee & Troops to Teachers Deputy Adjutant General, AZ National Guard Superintendent, Yuma Elementary S.D. One Senior Policy Assistant, Office of the Governor Teacher, Florence U.S.D. School Liaison, MCAS Yuma Commanding Officer, MCAS Yuma School Liaison, Davis Monthan AFB Command Chief of Staff, Arizona National Guard Deputy to the Command General, Fort Huachuca Gen Purcell Designee, Arizona Air National Guard Arizona Coalition of Military Families School Liaison, Fort Huachuca School Liaison, Luke Air Force Base 56th Mission Support Group Commander, Luke AFB Professor, ASU School of Education</p>
GUESTS	<p>Cherise Imai Lindsey Dablow</p>	<p>Executive Director, MIC3 Training and Operations Associate, MIC3</p>

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

1. The meeting was called to order by Arizona Compact Commissioner Bruce DuPlanty. Commissioner DuPlanty thanked the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission's (MIC3) National Office for their assistance with the meeting. He recognized the agencies in attendance and asked the representatives to introduce themselves.

ITEM 2 – COMPACT OVERVIEW

2. Commissioner DuPlanty recognized MIC3 Executive Director (ED) Cherise Imai to present an overview of the Compact. ED Imai thanked Commissioner DuPlanty for the introduction and inviting her to present. Attendees reviewed the *MIC3 Summary with Provisions* video and ED Imai expanded on the Compact provisions highlighted in the video.

3. ED Imai provided information on what Interstate Compacts are and their purposes. She noted Arizona belongs to 33 Compacts with the most recent interstate compacts, related to medical and physical therapy licensure, being adopted in 2016. For Arizona the MIC3 language was signed into law in April 2008 and is in Arizona's Revised Statutes § 15-1911.

4. ED Imai noted the governance structure and role of the Commission in implementing and supporting the MIC3. An abridged version of the Compact 101 Training was provided to the State Council. The question was asked if the Compact applies to students with Individualized Education Plans (IEP) or 504 plans and ED Imai explained that *Article V – Placement and Attendance* does

provide schools additional guidance, but it does not supersede federal regulation provided under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

5. Commissioner DuPlanty thanked ED Imai and noted she would present additional information on the role and responsibilities of the Compact Commissioner and State Council later in the meeting.

ITEM 3 – SCHOOL LIAISON OVERVIEW AND CASES

6. Commissioner DuPlanty explained six cases involving military-connected students have been elevated to his attention since his appointment to the position of Compact Commissioner. Of the six cases he was asked to advise on, most dealt with issues of discipline, state testing, or issues related to the pandemic. The one case that was related to the MIC3 was a high school student transitioning in their senior year and how, under the provisions of the Compact, that student could graduate on time.

7. He recognized the School Liaison (SL) State Lead Ms. Stacey Holland located at Luke AFB who expanded on the role and responsibilities of the SLs. She provided examples of cases in the past that the SLs have worked on behalf of the Compact.

8. Ms. Betsy Fleming, Davis Monthan AFB SL, stated she and Commissioner DuPlanty have been in communication on a case where an incoming 10th grade student left a sending school district whose academic calendar was based on semesters and the receiving school utilizes quarters. Ms. Fleming is working with the receiving school on how to record semester grades, so they correlate with the receiving school's quarter class schedule. The case involves credit for a foreign language which is part of the district's graduation requirements. She noted that most cases can be resolved between the SL and school district without elevating it to the Commissioner for assistance.

9. Ms. Candice Brown, SL at MCAS Yuma, stated her focus is on prevention by working with both incoming and outgoing families to anticipate issues that might arise. She noted typically issues develop when there is a miscommunication between the family and the school, but those have been minor and easily resolved.

10. Ms. Paula Smedes, SL at Fort Huachuca, explained she has had very few cases related to the provisions of the Compact, and those that were, were easily resolved with the receiving school. She noted the surrounding school districts are military friendly and understand the issues military students face when transitioning so they are willing to work with those families to resolve any issues.

11. Ms. Holland noted the SLs continue to educate military families and are working on additional resources to assist families, but she stressed how important it is for the SLs to be connected and included in the work of the State Council for military families transitioning in and out of Arizona.

ITEM 4 – STATE COUNCIL ROLE

12. Commissioner DuPlanty yielded the floor to ED Imai to provide additional information on the role and responsibility of the Compact Commissioner and State Council. As the State's appointed representative, the Compact Commissioner is included in any conversations or cases involving military students within their state. The Commissioner administers the Compact for their state including timely payment of the state's annual dues and participates in the Commission by attending the Annual Business Meeting (ABM) and committee meetings.

13. At the state level, the Commissioner promotes the purpose and mission of the MIC3. They ensure the state operations and council are compliant with the MIC3. In their role, Commissioners'

handle cases in a timely manner and develop working relationships with stakeholder groups including other Commissioners, school liaisons, and school district personnel.

14. The State Council is an advisory body. Their work includes development of operations and procedures concerning the Compact within their specific state. Members of the council assist the Compact Commissioner with their responsibilities, as well as promote the Compact to stakeholder groups and/or organizations. The State Council meeting agenda and minutes need to be archived and provided to the National Office for the Commission's records.

15. Finally, ED Imai provided attendees with additional information on Commission collaterals that are provided at no cost to the requesting party: brochures, bookmarks, give-away items, and Compact Rules books. She concluded her report noting training on the provisions of the Compact is provided by the National Office, again at no cost to the requesting party, and as part of the state dues.

ITEM 5 – MILREP MISSION BRIEF

16. Commissioner DuPlanty recognized Col. Anthony Mullinax, 56th Mission Support Group Commander, Luke AFB. Col. Mullinax stated bus transportation and teacher staffing continue to be a source of concern. An area of focus for Command is implementation of the Military Student Identifier and how to capture those students who are homeschooled. The *Every Student Succeeds Act* funds academic recovery, and state approved, online public and charter schools continue to be areas of emphasis. Col. Mullinax stated, in his opinion, Arizona has one of the better education systems because it allows parents to determine how their children are educated.

17. Col. Mullinax informed the Members that the pandemic elections of benefits transfer piece allowing use of the pre-loaded Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) card is a best practice and has been very useful for military families. He noted current legislation being tracked includes Arizona Senate Bill (SB) 1683 addressing transportation modernization grants and SB 1139 related to the distribution of classroom site funds. The final piece of legislation being tracked focuses on expansion of eligibility for open enrollment.

18. Col. Mullinax briefly touched on the challenges facing military families with the housing market, spouse licensure, and unemployment which all affect military-connected children. He concluded his report thanking the Members for their time and noting how important this collaboration is to troubleshoot topics and resolve issues before they escalate.

ITEM 6 – NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE BRIEF

19. Commissioner DuPlanty stated the issue of expanding the MIC3 to include the families of National Guard and Reserve (NGR) members has been before the Commission for a couple years and was a motivating factor for organizing this meeting of the Arizona State Council. The state council of each member state has been tasked with submitting a written opinion on expanding coverage of the Compact. Specifically; should coverage be expanded and, if so, how the state would like that to be accomplished. He yielded the floor to ED Imai.

20. ED Imai explained the MIC3 currently includes members of the National Guard and Reserve under Title 10 Orders and noted how those families are included under the Rules of the Compact. She provided attendees with the evolution of the issue beginning in 2016 with the State of Utah altering their compact statute to development of the Commission's National Guard and Reserve Coverage Task Force and their recommendation to the Commission at the 2020 ABM.

21. ED Imai provided Arizona's current impaction numbers and how expanding coverage could potentially affect the state, including the amount paid in annual dues. During the 2020 ABM, the State Liaison Office of the Department of Defense (DoD) presented data, broken down by branch of service, indicating the number of NGR moves and if those moves were interstate or intrastate. ED Imai stated the DoD has informed the National Office that it cannot break down the data into moves related to Orders versus moves of choice.

22. She outlined the three courses of action before the Commission and the potential impact of each to the Members. The first action would be for all 50 states and the District of Columbia to amend the Compact language currently in their statute. The second course of action is to amend state code outside the Compact or pass external statutory language to expand coverage. Finally, the Commission, as supported by their state council, can determine to take no action at this time. ED Imai provided the Members with the pros and cons of each action, including any potential fiscal cost to the Commission and how that could affect member states.

23. In conclusion, ED Imai provided the attendees with the *State Commissioner Guidance* released by the Commission to assist state councils during their deliberation and formulation of their position related to expansion of the Compact to include families of NGR service members. It was noted that the presentation would be provided to the State Council membership following the meeting.

24. Commissioner DuPlanty noted a couple key legislative members of the state council were unable to attend this meeting, so he wants to make sure everyone has time to review the information and then discuss this topic further at the next State Council meeting.

ITEM 7 – PURPLE STAR SCHOOL AWARD

25. Commissioner DuPlanty briefed the Members on the Arizona Purple Star School Award. Even though it is not an initiative of the MIC3, Compact Commissioners and the State Councils have collaborated on this initiative to support military families. Due to time constraints, Commissioner Duplanty stated he would distribute the presentation following the meeting and briefly touched on what the purpose of the Purple Star School Award is and how it supports transitioning military families.

26. He provided background information and noted each state is allowed to determine how the program will be implemented within their state. The next step was launching the program and work with the Department of Education (DOE) to establish an application process, determine requirements, and promotion to school districts.

27. Commissioner DuPlanty asked the Members to review the program's requirements (draft) and provide feedback via email. Ms. Holland noted April is designated as the Month of the Military Child (MOTMC) and how schools, through the Purple Star Program, can celebrate and assist the SLs with that celebration. Ms. Alyssa Sylvaggio noted that request for proclamations for MOTMC from the Governor's Office can be requested now and Constituent Services will review those.

28. Ms. Kim Lopez requested marketing materials be sent to the Council Members so they can distribute those to their contacts in the state. Commissioner DuPlanty asked SLs if they already have marketing materials. Ms. Fleming replied some of the SLs do get some funding and other organizations, MIC3 and MCEC, provide posters and other materials that can be printed. Ms. Brown also noted Military OneSource as an option for marketing materials for MOTMC. Ms. Holland thanked the Commissioner for coordinating this effort with the DOE.

ITEM 8 – OPEN

29. Commissioner DuPlanty requested feedback or topics for future meetings then opened the floor for comment. Ms. Fleming asked if the Arizona DOE has information posted to their website about MIC3 and Commissioner DuPlanty responded that the MIC3 information is posted to the Office of the Governor's website. He noted the information on the Governor's website concerning MIC3 needs to be updated and he has that on his task list. Ms. Brown replied that while it is nice to have the information on the Governor's site it would be nice to have it included on the DOE website as well for those military families transitioning into the state. Commissioner DuPlanty noted their feedback and will follow-up on that request.

30. Ms. Lopez asked if the State Council roster, including contact information, could be shared with the Members and Commissioner DuPlanty replied he would facilitate that by updating the National webpage to reflect who is on the State Council and their organization.

31. Commissioner DuPlanty asked Members to provide feedback on the next meeting date for the State Council. Ms. Bridget O'Neal responded that Spring Break is a good time for school administrators because this allows them to focus on the meeting and not be interrupted to address issues that might happen before or during the meeting. No other dates or times were provided so the Commissioner moved to adjourn the meeting.

ITEM 9 – ADJOURMENT

32. Superintendent Jamie Sheldahl thanked Commissioner DuPlanty for organizing the meeting. Commissioner DuPlanty thanked everyone in attendance and adjourned the meeting at 11:38 AM MST.