

**PENNSYLVANIA STATE COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, November 16, 2021**

|         |                       |   |
|---------|-----------------------|---|
| PRESENT | Barbara Clemmer       | MIC3 Pennsylvania Commissioner                            |
|         | Cherise Imai          | MIC3 Executive Director                                   |
|         | Tracey Campanini      | Deputy Secretary, OCDEL – Secretary Ortega’s Designee     |
|         | Stuart Knade, Esq.    | Representative of the School Boards Association           |
|         | Tracy Pennycuick      | Legislative Rep Appointed by Speaker of the House         |
|         | Edwards S. Little Jr. | Brigadier General – Governor’s Executive Branch Appointee |
|         | Drew Turinski         | Deputy Garrison Commander, Carlisle Barracks, PA          |
|         | Christina Spielbauer  | Carlisle School District Superintendent                   |
|         | Jacqueline Schultz    | School Liaison  |
|         | Joseph Gordon         | School Liaison  |
|         | Albert Mercado        | Solider and Family Assistance Program Manager             |
|         | Dena Jangdhari        | Pennsylvania Military OneSource Consultant Contractor     |
|         | Carlee Capece         | Pennsylvania Department of Education Government Relations |
|         | Amy Lena              | Chief, Division of Planning and Professional Development  |

NOT PRESENT - Representative Joe Webster - Appointee for Minority Leader of the House of Representatives; Representative Karen Boback – Ex-Officio Member

VACANT - Appointees of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; The Minority Leader of the Senate

**ITEM 1 – DEPARTMENT WELCOME**

Deputy Secretary OCDEL Tracey Campanini (Secretary Ortega’s designee) welcomed the State Council members and guests to the inaugural meeting.

**ITEM 2 – COMMISSIONER WELCOME**

Pennsylvania (PA) State Compact Commissioner welcomed members and guests.

**ITEM 3 – ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM EST by Commissioner Clemmer and roll call was taken by Commissioner Barbara Clemmer.

**ITEM 4 – APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Representative Tracy Pennycuick motioned to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Superintendent Christina Spielbauer. Motion carried.

**ITEM 5 – INTRODUCTIONS**

Members and guests conducted self-introductions. Participants shared their connection to military families.

## ITEM 6 – MIC3 101

National Executive Director (ED) of MIC3, Cherise Imai, presented on the compact. Highlights:

- Video message by U.S. Secretary of Education
  - He shared the importance of students feeling connected to the schools.
  - Military families come to the schools as well-rounded individuals because of the experiences they have. Schools need to recognize what these students have to offer.
  - Schools need to step up their support for military families.
  - Dr. Cardona will be sending a letter to State Superintendents/Commissioners to share his support of MIC3.
- Compact 101
  - Overview of what MIC3 is and the purpose of it.
  - Compact supersedes the state legislation
    - Example: A PA school may encounter a student that may not be eligible for Kindergarten or meet the requirement in PA. However, if they move from a state and were enrolled and attended Kindergarten in the sending state, the student must be enrolled in kindergarten and allowed to continue in PA..
    - The purpose is to keep students on grade level, in school, and graduate on time.
- Compact Features video – testimonials from Military families
  - Commissioner Clemmer shared she would like to create a similar video showing PA testimonials on Pennsylvania Department of Education's (PDE) website.

## ITEM 7 – RECESS AND RECONVENING

The Council recessed at 9:55 AM EST and reconvened at 10:07 AM EST.

## ITEM 8 – STATE COUNCIL OVERVIEW

Commissioner Clemmer provided an overview of the State Commissioner and State Council responsibilities.

- Title 24 P.S. 7303
  - Annual Meetings
  - State Commissioner National Responsibilities
  - State Commissioner State Responsibilities
  - Member Profile on MIC3 website
  - Review of PA Commissioners
    - Toolkits on MIC3 website for Military Child Month (April)
  - Review of PA State Council Representatives
  - State Council Responsibilities

## ITEM 9 – PENNSYLVANIA MIC3 CASES

Commissioner Clemmer reported on the number of PA cases. In sum, the number continues to increase each year

- 8 cases in 2018 through 18 cases in 2021
- Currently, we have 9 cases since July
- Commissioner Clemmer shared PA examples.
  - MIC3 ED Imai shared that the national level is willing to help.

- Legal Council
- Mitigation or legal action if needed
- School Choice is the number one question but not covered under compact
- The compact does not allow a family to override charter school rules
- Homeless children is similar; can we combine policies/guidelines?

## ITEM 10 – SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICER UPDATE

Ms. Jacqueline Schultz and Mr. Joseph Gordon presented.

- Ms. Schultz stated:
  - Home School pilot program - 400 spaces for online courses
  - Challenges
    - Transfer of credits taken in middle school but considered high school credits in the former school but not in the new school. These credits don't count for graduation requirements in new school, and the students don't have enough credits to graduate.
  - Successes
    - JROTC – Carlisle SD supports students going to Cumberland Valley SD for this program.
    - Sports Tryouts and Band –
      - videos are allowed to be used for tryouts
      - save spots on teams for incoming military families
      - participate in summer sports and band programs
- Mr. Gordon stated:
  - Challenges
    - Identifying where the military students are located.
      - Need to continue to spread the word and find ways to educate military families before they move into PA
      - Military OneSource can help with this connection
  - Best Practices
    - Communicating with Commissioner by sharing the cases coming in.

## ITEM 11 – STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT AND RESOURCE DISCUSSION

Commissioner Clemmer provided the following information regarding next steps.

- Strategic Engagement
  - Educating administrators, counselors, and athletic directors on military families' challenges
  - Promote the role of commissioner and school liaisons in helping families resolve issues
- Important Resources and helpful links – will be shared out
  - PDE MIC3 homepage and how to navigate this site.
  - National MIC3 site and how to locate resources (no cost resources)
    - Parent and School Toolkits
    - Digital Copies of the Compact Rules
    - Brochures
    - Downloadable posters
    - State Commissioner information

- Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) – great resource for military families and schools
- Military Kids Now Education Survey

### ITEM 12 – Military OneSource

Ms. Dena Jangdhari presented.

- Military OneSource has a representative in every state (TX and CA have 2 reps each)
- The National Reserve is complex.
- 24/7 connection to everything
- Free to military members and families as well as survivors
  - Counseling (mental health and financial)
  - Wounded warrior and caregiver
  - Scholarships
  - Peer-to-peer support
  - Adoption
  - Document translation
  - Spouse education and career opportunities
  - Education
  - Adult disability and elder care
  - Language interpretation
  - Mobile Resilience Solutions
  - Tax services
  - Digital libraries
- Contact
  - Call
  - Website
  - Email

### ITEM 13 – RECESS AND RECONVENING

The Council recessed at 11:27 AM EST and reconvened at 11:35 AM EST.

### ITEM 14 – NATIONAL GUARD DEPENDENTS

- MIC3 ED Imai presented.
  - National Guard Active Duty is now covered
    - Temporary residence
    - Excused absences
  - 2019 Annual Business Meeting Report
    - Dues are \$1.15 per military child
  - 2020 NGR Survey of States
    - Obtain feedback and insight regarding National Guard Reserves
  - 2020 Annual Business Meeting Report
    - Support expansion of compact coverage to all members of the Select Reserve to include Traditional, Active/Guard Reserve, and Military Technician (Dual Status) members

- For moves related to changes in duty station and for deployments in active duty
- Concerns expressed regarding the additional dues
- PA is 19<sup>th</sup> for the number of Active Duty + National Guard and Reserve
- Pennsylvania Dues Projection
- Possible Courses of Action
  - Amend the Compact Statute
  - Amend State Codes Outside the Compact
  - Take No Action at this Time
- State Council must state their position and why, which will be included
- Guard/Reserve Personnel Movement Over Past 12 months
  - Chart will be shared via email
- State Council will meet in March rather
  - Do we want to include the National Guard Reserve as part of the compact?
  - How can we pay for it?
  - Interstate vs. Intrastate
    - MIC3 covers interstate not intrastate
  - Develop a 'Welcome Packet' for new families

#### **ITEM 15 – OPEN DISCUSSION**

Sharing testimonials (short) with school districts to bring awareness of what military families experience.

#### **ITEM 11 – NEXT MEETING**

The Council agreed to meet again in March 2022. The exact date will be determined later.

#### **ITEM 12 – ADJOURNMENT**

Brigadier Edward Little motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Stuart Knade. With no further business conduct, Commissioner Clemmer adjourned the meeting by acclamation at 12:28 PM EST.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Amy Lena  
Chief, Division of Planning and Professional Development  
Pennsylvania Department of Education