

NEW MEXICO STATE COUNCIL MINUTES
Tuesday, October 5, 2021

- PRESENT** Teresa Ferenczhalmy, Compact Commissioner
 Timothy Bedeaux, New Mexico PED
 Martin "Zach" Chavez, Civic Outreach Coordinator, New Mexico PED
 Colonel Ryan Howell, Garrison Commander, WSMS
 Beth Mann, Kirtland AFB School Liaison
 Aaron Rodriguez
 Sonya Smith, Secretary for Veterans Affairs, New Mexico
 Kurt Steinhaus, Secretary of Education, New Mexico PED
- EXCUSED** Andres Romero, Education Chair, New Mexico House of Representatives
 Sally Marquez, Executive Director of the New Mexico Activities Association
 Greg Myers, NM Director, Military Base Planning and Support
 Major General Kenneth Nava, Adjutant General, NM National Guard
 Renee Russ, Superintendent, Clovis Municipal Schools
 Senator Bill Soules, Education Chair, New Mexico State Senate
- GUESTS** Abenicio Baldonado, Policy Analyst, New Mexico Public Education Department
 Cherise Imai, Executive Director, MIC3
 Lindsey Dablow, MIC3 Training and Operations Associate
 LaurieAnn Goodier, School Liaison, Holloman AFB
 Sara Williams, Canon AFB, School Liaison
 Dolores Lopez, School Counselor, Santa Fe Public Schools

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

1. The meeting was called to order by New Mexico Compact Commissioner Teresa Ferenczhalmy at 9:01 AM MST.

ITEM 2 – ROLL CALL

2. Roll call was taken by Commissioner Ferenczhalmy. A quorum was established.

ITEM 3 – INTRODUCTIONS

3. Commissioner Ferenczhalmy welcomed guests to the meeting. Zack Chavez introduced new Secretary of Education, Kurt Steinhaus to the Council. Secretary Steinhaus said he started his career as a teacher started in Alamogordo teaching on Hellmann Air Force Base and he remembered getting permission to go on base to set up his classroom. He really enjoyed being a teacher at the Air Force Base and getting to know kids who had been all over the world – hearing their stories and how we could better support them.

4. Ms. Mann introduced Colonel Megan Cornet, Mission Support Group Commander, and Department of Defense Representative. She joined Kirtland by way of a year in Washington, DC, and before that was stationed in Minot, North Dakota. She and her husband are both military. They have three adopted children, one of which has aged out of the school age system and is 18 and living his at his best adult life; an eight and a nine-year-old that attend the elementary school on base.

ITEM 4 – SCHOOL LIAISON RECOGNITION

5. Commissioner Ferenczhalmy announced Ms. Mann, LaurieAnn Goodier and Sara Williams have been selected for an award by the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC). She was amazed by their problem-solving skills and ability to get things done. Members congratulated them for their achievement and support for families and schools.

ITEM 5 – 2021 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

6. Timothy Bedeaux reported he is new to the position and has been with the Department for three months. Prior to that, he worked at the Legislative Education Study Committee, so directly within the state legislature. He reviewed new legislation introduced this year.

7. He noted Senate Bill 272, regarding military family early school enrollment, which requires school districts and charter schools to change their enrollment policies to establish a process for military students to enroll early if they are entering the state. Additionally, they must prove residency within 45 days of arrival within the state. At the height of the pandemic, last year, PDE issued a memo to school districts and charter schools urging this sort of process for schools where students could remotely enroll in schools in New Mexico. Mr. Bedeaux said SB 271, regarding purple star schools, was passed.

ITEM 6 – MIC3 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NATIONAL UPDATE

8. Cherise Imai reported the commission's annual business meeting (ABM) will be held virtually on November 4-5. The ABM is the one time of year the Commission convenes to discuss business matters. A key discussion item will be the national guard and reserve; and members will hold leadership elections.

9. Commissioner Ferenczhalmy said the value of the ABM was she learns so much and network with other States to see what they're doing, what the best practices are, and how they are supporting our military students. Ms. Mann said the school liaisons hold a joint meeting prior to the event and report out on challenges and trends, best practices, and new statutes and policies for each state.

ITEM 7 – OLD BUSINESS

9. **National Guard and Reserve Update** – Ms. Imai stated the Commission will discuss the way forward at the upcoming ABM.

10. **Purple Star Schools** – Zach Chavez reported the state is moving forward on planning for the program. He discussed aspects being considered.

11. **Military Child Identifier** – Mr. Chavez reported the state is looking into an alternative data collection option called STARS. Ms. Mann said better data will allow for a better discussion on how we can support military families and students.

ITEM 8 – NEW BUSINESS

12. **Appreciation** – Commissioner Ferenczhalmy expressed appreciation for Secretary Stuart and Colonel Alvarez, members that recently left the Council, for continued support while they were part of our group. It was wonderful and they helped the Council achieve our goals.

13. **Additional Council Members** – Commissioner Ferenczhalmy asked members to brainstorm additional members that should be added to the Council. She noted the more hands we have on getting the work done, the more successful we will be. Ms. Mann suggested the Council consider adding counselor from a military impacted school. Mr. Chavez and Commissioner Ferenczhalmy will reach out to potential members and coordinate communication.

ITEM 9 – OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

14. **Next Meeting Date** – Commissioner Ferenczhalmy asked for feedback on scheduling the next meeting. The group agreed Tuesdays were not optimal and considered other days of the week.

15. **Other Business** – Ms. Mann said she will email a copy of the Council Bylaws to members for their information, as there are several new members on the team.

ITEM 10 – ADJOURNMENT

16. Commissioner Ferenczhalmy thanked members for attending today's meeting, and for their time and support.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

17. Commissioner Ferenczhalmy thanked the participants for their attendance and contributions to the council. With no further business to conduct, she adjourned the meeting by acclamation at 9:57 MST.