

NEW MEXICO STATE COUNCIL MINUTES
Wednesday, May 12, 2021

- PRESENT** Teresa Ferenczhalmy, Compact Commissioner
Dr. Ryan Stewart, Secretary of Education, New Mexico PED
Colonel Juan Alvarez, Military/DoD Representative, Kirtland AFB
Martin "Zach" Chavez, Civic Outreach Coordinator, New Mexico PED
Beth Mann, Kirtland AFB School Liaison
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
Sonya Smith, Secretary for Veterans Affairs, New Mexico
Renee Russ, Superintendent, Clovis Municipal Schools
- EXCUSED** Andres Romero, Education Chair, New Mexico House of Representatives
Senator Bill Soules, Education Chair, New Mexico State Senate
- GUESTS** Cherise Imai, MIC3 Executive Director
Lindsey Dablow, MIC3 Training and Operations Associate
LaurieAnn Goodier, Holloman AFB, School Liaison
Sara Williams, Canon AFB, School Liaison
Dolores Lopez, School Counselor, Santa Fe Public Schools
Colonel Ryan Howell, Garrison Commander, WSMS
Abenicio Baldonado, Policy Analyst, New Mexico Public Education Department

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.

ITEM 4 – APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

4. Beth Mann motioned to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Greg Myers. Motion carried.

ITEM 5 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM JANUARY 13, 2021

5. Ms. Mann suggested the addition of the word "performing" to the next to the last sentence in #18 in the January 13, 2021 minutes. The sentence should read "The military students were the second highest performing subgroup in 2018-19."

6. Ms. Mann motioned to adopt the minutes with the suggested edit. Greg Myers seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ITEM 6 – USAG WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE INSTALLATION OVERVIEW

7. Colonel Ryan Howell, Garrison Commander of the White Sands Missile Range began his presentation with a video overview of the range. The U.S. Army's installation at WSMR provides services, facilities, infrastructure, and support to enable their team to deliver readiness to our Nation. Colonel Howell noted the range spans 5 counties across New Mexico and comprises 17% of the Army's total land mass. Four of the five service branches are represented at WSMR. He said the range falls under the Las Cruces Public School System. There is a K-8 school located on base.

8. Colonel Howell said some challenges for military families involve the base being isolated and at least a 40-minute drive to another city. Also, Colonel Howell said their funding is tied to uniformed service members which can hurt them due to their large civilian workforce. He encouraged any members of the State Council to visit White Sands at their convenience for a tour.

9. Colonel Alvarez said he will be the MSG at Holloman Air Force Base beginning on June 24th and looks forward to working with Colonel Howell.

10. Ms. Mann shared the WSMR range school liaison will be invited to and supported at the monthly school liaison meetings. Mr. Myers inquired about the condition of the school facility on the installation. Colonel Howell said it was good condition but said there is an opportunity for more resources and upgrades. Mr. Myers said he looks forward to visiting WSMR in June. Commissioner Ferenczhalmy thanked Colonel Howell for his presentation.

ITEM 7 – NM LEGISLATION REVIEW

11. Commissioner Ferenczhalmy welcomed Abenicio Baldonado to give an update on the 2021 New Mexico legislative session. He gave an update on HB120, Military Spouse Expedited Licensure. Service members, spouses, and their families will receive licensure fee exemptions and expedited issuance of licenses. The law will become effective June 18, 2021.

12. SB271, Purple Star Public School Program was the next bill Mr. Baldonado reviewed. This bill requires the public education department to develop a Purple Star Public School Program to recognize schools that have implemented policies and practices that ease military students transferring to new schools. He said each school that applies for the program will have to identify a staff member at the school to implement the program. The law will become effective June 18, 2021.

13. SB272, Military Family Early School Enrollment was the next bill Mr. Baldonado highlighted. It allows a student identified as a child of a military family be prioritized for enrollment prior to their physical presence in the state. He said military parents would be able to provide proof of residency in the school district within 45 days after the published arrival on an official military document. He said schools would be required to accept electronic documents for enrollment. The law will become effective June 18, 2021.

14. Commissioner Ferenczhalmy thanked Mr. Baldonado for his presentation and the legislature for easing the stress of military families with these bills.

15. Ms. Mann asked for an overview of the Impact Aid legislation. Mr. Baldonado said his policy director or deputy policy director could give a better summary of that and he would put Ms. Mann in

touch with them. Secretary Ryan Stewart said House Bill 6 was passed and the Impact Aid legislation has been debated for decades. He said the Impact Aid credit was ended and it will end one school district vying against another for funding. He said the funds would be directed to make an investment in education with accountability mechanisms to ensure funds are spent on students who come from school districts with tribal reservations or military installations.

16. Mr. Myers asked if the requirements for the Purple Star School Programs were already established. Mr. Baldonado said the requirements are established within the bill and the PED is working to identify the individual responsible for the program. Ms. Mann asked if at least one school liaison would be working with the PED group who writes any administrative policy to develop the best policy possible.

ITEM 8 – MILITARY STUDENT IDENTIFIER UPDATE

17. Commissioner Ferenczhalmy introduced Zach Chavez to give an update on the Military Student Identifier. He thanked Commissioner Ferenczhalmy and Ms. Mann for their contributions to the project of collecting data. He said over the last few months they have worked with an accountability team at PED to figure out how to best quantify military students. He said the recommendation was that PED would create an interface to run reports once or twice annually to identify military-connected students.

18. Mr. Myers asked if New Mexico was moving out of the STARS system and into a different system to track military students. Mr. Chavez said in STARS they will maintain the current military identifiers but will also have a system to run a report with better accuracy and more details. Mr. Myers asked to be a part of any future discussion of the reporting system.

19. Ms. Mann clarified that STARS will continue to track the information required for the Every Student Succeeds Act, the federal education law. She said the new system will track data desired beyond this. She inquired as to whether any adjustments were made to the STARS system. Mr. Chavez said he would find out if any changes were made to STARS as well as add Ms. Mann to the stakeholder group.

20. Commissioner Ferenczhalmy asked Mr. Chavez to pass on thanks and appreciation to the accountability director for the desire to collect more accurate information.

ITEM 9 – MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD PRESENTATION

21. Sara Williams, School Liaison at Canon Air Force Base presented on Month of the Military Child, which celebrates the important role military children play in the armed forces community. She gave ideas on how to celebrate and listed what various New Mexico bases have planned for the month of April. She offered to send anyone the PowerPoint presentation to give them a resource of ideas. Ms. Williams shared one idea they implemented was they purchased red, white, and blue cords for all military-connected graduates.

22. Mr. Chavez asked if the school liaisons and he could have a meeting later in the year to share ideas and publicize Month of the Military Child.

ITEM 10 – DISCUSSION: COMPACT EXPANSION TO NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE COMPONENTS BEYOND ACTIVE DUTY

23. Commissioner Ferenczhalmy introduced MIC3 Executive Director Cherise Imai to give an overview of the National Guard and Reserve Compact Expansion discussion. ED Imai gave an overview of the issue via PowerPoint slides. The state of Utah changed their state compact statute to include dependents of the National Guard and Reserve in the Compact. This has put Utah out of compliance with the Compact and brought up the issue whether coverage should be extended under the Compact to all dependents ages 5-18 of the National Guard and Reserve.

24. At MIC3's Annual Business Meeting in 2020, it was decided that MIC3 Commissioners would bring the issue to the State Councils for discussions. Some concerns brought up were potential dues increases and whether there are enough moves by National Guard and Reserve members to justify this change. ED Imai summarized the courses of action the Commission can take and how dues may or may not be impacted. She noted any change to the dues structure would require by-laws change.

25. Listed below are the potential courses of action for the Commission:

1. Amend the Compact Statute
2. Amend State Codes Outside the Compact
3. Create an "Enhanced Compact"
4. Adopt a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)
5. Take No Action at This Time

26. ED Imai reviewed pros and cons of each of the potential courses of action. She noted the data shows 1% of the National Guard and Reserve dependents move. Last year, MIC3 surveyed states to see if they have had an issue with National Guard and Reserve dependents moving. She said no states reported having any problems with these students not being covered under the Compact.

27. Commissioner Ferenczhalmy stated she would like to postpone the discussion until Major General Kenneth Nava could participate.

28. Ms. Mann motioned to table the National Guard and Reserve discussion until the next State Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Myers. Motion carried.

ITEM 11 – MIC3 National Report

29. ED Imai announced the MIC3 Annual Business Meeting will be held in Little Rock, Arkansas on November 4-5, 2021. She noted there will be an online attendance option as well. She highlighted the webinars and resources MIC3 has available on the website, including resources on the National Guard and Reserve issue. She stated there are several training options available to the council members, military parents, and school personnel. The National Office will be glad to facilitate these trainings, please contact ED Imai or Ms. Dablow if interested.

ITEM 12 – NEW BUSINESS

30. **Officer Elections** – Commissioner Ferenczhalmy stated according to the by-laws the Executive Committee needs to be elected including a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary. She said an email would go out with information regarding the election. Ms. Mann commented the by-laws state a Department of Defense employee cannot hold an office which limits the candidates.

ITEM 13 – OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

31. **Next Meeting Date and Time** - Commissioner Ferenczhalmy suggested the next meeting be August 4, 2021, at 9:00 ET.

32. Commissioner Ferenczhalmy thanked Colonel Juan Alvarez for his contributions as Military Representative to the State Council as he transitions to a new role at Holloman AFB. Ms. Mann stated the military representative to the council is position-related, and the new Mission Support Commander at Kirtland AFB is Colonel Cornett. She will assume command and become the new DoD representative on June 21, 2021.

33. Commissioner Ferenczhalmy thanked the participants for their attendance and contributions to the council. Secretary Stewart motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Myers. With no further business to conduct, Commissioner Ferenczhalmy adjourned the meeting at 10:53 MST.

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