

RHODE ISLAND STATE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, June 25, 2025
9:30 – 10:30 AM ET

PRESENT	Rosemarie Kraeger Andy Andrade Kenneth Duva Thomas Kenworthy Pamela Martin William “Billy” Niemeyer Jamoya Ridgell CAPT Henry Roenke IV Cherise Imai Lindsey Dablow Allie Thomas	Rhode Island Compact Commissioner RI Dept of Elem. & Sec Education Superintendent, North Kingston School District Superintendent, Portsmouth School District Navy School Liaison, Naval Station Newport Superintendent, Middletown Public Schools School Community Specialist USN, Installation Commander, Naval Station Newport Executive Director, MIC3 Operations and Training Associate, MIC3 Operations Coordinator, MIC3
EXCUSED	Senator Lou DiPalma Angela Infante-Green Colleen Burns Jermain	Rhode Island State Senate Comm. of Education, RI Dept. of Elem. & Sec. Ed. Superintendent, Newport Public Schools

ITEM 1 – Call to Order

1. Compact Commissioner Rosemarie Kraeger called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM ET. Roll call was conducted, and a quorum was established.

ITEM 2 – Welcome and Introductions

2. The members introduced themselves. Commissioner Kraeger welcomed Mr. Kenneth Duva as the new Superintendent for North Kingston Public Schools.

ITEM 3 – Approval of the Meeting Minutes

3. **Mr. Andy Andrade motioned to approve the minutes from the September 24, 2024, meeting, seconded by Mr. Billy Niemeyer. Mr. Thomas Kenworthy abstained. The motion carried.**

ITEM 4 – National Update

4. **Rhode Island Citation Correction** – MIC3 Executive Director (ED) Cherise Imai reported that the citation correction was not introduced in the 2025 legislative session and the national office would work with officials for 2026. Mr. Andy Andrade stated the Office of Government Relations could assist with amending the existing statute and offered to work with the national office to introduce the legislation before the next session.

5. **2025 Annual Business Meeting (ABM)** – ED Imai announced the 2025 Annual Business Meeting (ABM), sponsored by ex-officio organization National Federation of State High School Associations, would be held in Indianapolis, Indiana on

October 23-24, 2025. Commissioner Kraeger stated she and Mr. Niemeyer would both attend the meeting for Rhode Island.

6. **USDoD Response to the FY2023 NDAA Report** – ED Imai reported the National Defense Authorization Act report was released in December, specifically to the ranking members of the Armed Services Committee. Commissioner Kraeger, ED Imai, and Mr. Niemeyer met with Senator Jack Reed in March to discuss the report recommendations and way forward.

ITEM 5 – Military Representative and School Liaisons Update

7. CAPT Henry Roenke, Installation Commander of Naval Station Newport, stated the pier expansion to allow use by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Coast Guard ships was on schedule to be completed by 2030.

8. Ms. Pamela Martin reported that she continued to keep local districts apprised of capacity updates and was making sure that schools and districts were aware of the Compact and available resources. She noted two Compact-related engagements were resolved at the Commissioner level that involved high school course and credit transfers.

ITEM 6 – State Dues

9. **FY2025 AND FY2026 Dues** – Commissioner Kraeger reported that the FY2025 dues were paid and that the invoice for FY2026 would be sent on July 1, 2025.

10. **Future Dues Increase** – ED Imai provided an overview of a proposed dues increase that would be voted on at the 2025 ABM. The increase would raise the current dues formula of \$1.15 per military dependent residing in the state to \$1.78 in fiscal year (FY) 2027, with a minimum threshold of \$4,000, and a 4% annual increase thereafter. Mr. Andrade stated Rhode Island should have no issue with the increase. ED Imai confirmed that the national office would send a formal letter regarding the dues increase to each state's appointing authorities and state councils following the ABM.

ITEM 7 – FY2025 End-of-Year Report

11. Commissioner Kraeger announced the FY2025 End-of-Year Report was complete and submitted to the national office. She thanked Ms. Martin for her contributions to the report, and thanked the members for their hard work to pass the Month of the Military Child Proclamation in both the state House and Senate.

ITEM 8 – District Education and Awareness

12. ED Imai reviewed the available resources and training opportunities the national commission offered to states and stakeholders. Ms. Martin and Ms. Jamoya Ridgell expressed interest to schedule an in-person training session for school and district personnel in the upcoming school year.

ITEM 9 – 2025 Legislative Session

13. Commissioner Kraeger stated she submitted testimony in opposition of House Bill 5278 Substitute A because it did not have safeguards in place to prevent unintended consequences. She noted that the state superintendents agreed with the concerns that she expressed. Mr. Andrade suggested an alternative bill and a meeting with the Director of Government Affairs to address the concerns with the state superintendents. Ms. Martin offered to connect Mr. Andrade with the New England Regional Liaison from the Defense-State Liaison Office. Mr. Andrade requested examples from other states that have implemented this type of legislation to identify best practices and areas of concern.

ITEM 10 – RI Compact Commissioner Transition

14. Commissioner Kraeger noted that she and Mr. Niemeyer would attend the 2025 ABM and then determine the way forward.

ITEM 11 – Next Meeting

15. Commissioner Kraeger announced the next State Council meeting would be held in October or November following the 2025 ABM.

ITEM 12 – Adjournment

16. The meeting adjourned at 10:37 AM ET.