

CALIFORNIA STATE COUNCIL MINUTES
Thursday, September 10, 2020

PRESENT	Khieem Jackson John Burns Kelly Frisch Sylvia Crowder Jesse M. Najera Christian Mendoza Juan Reyes (Designee for Assembly Member Todd Gloria)	Compact Commissioner Facilitator and Chair DoD Liaison Rep. & Regional School Liaison Officer Family Education Liaison School District Representative School Liaison Officer
EXCUSED	Patricia Rucker	California State Board of Education
GUEST	Rear Admiral Bette Bolivar Kindra Britt Jacie Ragland Cherise Imai Lindsey Dablow Ned McKinley Gareth Smythe Kelli May	Regional Commander, Navy Region Southwest Deputy State Superintendent of Public Instruction Executive Director, MIC3 Training and Operations Associate, MIC3 Director of Legislative Affairs MCIW Director of Legislative Affairs NRSW Southwest Regional Liaison

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:03 AM PT by California Compact Commissioner Khieem Jackson and roll call was taken. A quorum was established.

ITEM 2 – WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

2. Commissioner Jackson welcomed all attendees to the meeting and offered comments on the current education landscape and how it has been affected by the pandemic. He welcomed special guest and asked each to introduce themselves and offer comments.

3. Rear Admiral Bette Bolivar, Regional Commander Navy Region Southwest, thanked Commissioner Jackson for the invitation to speak. She recognized the role of school liaison officers mitigating transition issues for the military-connected students and noted the importance of the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) in the past but more so now during the COVID-19 pandemic. She noted the support of military leadership to reach a workable situation for military children and their families.

4. Kindra Britt, California Deputy State Superintendent of Public Instruction, thanked the Council Members for inviting State Superintendent Tony Thurman to participate in the meeting and allowing her to attend on his behalf as he is speaking to the State Board of Education today. Ms. Britt expressed the desire of California's Department of Education (DOE) to assist and mitigate the transition issues that military-connected students face. She noted the health and safety issues currently being addressed by the DOE due to COVID-19, and access to technology and education resource issues owing to schools transitioning to a non-traditional instruction and distance learning format. Ms. Britt concluded her comments by recognizing Jacie Ragland and the State Council Members for their hard work and years of service to the MIC3.

ITEM 3 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

5. Council Member Kelly Frisch (DoD Representative) motioned to approve the minutes from May 22, 2019 as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Jesse Najera (School District Representative). Motion Carried.

ITEM 4 – SPECIAL RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

6. **Kate Wren Gavlak** - Commissioner Jackson recognized former Compact Commissioner Kate Wren Gavlak's years of service to, not only military-connected students but all students during her years of service as a district superintendent. Unfortunately, Ms. Gavlak could not attend the meeting, but Commissioner Jackson asked the MIC3 National Office to share with the Members the award that would be sent to Ms. Gavlak and some comments.

7. The National Office commented that upon California joining the Interstate Compact in 2009, Ms. Gavlak's leadership and desire to assist all students was recognized and she became one of the MIC3's first Commission Chairs. Supporting the Compact within California and helping grow the Commission at the national level.

8. Mr. Najera noted Ms. Gavlak's leadership as a superintendent and in her various roles within the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools and the Military Impacted Schools Association. Her passion for military kids was evident in the time and effort she put into providing training on the Compact even after she retired.

9. Kelly Frisch echoed everyone's comments and thanked Ms. Gavlak for her willingness to collaborate, provide training, and her vision of what the Compact could be and where it will go.

10. **Jacie Ragland** - Commissioner Jackson recognized Jacie Ragland for her years of service to the State Council. The National Office thanked Ms. Ragland for her service and dedication to military families, acknowledging her willingness to serve as California's Designee at the MIC3 Annual Business Meeting (ABM) in 2019.

11. Mr. Najera noted Ms. Ragland's willingness to assist in furthering the Compact in California and her efforts to establish the Purple Star program. He thanked her for all she has done to help military-connected students in the state.

12. Ms. Frisch thanked Ms. Ragland for being a voice of support within the DOE and her enthusiasm for the Compact and its ability to help students.

13. Commissioner Jackson concluded by speaking about his personal relations with Ms. Ragland during their time at the DOE and her support and efforts for all of the state's children. He thanked her for her leadership and dedication.

ITEM 4 – MIC3 HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

14. MIC3 Training and Operations Associate Lindsey Dablow provided an update on the programs and services of the National Office. Ms. Dablow noted the MIC3 is an affiliate of the Council of State Governments which is located in Lexington, Kentucky so the National Office is located there as well. She stated that California ranks third among the states with more than 57,000 military-connected students so the council's participation in the Compact is integral to successful educational transitions for military students.

15. Ms. Dablow highlighted the Commission's ABM which will be held virtually on October 1-2, 2020 and noted the Commission has waived the registration fee to allow all stakeholders to attend. The Commission will launch several new initiatives this year including a training workbook and the Successful Transitions Video program featuring families that have benefitted from the Compact. In conclusion, Ms. Dablow referred Members to the numerous resources offered on the MIC3.net site.

ITEM 5 – PUBLIC COMMENT

16. There being no public comment Commissioner Jackson moved to the next agenda item.

ITEM 6 – INFORMATION SHARING/DISCUSSION MIC3 CA ISSUES

17. Commissioner Jackson asked the Council Members to introduce themselves and offer any comments or issues they would like to bring before the Members. There being no comments Commissioner Jackson proceeded with the agenda.

18. **CA Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission** – Commissioner Jackson briefed the Council on the Compact and its' role within the Commission. He noted Defense spending in California making it #1 in the nation in terms of gross domestic product and spending in the state.

19. Commissioner Jackson stressed the importance of providing support to all students and explained how the relationship between the State Council and the MIC3 Commission assists military-connected students and gives them a voice.

20. **DoD Military Regional Liaison** – Ms. Frisch provided information on her role within the Navy Region Southwest and its areas of focus. She discussed school-based programs including Anchored 4Life a resiliency program in partnership with the Military Child Education Coalition to bring information and resources to schools. This includes parent webinars and providing training to schools specifically on military culture and working with the military family life counselors and school registrars.

21. Ms. Frisch stated the Navy Region Southwest experienced 6,500 family interactions related to a permanent change of station (PCS). She provided the Council with examples and noted the importance of continuing to collect data on the issues and challenges facing military families.

22. Ms. Frisch concluded her report by highlighting COVID-19 resources within the state's DOE and within DoD

23. **Governors Military Affairs Council** – Mr. Rocket Chavez (ret.) Chair of the Governor's Military Advisory Council was unable to join the meeting so Commissioner Jackson proceeded with the agenda.

24. **CA Superintendent School Districts** – Mr. Najera provided an update on the current status of schools in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic. He noted various social media initiatives have been launched to communicate with military families and make them comfortable and aware of their options.

25. Discussion followed regarding students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP). Mr. Najera provided next steps for those students and was encouraged by the guidance put into place to assist those students. Commissioner Jackson explained his desire to create a robust website for the Council where those resources could be highlighted.

26. **Legislative Updates** – Ned McKinley, CA State Director, Marine Corps Installations – West and Gareth Smythe, DoD Governmental Affairs, Navy Regions Southwest introduced themselves. Mr.

27. Smythe outlined the legislative process and partnership with Navy Regional School Liaison. Mr. McKinley interjected that in his role he works on issues that affect families and the quality of life for service members which education falls under.
28. Mr. McKinley noted five bills that have been passed since 2009 addressing education issues for military-connected students. Assembly Bill (AB) 343 ratified the MIC3 Compact in California. AB 306 barred sending districts from prohibiting inter-district transfers for military children. AB 365 created an exemption from some local graduation requirements for high school students. Senate Bill 455 allowing for remote enrollment for military children with PCS orders. Finally, AB 2949 allowed military children to remain in school of origin regardless of changed residence.
29. Mr. McKinley stated the goal is to allow military families greater flexibility and Mr. Smythe agreed. They concluded their report noting the deadline for bills passed during the 2020 legislative session awaiting the Governor's signature is September 30th.
30. **Secretary of Defense State Liaison Office (DSLO)** – Kelli May, Southwest Regional Liaison, explained the DSLO is charged to address designated Personnel and Readiness Key Issues with state policymakers to change laws and policies to improve military family well-being. The result of these efforts is a list of 10 issues the DSLO, in collaboration with the DoD, will focus on during the following year.
31. Ms. May noted the Secretary of Defense concentrated on K-12 education and licensure portability in his letter to the Governors. She stated California has already passed legislation addressing Advanced Enrollment and In-State Tuition Continuity putting the focus in the state on Virtual School Enrollment and the Purple Star Schools Program. Ms. May provided the Members with information on each topic and examples from other states who have enacted the initiatives.
32. Mr. Burns asked Ms. May if the Texas Statute on Virtual School Enrollment only applied to students previously enrolled in a Texas school? Ms. May confirmed and said the legislation expanded to those entering the state. Mr. Burns noted issues surrounding virtual school will continue into the future even after the pandemic.
33. Ms. Crowder asked if the virtual school option had an indefinite time frame and Ms. May responded that she would have to speak with her colleague, but her understanding was it lasted until completion of the course.
34. Mr. Burns explained the challenges facing California with the Purple Star Program is the criteria are self-limiting because the students are concentrated in school systems surrounding the base or installation. Mr. Najera clarified that the Purple Star School Award was discussed in California, but several people thought it would be better to designate a school district Purple Star instead of a school. Both Mr. Najera and Ms. Frisch noted there would need to be conversation with CA's DOE and legislation to make the program actionable and successful.

ITEM 7 – CLOSING REMARKS

35. Commissioner Jackson thanked the Council Members and those in attendance for their participation. He acknowledged the gap between State Council meetings but was encouraged by the groups and looks forward to working on various initiatives moving forward.
36. The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 AM PT.