



SOUTH DAKOTA STATE COUNCIL MINUTES
State Council for Educational Opportunity for Military Children
Wednesday, September 17, 2025

In-Person: Douglas School District, 400 Patriot Drive, Box Elder, SD 57719

Virtual: Via Zoom

9:00 - 9:45 AM (CT), 8:00 - 8:45 AM (MT)

PRESENT

Ann Pettit	South Dakota Commissioner MIC3
Dr. Joseph Graves	Secretary, South Dakota Dept. of Education
Col Paul Koecher	USAF, Commander, 28 MSG
Jo Anne Mulholland	Ellsworth AFB School Liaison
Jonathan Nesladek	Retired SDNG / parent representative
Daniel Swartos	Executive Director, SDHSAA

Call to Order

Commissioner Ann Pettit called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. MT.

Roll Call

Roll call was conducted by Commissioner Pettit. Attendance was recorded.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Joseph Graves moved to approve the minutes from the October 10, 2023, meeting.
Jo Anne Mulholland seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Military Interstate Compact Overview

Commissioner Pettit provided an overview of the Military Interstate Children's Compact (MIC3), which facilitates the educational transition of military-connected students. She reviewed the Compact's governing regulations and highlighted provisions that allow families to hand-carry educational records to minimize absences during relocations. She noted that students transferring from states with different kindergarten cutoffs will be placed in appropriate grade levels, graduation requirements for seniors will be honored, and comparable services will be maintained for special education and extracurricular participation.

Pettit discussed the Purple Star School Program, recognizing schools that demonstrate strong support for military-connected students. Douglas School District has earned the designation, and Meade School District is working toward the same goal. Jo Anne Mulholland noted that initiatives supporting military students also benefit all students.

The council emphasized the need for collaboration among districts to effectively support military families, particularly given anticipated growth in military-connected student enrollment. Pettit also noted her role on the MIC3 Communications Committee, which focuses on outreach to military families and school administrators about Compact resources and updates.

MIC3 Impact in South Dakota

Commissioner Pettit discussed the broader educational and economic impacts of military families in South Dakota, emphasizing that these effects extend beyond Douglas School District. She noted the

importance of preparing all districts for increased enrollment of military-connected students. Jo Anne Mulholland highlighted her role as School Liaison, supporting schools statewide, including those in remote areas.

School Liaison Report

Jo Anne Mulholland reported challenges related to the acceptance of unofficial records during school transitions and confusion surrounding course placements due to varying schedules between districts. She shared that collaboration with local counselors has been effective in addressing these issues. Mulholland also reported on grant funding for STEM opportunities and ongoing efforts to help Sturgis Elementary School achieve Purple Star School designation.

Annual Business Meeting and Financial Update

Commissioner Pettit presented an overview of MIC3's funding structure, noting that dues are based on military DEERS data at a rate of \$1.15 per dependent.

She reviewed the Compact Commission's financial status, emphasizing that operational costs have outpaced revenues due to inflation and only two dues increases in the past decade. The proposed five-year financial plan includes increasing South Dakota's annual dues from \$2,300 to \$4,000 to sustain operations.

Dr. Graves requested a consultation with Cody Stoesser, Director of the South Dakota Division of Finance and Management. The meeting took place on September 18, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. MT (4:00 p.m. CT) via Google Meet, with participation from Mr. Stoesser, Commissioner Pettit, and Dr. Graves. During the meeting, Pettit presented the ["Proposed Dues Increase Toolkit"](#) prepared by the MIC3 Finance Committee, including the 2024 ABM Finance Presentation and FY2026–2034 State Dues Projections.

Following review and discussion, South Dakota Council agreed to support the proposed dues increase at the upcoming MIC3 Annual Business Meeting in Indiana (October 2025). Dr. Graves and Mr. Stoesser requested updated communications following the meeting and continued access to financial updates and budgetary tracking.

Council Discussion and Summary

The council discussed the ongoing importance of MIC3's federal oversight and annual state council meetings. Discussion included the financial sustainability of the Compact through the proposed dues adjustment, the continued need for timely educational record transfers, and collaboration among school districts. Recognition of the Purple Star program's positive impact statewide was also noted.

The council reaffirmed its commitment to supporting military-connected students and ensuring consistent communication between state and national Compact partners.

Adjournment

Commissioner Pettit adjourned the meeting at 8:33 a.m. MT.

Attachments:

- [Minutes](#) from the October 10, 2024, State Council Meeting