

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EXCOM) MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, April 8, 2020

PRESENT	John "Don" Kaminar	Arkansas Commissioner	Chair
	Laura Anastasio	Connecticut Commissioner	Vice Chair
	Mary Gable	Maryland Commissioner	Rules
	Brian Henry	Missouri Commissioner	Comm & Outreach
	Daron Korte	Minnesota Commissioner	Compliance
	Craig Neuenswander	Kansas Commissioner	Treasurer
	Ernise Singleton	Louisiana Commissioner	Training
	Chuck Clymer	DoD Representative	Ex-Officio
STAFF	Cherise Imai	Executive Director	Secretary
	Lindsey Dablow	Training and Operations Associate	
EXCUSED	Rosemarie Kraeger	Rhode Island Commissioner	Past Chair

ITEM 1 – WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

- Chair Kaminar called the meeting to order on Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at 1:00 PM ET. Roll call was conducted by Executive Director (ED) Cherise Imai. A quorum was established.
- He expressed appreciation for Members during this busy time as they are dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic and addressing education in their respective states.

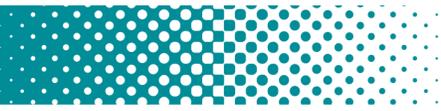
ITEM 2 – AGENDA AND MINUTES

- Treasurer Craig Neuenswander (KS) motioned to approve an amended agenda to include an update on the Kentucky Employee Retirement System (KERS) by Mr. Jason Moseley of the Council of State Governments (CSG). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mary Gable (MD). Motion carried.
- Commissioner Brian Henry (MO) motioned to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2020 meeting and seconded by Commissioner Gable. Motion carried.

ITEM 3 – REPORTS

5. **Chair – Strategic Plan** – Chair Kaminar reported he continues to contact individual Commissioners however the pandemic has delayed his progress, and he was frankly unsure if Commissioners, many of which are involved in education, would have the time or focus at this turbulent time. He will resume his calls and keep the EXCOM updated on his progress.

6. **Vice Chair** – Vice Chair Laura Anastasio (CT) reported she has been preoccupied dealing with the pandemic in her state and has not had the opportunity to reschedule the Ex-Officio meeting.



7. **Executive Director – Weekly State School Closure Information** – ED Imai reported the National Office compiled information referencing school closures and state public instruction websites for Commission reference. An updated document will be posted on the website every Monday and disseminated through Constant Contact. Chair Kaminar expressed appreciation to staff for the helpful resource and support for Member states.

8. **Executive Director – Staff Vacancy** – Due to the pandemic and teleworking from home, ED Imai has deferred on hiring a new Communications Associate at this time. She will re-evaluate once CSG provides the guidelines to return to the office. In the interim, she and Ms. Lindsey Dablow will oversee the Communication Associate responsibilities and programs.

9. **Executive Director – Website Analytics** – ED Imai reviewed the website analytics data from January-December 2019. The website had 17,564 total users, with 843 “loyal” or returning, and 17,294 new users. Of the total users, 62% users were on desktops and the remaining users on mobiles or tablets. She added one of the highlights of the migration was the WordPress platform is mobile-friendly and data emphasized the need to ensure every platform is user friendly. On average, users click on 2.5 pages, with returning users visiting 3.93 pages. She attributed the increase in users to the increase in training conducted in the past year.

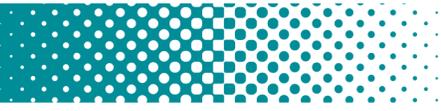
10. With the Communication Associate position new hire on hold and salary cost-savings, ED Imai will submit a proposal to the EXCOM at the May meeting to secure a vendor to finish the website migration to WordPress. Commissioner Gable expressed support for the proposal and to ensure the project is completed to meet the needs of the Commission.

11. **Communications and Outreach** – Commissioner Henry reported the Committee last met on March 4th. He stated Purple Up! and Month of the Military Child toolkit are posted on the MIC3 website. However, due to the pandemic, many school campuses have closed and were impacted. Although he was unsure of the impact on planned events and/or activities, he reported schools and districts may consider virtual events and celebrations. He further highlighted the activities in his school district which includes a virtual poster and photo contest; and he has received photos of sidewalk chalk art - and use of words such as “resilience”. He reported the Committee had approved the new Transition Video Program and reviewed their strategic plan goals as well.

12. **Compliance** – Commissioner Daron Korte (MN) reported the Committee has not met since the last EXCOM meeting and he did not have a report at this time. However due to the pandemic, he has paused on contacting Indiana on their compliance issue as the Governor’s office is likely occupied with the pandemic.

13. **Finance** – Treasurer Neuenswander directed Members attention to the reports included in the meeting packet. He reported expenditures are on target and as projected for this month.

14. **Rules** – Commissioner Gable reported the Committee met yesterday to specifically discuss the draft Policy Promulgation. While they have made progress, she anticipates finalizing the document at the next meeting on May 19. She reported Tennessee Commissioner Deanna McLaughlin proposed a rule to create a grade point system specifically for military students in their Senior year of high school. The Committee discussed the proposal challenges and in the end, did not support the proposal. Commissioner McLaughlin expressed appreciation for the discussion and stated they would deal with the issue in Tennessee.



15. Chair Kaminar expressed concern on the growing trend among some colleagues to expand the Compact, and whether Members understand the purpose of the Compact which is limited in its scope. His understanding of the Compact is as a framework to resolve educational issues that impact military children. From his perspective, Chair Kaminar did not think the Compact was developed to supplant the authority of states to oversee their education systems.

16. DOD Representative Chuck Clymer stated the topic may arise for some military parents, typically those of high performing students in which the student is a valedictorian at one location and moved to a new location. They believe the move limited their child's post-secondary opportunities. While School Liaison Officers inform that grading systems and grade point averages are not covered under the Compact, it may continue to arise to the Commissioner or National Office level.

17. **Training** – Commissioner Ernise Singleton (LA) reported the Committee has not met since the last EXCOM meeting. A meeting in March was scheduled however due to the pandemic, the meeting was postponed. The Committee will likely meet in April and she will have a full report at that time.

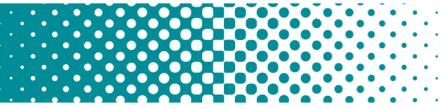
18. **Leadership Nomination Committee (LNC)** – Commissioner Rosemarie Kraeger (RI) was not present, and her report was tabled.

19. **National Guard and Reserve Task Force (NGRTF)** – Commissioner Kraeger was not present, and her report was tabled.

20. **DOD Liaison** – DOD Representative Clymer reported it has been a time of turmoil across all the services and they are focused on support services for mission essential members and keeping the installations open. Recently, the DOD implemented a Stop Movement Order. He predicts the order will be in place until August, however as the situation is evaluated continually, this may change. He estimated up to 900 families may have initiated a move prior to the stop movement was in effect, sometimes over Spring Break, and as a result, may be caught in limbo. They may have arrived at a new location and schools are closed, and while curriculum and the current school year is being addressed, there may be little information on how to handle new students. Mr. Clymer stated these situations are being addressed on a cases-by-case basis by School Liaison Officers. If schools remain closed for the remainder of the school year, concerns have been expressed about 4th quarter grading and transcripts, and how military students will be able to graduate on time – and how this will affect military students that will be impacted over the next couple of years. He stated they are viewing this as a 2 to 3-year impact and will continue monitoring the situation.

21. Chair Kaminar acknowledged Mr. Clymer's statements and agreed the impact of the pandemic will be felt for years. Regarding graduation, he was confident districts and schools will ensure students are able to graduate and do not lose credit. He added this concern is for all students, not just military – and is a national challenge. He noted while the Commission can encourage states to be supportive and ensure students are able to graduate, however the Commission does not have jurisdiction over GPA or calculations. Commissioner Gable stated Maryland had conversations with various stakeholder groups to obtain feedback and the consistent response was “do no harm”, stressing the need to find solutions that will minimize the educational impact for all students in the current school year, the Fall and in the future.

22. Mr. Clymer reported on their continued efforts to include the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration and the US Public Health Service on their council; reassessment of the Military



Representative to State Council service leads; and the status of the Military Family Life Counselors program. He also expressed appreciation by ED Imai to include a webpage for service School Liaison Officer information on the MIC3 website.

ITEM 4 – OLD BUSINESS

23. **Kentucky Employee Retirement System (KERS)** – Chair Kaminar yielded the floor to Mr. Jason Moseley, Deputy Director and Legal Counsel for the Council of State Governments (CSG) for an update on KERS. Mr. Moseley referenced his memorandum provided to the Committee. He stated in his last report to the EXCOM, CSG was awaiting unfunded liability figures and guidance on the KERS exit plan. Understandably, he continued, the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the timeline, and the Assembly has shifted the timeline forward from 2020 for exit in 2021.

24. He reported HB 171 was introduced in the 2020 Legislative Session, which would have restructured the way quasi-organizations could pay down their unfunded liability. Instead of attaching it to payroll, a lump sum would be identified and paid off in a set number years - like a mortgage payment. In examining the CSG numbers, it actually would have lowered the number for us – which includes CSG and affiliate employees. Due to the pandemic, the session ended earlier than expected, and while the Assembly will reconvene for two days on April 14-15th, they are expected to address other pressing issues, and further action on HB171 isn't anticipated at this time. He noted the Assembly extended the employer contribution rate hold at 49% to June 30, 2021. While this inaction is disappointing, the rate hold extension at this time is good for organizations.

25. Second, Mr. Moseley reported that on approval of the CSG Executive Committee, CSG applied for and was approved for the federal *Cares Act - Payroll Protection Program (PPP)*, a forgivable loan that would cover two months of payroll costs for CSG staff and affiliate employees. Mr. Moseley asked Members to contact him should they need clarification or information on KERS or PPP. With no further questions by Members, Chair Kaminar thanked Mr. Moseley for his report.

26. **April Purple Up! and Month of the Military Child** – As staff is teleworking due to the pandemic, ED Imai reported the National Office has postponed its planned Giant Jenga contest and activities for the CSG headquarters. While a couple of states have forwarded their state proclamations, they have cancelled public signings and others have moved to virtual celebrations. As Commissioner Henry stated earlier, it's unknown if any states would conduct activities with school closures, however the National Office will continue to share any activities through social media.

27. **My Navy Family App** – ED Imai reported the app is being updated now and the company will notify us once it has been completed.

28. **Solicitation Emails to the Commission** – Chair Kaminar reported there was concern expressed by several Commissioners regarding colleagues using the Commission contact information, in particular business emails, for personal solicitation and purchasing of goods. As the role on the Commission is part-time, he acknowledged Members are often involved in other activities, such as a full-time job or other programming. He stated that although Members have external projects, he was cautious about the use of Commission resources to promote them – especially if other Members share and express concern. He reported the emails seem to have stopped, although he was unsure if it was due to the pandemic or other causes – therefore he concluded the issue was closed.

29. **Identifying State Best Practices and Promotion** – Chair Kaminar stated this item was assigned to the EXCOM in the strategic plan. He reviewed the Google Form document as a sample for the collection process. He noted the need for a review process and how the information would be made available to Members. He asked Members to review the document and provide feedback to himself and ED Imai. Commissioner Singleton stated the information is straight-forward and allows gathering of information. She suggested defining the term “best practice”. Commissioner Korte requested a list of the categories be provided. The document will be revised and presented for discussion at the next meeting. **(OPEN ITEM)**

30. **Tier Group Utilization and Matrix Proposal** – ED Imai reviewed the draft proposal. Due to time constraints, A email will be sent to Members to collect feedback and revisions for discussion at the next meeting. **(OPEN ITEM)**

31. **Memo on Commissioner Orzalli ABM Inquiry: DOD Ex-Officio Language** – ED Imai stated this is an open item from the Annual Business Meeting in October. Commissioner Orzalli requested background and citation information of the inability for the DOD Representative to make operational decisions on the Commission or vote on the EXCOM – specifically why were they unable to [participate in the EXCOM strategic plan session in April 2019. She referenced the white paper and requested approval by the EXCOM to forward the document to Commissioner Orzalli. Treasurer Neuenswander motioned to approve, second by Commissioner Korte. Motion carried.

32. **Mid-Year Survey** – ED Imai reviewed the questions from the 2018 Survey and Members identified several questions that were no longer relevant. A revised draft will be discussed at the next meeting. **(OPEN ITEM)**

ITEM 5 – NEW BUSINESS

33. **Commission Guidance on COVID-19** – Chair Kaminar referenced a recent email sent to all Commission Members from Commissioner Shelley Joan Weiss (WI) requesting Guidance on the COVID-19 Pandemic for Member States. He stated the email topics were wide ranging and included topics which are not covered under the Compact. A guidance was drafted, which include some of the items referenced in Commissioner Weiss’ inquiry, and presented for Committee review. Members agreed the Guidance is helpful, timely, and provides appropriate information for Commissioners.

34. Members agreed that while the Commission is concerned about the pandemic and impact on all students, the response and solutions reside with respective states and local school districts. They agreed the Commission, and the Compact, has a limited legal authority and scope. Members agreed supporting flexibility and understanding at this time was the best course of action. With a majority of Compact Commissioners in full-time positions in education departments, agencies, and districts – they are managing the pandemic and response to the best of their ability with the appropriate officials in their states. It was also acknowledges that the pandemic is not an isolated situation, and all states - and the world - are dealing with the pandemic and impact to their communities. Commissioner Singleton motioned to approve the document, seconded by Commissioner Henry. Motion carried.

ITEM 6 - OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

35. **2020 Annual Business Meeting** – ED Imai reported staff is researching the Little Rock hotel protocols and guidance on holding the meeting in-person, and a second alternative to hold a virtual



meeting in October. She stated connecting with the hotel staff has been a challenge, as they were sent home or no longer with the company. She reported a virtual meeting is an option, and staff is researching how this could be conducted as well as the cost and logistics associated with this. She stated more information will be available at the next meeting. (OPEN ITEM)

36. With no other business to conduct on the agenda, Members agreed to conclude today's meeting, and the second call scheduled for tomorrow was cancelled.

37. No additional business or announcements were brought before the EXCOM.

ITEM 7 – ADJOURNMENT

38. There being no further business to conduct, Chair Kaminar adjourned the meeting at 2:48PM ET.

Respectfully submitted by,
Cherise Imai
Secretary/Executive Director