



ALABAMA STATE COUNCIL
Friday, August 7, 2020

PRESENT	Dr. Douglas L. Ragland Terry Roller Kim Kozel Maj Gen Sheryl Gordon Dr. Diane C. Flournoy Erika Lewis Patrick Mantell Wanda Cooper William Travis Kim Vickers Jake Easter	Compact Commissioner Chair Chief Administrative Officer, AL State Dept. of Ed. DoD Representative & School Liaison, Fort Rucker Alabama National Guard School & Community Stakeholder School Resource Officer, Redstone Arsenal Communication Specialist & Military Advisor, Dept. of Ed. School Liaison, Maxwell Gunter AFB Alabama National Guard Assistant Director, AL High School Athletics Association Representative for Nick Moore, Office of the Governor
STAFF	Cherise Imai Lindsey Dablow	MIC3 Executive Director MIC3 Training & Operations Assoc.
EXCUSED	Dr. Eric Mackey Rep. Will Dismukes Dave Pope Dr. Lisa Stamps Steve Savarese	State Superintendent of Education Alabama State House of Representatives AL State Department of Education Superintendent of Daleville City Schools Executive Director, AL High School Athletics Association

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM CT by Alabama Compact Commissioner and Chair Dr. Douglas L. Ragland. Dr. Ragland welcomed the members and provided opening remarks. The Chair directed MIC3 Training and Operations Associate Lindsey Dablow to call roll. A quorum was established.

ITEM 2 – AGENDA AND MINUTES

2. Ms. Kim Kozel motioned to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Patrick (Pat) Mantell. Motion carried.

3. Maj Gen Sheryl Gordon motioned to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wanda Cooper. Motion carried.

ITEM 3 – NEW BUSINESS

4. **Pandemic Impact on Education** – Commissioner Ragland introduced Mr. Terry Roller and asked him to provide an update on Alabama’s current education situation as impact by the COVID-19

pandemic. Mr. Roller acknowledged Commissioner Ragland's remarks and expressed appreciation for the state council.

5. Alabama schools closed around March 16, 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Department of Education began working with other agencies, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Public health, and established a task force to work on the best practices for reopening. The committee included various stakeholder groups and it reached out to other states that had experienced natural disasters, acts of terrorism, or other types of disasters that impacted education and caused school districts to close for a period. The Members considered teaching/learning, safety, and wellness that combined to address instruction, technology, operations, and facilities. The roadmap developed was a guidance so best practices could be applied to the various school ecosystems within the state.
6. All school districts had to submit their reopening plans to the state Department of Education. Every plan could be modified based on the most recent health and wellness guidance. There are three types of school instructional models: remote/virtual, traditional, and blended.
7. Remote or virtual learning is being implemented in several school districts. The term "Remote Learning" is referring to both remote and virtual learning because of areas that have difficulty with broadband and Wi-Fi hotspot access. Teachers in those areas are providing pen and paper instruction where the student stays home and is provided their work by school staff.
8. Traditional learning is exactly what it indicates. Students will return to face-to-face instruction with health and wellness guidelines in place. Finally, the blended model is a hybrid of in-person and remote learning. The terminology of "A and B Day," "modified day," or "rotating day" refers to face-to-face instruction that does not take place every single day of the school week.
9. Alabama's Department of Education is considering the needs of families, students, staff, and teachers. Multiple factors come into play when one considers what takes place during the school week from home health checks, social distancing on buses, comfort level of teachers, cleaning of school facilities, online learning platforms, to expanding Wi-Fi access. Availability of funding factors into the State and local school's ability to implement health and wellness guidance and affects the timeline for schools to reopen. Mr. Roller concluded his report.
10. Commissioner Ragland asked if there was any legislation related to military-connected students passed during the previous legislative session. Mr. Roller informed the Members that Senate Bill (SB) 143, provides military dependents will be deemed residents of the State of Alabama for the purposes of enrolling and attending k-12 virtual schools located in the United States when the military member is ordered to relocate to Alabama.
11. **School District/Community Updates** – Commissioner Ragland echoed Mr. Roller's sentiments regarding the everchanging environment around education due to the pandemic. He noted his school district's start date is delayed until September 8, 2020, due to shipment delays for students' Chromebooks.
12. Dr. Diane Flournoy gave an update on Dale County Schools; she noted the area is experiencing a steady climb in the number of COVID-19 cases. She noted Dothan City Schools will begin September

8, 2020, and Dale County Schools will begin on August 14, 2020, and Daleville City Schools will begin on August 28, 2020.

13. Ms. Erika Lewis noted the three districts in her area, Huntsville City Schools, Madison County Schools, and Madison City Schools have various start dates and they will all begin remotely for the first nine weeks. She noted the COVID-19 numbers were leveling out, but administrators deemed it best for the students to begin remotely.

14. Ms. Wanda Cooper gave an update on Montgomery County Schools. She noted it had been a hot-spot for COVID-19. Montgomery County will begin on August 10, 2020, with virtual instruction. She reported Pike Road will begin on August 20, 2020, and Elmore will open on August 10, 2020, with a blended learning environment. She said Maxwell School on the installation, will open on August 24, 2020, but the students will not attend face to face unless the health protection condition "Charlie" is changed by the base.

15. **Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) Update, Kim Vickers** – Ms. Kim Vickers thanked the State Council for allowing her to give an update. She noted last year, in the 2019 AHSAA July meeting, there was much discussion about the enrollment of military students. There was an agreement between four school districts in the area of the Maxwell Air Force Base and Gunter Annex Base that military dependents can choose between any of the four schools and that is where their athletic eligibility will be established. Another rule that passed is that any student can transfer to any school that will accept him and her and they will be immediately eligible for sub-varsity athletics. She noted after one year of attendance, students will be eligible for varsity athletics.

16. Ms. Vickers noted dependent children of full-time classroom teachers or administrators can transfer to the school where the parent works and be immediately eligible. She reported these new by-laws will give more opportunity for military dependents.

17. Ms. Vickers reported summer athletic workouts were allowed beginning in June with a list of best practices. The fall season will begin as planned with the first contest date being August 20, 2020. She noted a few schools have cancelled or delayed their athletic seasons and the schools will not be penalized for doing so due to the pandemic. She said less than 5% of member schools made the decision not to participate in fall sports. The "Best Practice" Return to Play document is available on the AHSAA website if anyone would like to view it.

18. **Governor's Office** – Mr. Jake Easter, representative for Nick Moore from the Alabama Governor's Office gave an update. He noted Alabama Governor Kay Ivey has a desire to make Alabama the top state for military children in the country. He said they are committed to working with several of the National Guard and military installations to improve access to quality education and recreation. He apologized for the cancellation of the Air and Space Show due to the pandemic. Mr. Easter reminded the council members he is a point of contact for the Governor's office.

19. **Dues paid in full for Fiscal Year 2020** – Dr. Ragland noted Alabama is current with their MIC3 dues. The 2020 dues of \$11,084 were paid on November 13, 2019.

20. **Dues Increase of \$1.15 Approved at 2019 ABM** – Dr. Ragland reported the dues will increase slightly to \$1.15 per dependent for Fiscal Year 2021. He noted the dues increase was voted

on at the 2019 Annual Business Meeting. He thanked Dr. Eric Mackey for the Department of Education's support for the program.

ITEM 4 – REPORTS

21. **National Commission** – Cherise Imai, Executive Director of MIC3, gave a report on the current Strategic Plan. She reviewed the FY 2020 Case and Inquiry Summary where most cases were not applicable to the Compact and could be resolved or redirected to another agency. She noted most cases came from states highly impacted by the military.

22. She noted in 2019 there was an inquiry from the MIC3 Utah Commissioner to expand coverage to all National Guard and Reserve dependents. A task force was formed, and the recommendation will be announced at the 2020 Annual Business Meeting. ED Imai announced the 2020 ABM will be held virtually on October 1-2, 2020, and there is no cost to attend.

23. ED Imai noted the National Office releases a weekly update with COVID-19 Information and Guidance on School Closures and Reopening.

24. **School Liaison Officers Reports** – Ms. Cooper, School Liaison at Maxwell AFB, thanked the MIC3 National Office and Ms. Dablow for assisting her in offering two training webinars for school personnel and parents.

25. She stated Pike Road School District will accept out of district enrollment for military students and Autauga School District will accept a limited number of out of district students. Ms. Cooper reported the Compact cases she received were resolved at the state level. She noted one case involved a student highly active in competitive cheerleading. Due to the fact she missed the tryout, she was able to submit a video recording the tryout according to the same standards as the other students. Ms. Cooper noted this was resolved due to the provisions of the Compact for extracurricular activities.

26. Ms. Cooper reviewed another resolved Compact case involving a student's transfer from Alabama to Texas. She noted it was a lengthy case with many parties involved and the student was a dependent of a reservist with Title 10 orders. The student received a reciprocal diploma from her Alabama high school. Ms. Cooper thanked Mr. Roller from the Alabama Department of Education who worked hard to resolve this case successfully. Mr. Roller praised Ms. Cooper for her outstanding work in completing this case and mentioned the family was very pleased with the resolution. Ms. Cooper reminded council members the Compact works if you stay committed to it and see the process through.

27. Ms. Kozel, School Liaison at Fort Rucker, reported they have handled several small cases at their level. She noted she is working with the local school district with transportation, after-school programs, and a virtual-learning program for military students.

28. Ms. Erica Lewis, the new School Liaison at Redstone Arsenal reported she is partnering with schools to disseminate information regarding the COVID-19 impact on the school system. She noted she is a military spouse and her daughter missed tryouts for the Spring and was able to get a late tryout for the Varsity Basketball team due to the Compact. She noted schools often need a reminder of the Compact and why it is necessary to follow its provisions.

29. Commissioner Ragland thanked the School Liaisons for their excellent work and support of the Compact.

ITEM 5 – ADJOURNMENT

30. With no further business before the council, Ms. Kozel motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Flournoy seconded the motion. Commissioner Ragland adjourned the meeting at 11:23 AM CT.