

MISSISSIPPI STATE COUNCIL MINUTES
Thursday, May 23, 2024

PRESENT

Rep. Kevin Felsher	Legislative Representative
Rep. Rob Roberson	Legislative Representative, House Education Chair
Allen Williams	Bureau Director, Mississippi Dept. of Education, and JROTC
Kristen Windham	Compact Commissioner

NOT PRESENT

Marcus Boudreaux	Superintendent, Biloxi School District
Rep. Richard Bennet	Legislative Representative
Sen. Dennis Debar	Legislative Representative, Senate Education Chair
Ray Morgigno	Interim State Superintendent, Mississippi Dept. of Education
Linda Gates	Civilian

MIC3 STAFF

Cherise Imai	Executive Director
Lindsey Dablow	Operations and Training Associate
Allie Thomas	Operations Coordinator

GENERAL ATTENDEES

Gerry Cross	School Liaison, Kessler Air Force Base
Larry Mullins	School Liaison, Meridian Naval Air Station
Amber Meiborg	School Liaison, Columbus Air Force Base
Lance Evans	State Superintendent, Mississippi Dept. of Education

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

MIC3 Compact Commissioner and Council Chair Kristen Windham called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM ET. She welcomed members and attendees to the meeting.

ITEM 2 – ROLL CALL

MIC3 Operations Coordinator Allie Thomas conducted the roll call.

ITEM 3 – MISSISSIPPI COMPACT OVERVIEW

Chair Windham introduced new members to the State Council and explained the purpose of the Compact to the members. The state council for Mississippi had not been active since 2022 and was restructured when Governor Reeves took office. Chair Windham reported two legislative bills had passed the legislative session this year that affected the education of military children: House Bill 1341 and House Bill 1450. The author of both bills attended the meeting as a member of the State Council.

ITEM 4 – NATIONAL OFFICE UPDATES

Chair Windham yielded the floor to Executive Director (ED) Cherise Imai. ED Imai provided an overview of the Compact, the dues formula, and the services that the national office provides to the Commission. Two new Compact Rules and three amendments to existing Rules were

introduced and passed this year, and the Commission discussed moving the Annual Business Meeting (ABM) to be held virtually for future years. The next ABM will be held in-person in Albuquerque, New Mexico in October 2024. The Compact released the online training portal in November 2023 and continues to provide in-person training to state liaisons, Commissioners, and military parents when requested.

ITEM 5 – SCHOOL LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Larry Mullins from Meridian Naval Air Station reported that all but one school in Lauderdale County had been designated Military Star schools. The final school is expected to apply for the Military Star school designation within the next year.

Ms. Amber Meiborg from Columbus Air Force Base reported that eight schools gained the Military Star school designation this year to total twelve schools altogether for Columbus. Five of the schools that joined this year were public schools and three schools were private.

Mr. Gerald Cross from Kessler Air Force Base had connection issues with the meeting audio and Ms. Mona Odom from Gulfport Construction Battalion did not attend the meeting. No reports were provided for their school districts.

ITEM 6 – OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Windham yielded the floor to Representative Kevin Felsher to provide an update on House Bill 1341. The bill amends the current law that allows active-duty service members who live on base to choose the district and school that their children attend. House Bill 1341 clarifies who is classified as active duty and permits the school district to determine capacity when declining to enroll incoming student requests. A clarification letter was approved to be sent to the Mississippi Department of Education. Chair Windham stated she would forward the letter to the School Liaisons once she had received it.

ITEM 7 – NEXT MEETING

Chair Windham announced the next State Council meeting will be held in August 2024. A poll will be provided to members with options for availability to determine the exact date and time.

ITEM 8 – ADJOURNMENT

With no further items or questions to discuss, Chair Windham adjourned the meeting at 2:24 PM ET.