

MISSOURI STATE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM CT

Present

- Dr. Brian Henry, Missouri Compact Commissioner
- Hilary Bales, Superintendent, Waynesville School District
- Joan Barrett, Military Child Education Coalition (ret.)
- Dr. Karla Eslinger, Commissioner of Education, MO DESE
- John Finnane, Assistant Superintendent, Warrensburg School District
- Todd Fraley, Superintendent, Sedalia School District
- Dorsey Newcomb, Executive Director of the Sustainable Ozarks Partnership
- Bridget Plummer, School Liaison, Fort Leonard Wood
- Jocelyn Strand, Administrator, Improvement and Accountability, MO DESE
- Jerrod Wheeler, Superintendent, Knob Noster School District
- Lindsey Dablow, Operations and Training Associate, MIC3
- Cherise Imai, Executive Director, MIC3
- Allie Thomas, Operations Coordinator, MIC3

Not Present

- Senator Justin Brown, Missouri State Senate
- Representative Bill Hardwick, Missouri House of Representatives
- Renea Lazzarini, Military Representative, Deputy Commander, Fort Leonard Wood
- Harry Roberts, Missouri Military Advocate
- Janice Scott, Whiteman Air Force Base Representative

Call to Order

Compact Commissioner Henry called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM CT.

Roll Call

A roll call was conducted, and a quorum was established. Commissioner Henry introduced Dr. Karla Eslinger as the new Commissioner of Education at the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (MO DESE) and newest State Council member.

Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Jerrod Wheeler motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. John Finnane. The motion carried.

Approval of the January 19, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Mr. Wheeler motioned to approve the minutes from June 28, 2024, seconded by Ms. Hilary Bales. The motion carried.

MIC3 Annual Business Meeting (ABM) Debrief

- Commissioner Henry reported that Ms. Bales attended the 2024 ABM as his proxy and yielded the floor to her. Ms. Bales stated she had no extensive report to make and the meeting was very efficient. She reported that Ms. Bridget Plummer attended the meeting with her and they both learned a lot about the Compact and how the Commission operates.

2025 Month of the Military Child Kickoff Event

- Commissioner Henry reported the Kickoff Event for the 2025 Month of the Military Child would be held in the Missouri State Capitol rotunda on April 1, 2025. He asked Ms. Bales and Mr. Wheeler to extend an invitation to their installation leadership to speak at the event. Waynesville and Knob Noster school districts alternate their JROTC flag corps, and it is the latter in 2025. Mr. Wheeler said he would check on their availability. Commissioner Henry hoped that Governor Parson would be able to attend. Dr. Eslinger confirmed that she was scheduled to attend and offered to speak at the event. Commissioner Henry said he would invite Joe Driskill to attend as a dignitary, and as a former member of the council. Mr. Finanne offered to contact Congressman Eric Sorensen on his availability as well. Members were asked to arrive 30 minutes prior to the start of the event.

Citation Correction

- Commissioner Henry reported on the status of the citation correction submitted to the House of Representatives two years ago. The House Committee determined the correction needed to follow the legislative process which required a bill. The representatives were wary about changing the statute language and wanted to avoid using it as a vehicle for adding other verbiage into the Compact. Commissioner Henry stated he was in contact with Joe Driskill, Military Advocate for the State of Missouri, who will reach out to the House Chair for Veterans and Military Affairs to work on a consent bill, which does not allow for any amendments to the requested language correction. Dr. Eslinger advised that it would be best to have a Senator or Representative champion the bill or add it as an amendment to an already filed bill for the upcoming legislative session. She agreed avoiding the Education Committee was the best approach.

Proposed Dues Increase

- Commissioner Henry provided an overview of the Commission's dues history and the Finance Committee's work in 2024, including a revised Reserve Fund policy, a five-year budget planning process, and a dues increase draft. He presented information from the Commission Treasurer that outlined the fiscal planning timeline and the reasoning for a projected dues increase. Ms. Bales stated the Treasurer's presentation at the 2024 ABM thoroughly explained the process and rationale, and the recommendation was well received by the states. Ms. Bales, Mr. Wheeler, Mr. Finnane, and Mr. Todd Fraley stated their support of a dues increase.

Other Items From the Council

- No items were received from the council members.

Next Meeting

- Commissioner Henry reported the State Council would meet again in the summer of 2025.

Adjournment

Mr. Wheeler motioned to adjourn the meeting, by Ms. Bales. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:56 AM CT.