

**2020 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, October 1, 2020**

Call to Order

National Commission Chair John I. "Don" Kaminar (AR) called the meeting to order on Thursday, October 1, 2020 at 12:02 PM EST.

Housekeeping Items

Chair Kaminar discussed various housekeeping items regarding the virtual meeting. Attendees were asked to mute their microphones unless speaking, utilize the chat box if they desire to speak and asked to identify themselves when speaking. He discussed voting procedures and asked attendees to respond with "yes" or "aye", no when voting no, abstaining from a vote to

Roll Call

Executive Director (ED) Cherise Imai called the roll, and a quorum was established.

IN ATTENDANCE

STATE	SAL	NAME	STATE	SAL	NAME
ALABAMA	Dr.	Douglas Ragland	NEW HAMPSHIRE	Dr.	Kathleen Murphy
ALASKA	Mr.	Terry Ryals	NEW JERSEY	Mr.	Jim Sarruda*
ARIZONA	Mr.	Bruce DuPlanty	NEW MEXICO	Ms.	Teresa Ferenczhalmy
ARKANSAS	Mr.	John I. "Don" Kaminar	NEW YORK	Dr.	Debra Jackson
CALIFORNIA	Mr.	Khieem Jackson	NORTH CAROLINA	Mr.	Nick Sojka, Jr.
COLORADO	Dr.	Keith Owen	NORTH DAKOTA	Ms.	Davina French
CONNECTICUT	Ms.	Laura Anastasio	OHIO	Mr.	Pete LuPiba
DELAWARE	Dr.	Susan Haberstroh	OKLAHOMA	Dr.	Darrell Floyd
FLORIDA	Mr.	Bob Buehn	OREGON	Ms.	Cindy Hunt
GEORGIA	Dr.	Will Hardin	PENNSYLVANIA	Ms.	Barbara Clemmer*
HAWAII	Dr.	Kathleen Berg	RHODE ISLAND	Ms.	Rosemarie Kraeger
IDAHO	Mr.	Tim McMurtrey	SOUTH CAROLINA	Ms.	Yolande Anderson
ILLINOIS	Dr.	Darcy Benway	SOUTH DAKOTA	Mr.	Alan Kerr
IOWA		VACANT	TENNESSEE	Ms.	Deanna McLaughlin
KANSAS	Mr.	Craig Neuenswander	TEXAS	Ms.	Shelly Ramos
KENTUCKY	Mr.	Steven Bullard	UTAH	Mr.	Ben Rasmussen
LOUISIANA	Dr.	Ernise Singleton	VIRGINIA	Mr.	Daniel Dunham
MAINE	Mr.	Tyler Backus	WASHINGTON	Mr.	Gregory Lynch
MARYLAND	Ms.	Mary Gable	WEST VIRGINIA	Mr.	Chris Cmiel
MASSACHUSETTS	Mr.	Clarke Orzalli	WISCONSIN	Ms.	Shelley Joan Weiss
MICHIGAN	Mr.	Michael Price	WYOMING	Mr.	Chad Delbridge
MINNESOTA	Mr.	Daron Korte	USDOD REP**	Mr.	Chuck Clymer
MISSOURI	Dr.	Brian Henry	MCEC**	Dr.	David Splitok
MONTANA	Mr.	"Hal" Stearns	MISA**	Mr.	Kyle Fairbairn
NEBRASKA	Mr.	Brian Halstead	NFHS**	Mr.	Davis Whitfield
NEVADA	Ms.	Felicia Gonzales	NMFA**	Ms.	Nicole Russell

*Proxy, ** Ex-officio (non-voting member)

MIC3 National Office

1. Cherise Imai, Executive Director
2. Lindsey Dablow, Training and Operations Associate
3. Brian Dablow, Special Support for ABM
4. Rick Masters, General Counsel

NOT IN ATTENDANCE

STATE	SAL	NAME
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	Ms.	Lakeeshia Fox
INDIANA		VACANT
MISSISSIPPI		VACANT
VERMONT	Mr.	David Young

Note: Due to a conflict in his schedule, Commissioner Brian Halstead left the meeting at 12:46 PM EST and returned at 3:47 PM EST.

Welcome Remarks

Chair Kaminar noted that the environment we are operating in with the pandemic reminded him of his early days in the military in Germany in the 1980's. Wearing protective equipment, decontaminate equipment, and spreading out. He reminded the members that the mission has not changed. Chair Kaminar stated, "We address key educational transition issues encountered by children of military families through the interstate compact." He explained that the organization has lawful authority by the compact statutes, which are the support by which the Compact operates, but also can be limiting. He thanked the members for being dedicated to the students and solving issues for them. He mentioned the partners the Commission has including the Ex-Officio partners, school liaisons from every branch of the service, partners in the Department of Defense Activity, and school administrators, counselors, and teachers who make things better for the military children. He thanked everyone for their dedication and passion for the mission.

Agenda

Commissioner Brian Halstead (NE) motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Davina French (ND). The motion carried.

Minutes

Commissioner Ben Rasmussen (UT) motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Greg Lynch (WA). The motion carried.

Public Comment

ED Imai informed the Commission two members of the public submitted written comments in advance of the meeting. ED Imai indicated that Leslie Janaros was ready to address the Commission. Ms. Janaros addresses the Commission regarding Agenda Item 14B, relating to compliance. She spoke as an Air Force veteran, military wife, and parent of seven children regarding the state of Texas' compliance with MIC3. She is part of the San Antonio Education Initiative which aims to tackle systemic issues in the education of military children in San Antonio and the state of Texas. She noted that the MIC3 website has a council listed for the state of Texas, but that website notes that the council has never met. The compact requirement

is that each state council meet once per fiscal year. Texas was the 16th state to join the Compact, but it has never had a council meeting. She stated that she believes Texas should be found to be in default of the Compact Rules Section 2.105 titled "State Councils" and Section 7.103 "Defaulting Actions Against a Defaulting State." She asked the MIC3 National Commission to take appropriate actions to make sure states are upholding the requirements of the Compact and also to share best practices across states.

ED Imai indicated that Stacy Allsbrook-Huisman was ready to address the Commission. Ms. Allsbrook-Huisman introduced herself as an Air Force spouse and mother to two military-connected children residing in Virginia. She explained that she is a journalist and freelance writer who has covered military-connected students in public education for more than a decade. She noted that she frequently talks with military-connected parents and students. She said parents are grateful for states that have stepped up and follow the Compact. She expressed concern that entire school districts and administrators are still not aware of the Compact and referred to this as "a failure." She implored the Commissioners to create more awareness of the Compact and to embrace the Purple Star School model that started in Ohio.

Ms. Allsbrook-Huisman stated her second area of concern is the lack of credits transferring from middle school to high school from state to state. She noted that all middle schools offer some classes for high school credit and that military-connected students are being "blindsided" by high schools not accepting these credits. She explained that it is not worth it for military-connected students to take these courses if they won't be accepted in high school and asked the Commission to "offer meaningful relief" in the Compact or to address this with school counselors to guide parents.

Lastly, Ms. Allsbrook-Huisman stated that MIC3 needs additional stakeholders such as the National Association of School Counselors and possibly the National Parent Teacher Association. She said training needs to go to the front lines. She stated that the Commission needs to step up with better awareness and professional development of the Compact to better support military families. She concluded by thanking the Commissioners for what they do.

Committee Reports

Leadership Nomination Committee (LNC) - Chair Kaminar yielded the floor to Commissioner Rosemarie Kraeger (RI), the LNC Chair. Chair Kraeger referenced a set of slides developed by the LNC. She referred to the Organization Timeline slide and noted MIC3 celebrated the adoption of the Compact by all 50 states and DC in 2014 which she called a "milestone." She pointed out the organization's first Strategic Plan was adopted in 2016 and the second Strategic Plan was adopted in 2019. These plans gave the Commission clear goals in order to fulfill its mission of successful educational transitions for military students.

Chair Kraeger referenced MIC3's bylaws (Article 3, Section 1) which lays out the framework for elections and succession. The Commission has offices of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasure, and the Past Chairperson. She noted that the Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer are elected yearly by the Commission and serve for one year or until their successors are elected by the Commission. She credited the great leadership of the past officers and organizational leadership growth.

Chair Kraeger said the goals of the LNC are to establish a sustainable culture and to ensure organizational continuity. She stated that the LNC took a careful look at the nominations and desired to provide clarity on the requirements of each position. They also wanted to provide a diverse representation of the group. She discussed the key outcomes from the member surveys from 2017-2018, 2018-2019, and 2019-2020 which have made the election process stronger.

Chair Kraeger listed the LNC members. She said the committee is diverse, easily comes together to make decisions, and trusts their Executive Director's encouragement and suggestions. The Committee's desire is to be transparent and inclusive in the nomination process and complete the work with "due diligence."

Chair Kraeger thanked the LNC committee members for their hard work and leadership.

The LNC met four times and will meet once after the 2020 annual Business Meeting (ABM). The following Commissioners served on the LNC:

1. Chad Delbridge (WY)
2. Debra Jackson (NY)
3. Greg Lynch (WA)
4. Deanna McLaughlin (TN)
5. Tim McMurtrey (ID)
6. Douglas Ragland (AL)
7. Tony Trongone (NJ)

Chair Kraeger yielded the floor to Commissioner Greg Lynch (WA) to discuss the election process. Commissioner Lynch explained the normal election timeline and said that due to the COVID-19 pandemic the LNC suggested in a July 5, 2020 email to stabilize the leadership that the current Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer serve a third term. Re-electing the current Commissioners to another term would provide continuity of services to the Commission and military families during the uncertainty of the pandemic. He noted that due to the COVID environment the vote would be virtual at the ABM. Commissioner Lynch explained that ballots would be disseminated that day to members at 4:00 PM EST and would need to be returned by 12:00 AM EST. He encouraged members to vote and explained that if a vote is not received it will be considered an abstention. He said the LNC anticipated they would announce the election results tomorrow, October 2, 2020. He encouraged members with questions to submit them via the chat feature.

Commissioner Lynch mentioned there was one ballot per commissioner/designee/or proxy attendee. Commissioner Lynch noted there would be a Candidate Meet and Greet on Zoom. He then referenced the slide that listed the current candidates and stated they would accept nominations for the floor.

Commissioner Lynch presented the slate of candidates for 2020 election of officers.
For the position of Treasurer: Craig Neuenswander (KS). There were no additional nominations for the Treasurer position.

Commissioner Debra Jackson (NY) motioned to nominate Commissioner Craig Neuenswander for Treasurer, seconded by Brian Henry (MO). Motion carried.

Commissioner Lynch congratulated Commissioner Neuenswander on another term as Treasurer.

For the position of Vice Chair: Laura Anastasio (CT). From the floor, Commissioner Yolande Anderson (SC) nominated Davina French (ND) for Vice Chair, seconded by Commissioner Shelley Joan Weiss (WI). Commissioner French (ND) accepted the nomination.

For the position of Chair: John I. "Don" Kaminar (AR) and Pete LuPiba (OH). There were no additional nominations for the Chair position.

Candidate Remarks for Position of Vice Chair

Commissioner Lynch stated that each candidate had the opportunity to address the Commission. He stated comments would begin with the incumbents and they would be given two minutes.

Commissioner Anastasio – Commissioner Anastasio said the past two years had been a wonderful learning experience on the Executive Committee. She said she was happy to serve for another year and delighted to continue with the work they have done. Vice Chair Anastasio said they are in the process of setting up the tier groups and compiling the success stories of the Compact. She stated working with the Ex-Officio members has been valuable and her experience as an attorney in Connecticut's Department of Education provides perspective as Vice Chair.

Commissioner French – Commissioner French stated North Dakota is a small state with 3,000 military kids, but she has focused her career on the MIC3 on the national level. She gave credit to her mentors Commissioner Kathy Berg (HI) and Commissioner Rosemarie Kraeger for helping her along the way. She stated she is a military retiree now and though she doesn't have children of her own, she is passionate about children and has time to serve. She closed by recognizing Commissioner Anastasio for the wonderful job she had done as Vice Chair for the past two years.

Commissioner Lynch opened up the floor for any questions for the candidates. The Commissioner from Tennessee Deanna McLaughlin directed her question to both Vice Chair candidates "What would you have done during COVID-19?"

Responses

Commissioner Anastasio – Commissioner Anastasio responded that during COVID-19 military transfers were halted so the Commission's role was somewhat limited. She stated the most important thing is to gear up in your state for transfers during this awkward time. She said it's important to continue with the communication and outreach in our local states and to inform our Commissioners on how to prepare for the eventual moves.

Commissioner French – Commissioner French responded that knowing there were several stop-losses across the country she would have reached out to the DODEA and the DOD to see which states were being impacted the most. Additionally, she stated she would look at the National Guard and Reserve since there were 100,000 Guard soldiers deployed on United

States soil. Commissioner French said fifty states with fifty answers could have used fifty phone calls.

This concluded the questions for the candidates for the position of Vice Chair.

Candidate Remarks for Position of Chair

Commissioner John I. “Don” Kaminar (AR) – Commissioner Kaminar thanked everyone for their confidence in him, thanking Commissioner Anastasio as Vice Chair, the Executive Committee, and the National Staff. He stated he wasn't initially inclined to run for a third year but thought some stability would be helpful. He clarified that stability doesn't mean the Commission doesn't grow and change. He said the Commission has considerable work ahead of it, starting with the recommendations of the National Guard and Reserve Task Force to extend coverage to Reserve component families, which will take a lot of work if approved. Additionally, he stated the eighth branch of the uniform services, the United States Space Force, which also needs to be included. He said partner organizations would need to be brought in to grow the Compact and continue the work of extending coverage to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) and the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS). He noted the Commission has the team in place to bring these projects to fruition.

Commissioner Pete LuPiba (OH) – Commissioner LuPiba opened his remarks by thanking everyone for the chance to address the Commission. He stated he is an Iraq war combat veteran and serves as the Deputy Director and Chief Communications Officer for Office of Budget and Management in Ohio. He stated he founded the Purple Star Schools Initiative that has been implemented by more than 25 percent of the member states. Commissioner LuPiba says change is always happening, regardless of a pandemic. He stated that MIC3 needs a Chief Communications Officer as its Executor. He said his plan is to build partnerships and deliver training to those actually talking to transitioning military families, such as school counselors, principals, and military command leaders. He said Ohio does this with 300 school-based personnel with MIC3 knowledge.

Commissioner Lynch opened up the floor for any questions for the candidates.

Question

Commissioner Deanna McLaughlin (TN) directed her question to both candidates for the position of Chair, ***“What has been done to work with DOD to get MIC3 training from basic training to advanced leadership courses so that our military service members are equipped with the Compact?”***

Responses

Commissioner Kaminar – Commissioner Kaminar responded that the Commission is in the process of doing so by reaching out to the service branches to indicate the importance that information on MIC3 is made available as part of in processing briefings and training courses. He said he is hopeful that the services will embrace this, and it will be a part of every married member's portfolio when they come and go from installations.

Commissioner LuPiba – Commissioner LuPiba responded it is essential to reach out to base commanding officers, where military families are going. Starting on day one, he would

recommend reaching out to each base's commanding officer to provide information on the Compact.

Question

Commissioner Henry asked both candidates ***“Do you support our current national staff and what do you perceive their role to be?”***

Responses

Commissioner Kaminar – Commissioner Kaminar stated he “absolutely” supports the national staff because they do the day-to-day work that allows MIC3 to function. He said what the national staff does may be invisible, but the mid-year survey responses indicated how well the staff does and how quickly they respond to requests from the states. He said one of the challenges the national staff faces is being overburdened with things that aren't related to keeping the Commission running.

Commissioner LuPiba – Commission LuPiba stated that the Commission supports the staff, and the staff supports the Commission. He said the staff members are their collaborators, just like the 51 Commissioners.

Question

Commissioner Cindy Hunt (OR) asked both candidates ***“What do you see as the biggest challenge facing the Commission in the next year? How would you work to address this challenge?”***

Responses

Commissioner Kaminar – Commissioner Kaminar said he believes the biggest challenge facing the Commission this next year will be expanding the Compact to include National Guard and Reserve families and the new branch of uniformed services. He said it will be a challenge to manage this change carefully in order to preserve the Compact. He concluded by saying it will take a tremendous effort and coordination to bring about the potential changes and to stay away from extraneous ones.

Commissioner LuPiba – Commission LuPiba stated that COVID-19 is the largest challenge facing the Commission and adding the National Guard to the Compact would be a dual task. He said the workload would be at least doubled if the Guard families are brought on board the Compact. He said it will begin on a local level and it will take a monumental effort and would require including national organizations to implement that faithfully and surely.

Question

Ex-Officio Representative Kyle Fairbairn (MISA) asked Commissioner LuPiba ***“You're talking about the great things you've done in Ohio. The release of the recent Air Force study reported schools around Wright Patterson were not sufficient and downgraded them to a red. Could you talk a little bit about what you're doing in Ohio to help those schools improve and support military students?”***

Response

Commissioner LuPiba – Commissioner LuPiba said there are three different categories in the Air Force study, red, green, and yellow. He stated he believed Ohio was coded yellow and the data was coming from the State Department of Education which may be hard to compare from state to state. He said he takes the data seriously and met with the Commanding Officer of Wright Patterson and the Purple Star Program has helped to bridge the gap. He said with Purple Star's help the rating should go from yellow to green.

Question

Commissioner William Hardin (GA) asked Commissioner LuPiba (OH) ***“Are some of your ideas outside the current Compact rules and inconsistent with the Strategic Plan the organization developed? Are you planning on moving resources away from the Strategic Plan adopted by the group to fund these ideas?”***

Response

Commissioner LuPiba – Commissioner LuPiba responded to the first question “absolutely not” and said if you looked at what he submitted to the LNC on July 8th that Goal #1 on the new strategic plan was “awareness.” He said all he has done in Ohio has been awareness and there are many partners willing to help. He said he doesn't think it's a change of resources, it's “local and faithful implementation of MIC3 with what we already have.”

Question

Commissioner Hardin asked Commissioner Kaminar ***“What are your three most important accomplishments during your tenure thus far?”***

Response

Commissioner Kaminar – Commissioner Kaminar said the first accomplishment was bringing in a new Executive Committee that could work together as a team. He stated that in previous years the Executive Committee struggled to work together as a team. He said his second accomplishment has been the creation of the National Guard and Reserve task force which is in an area that must be addressed. The third accomplishment is from the Arkansas State Council's work where legislation was passed that required all schools with a certain percentage of military connected students enrolled must designate a staff member to be trained and resourced as a Military Education Coordinator by the Department of Education. The result has been a decrease in cases coming to the State Council for resolution.

Question

Commissioner Shelley Joan Weiss (WI) asked both candidates, ***“What is your position on including children of the National Guard and Reserve? Do you support an increase of dues if children of the National Guard and Reserve are included?”***

Responses

Commissioner Kaminar – Commissioner Kaminar said he does support the extension of the Compact to cover Guard and Reserve students. He said a careful study would be required regarding the dues question. He said it's not a “do you” or “don't you” question right now and he doesn't support an increase unless it's studied and absolutely necessary to do so.

Commissioner LuPiba) – Commissioner LuPiba said he would have to see the specific language in reference to adding the Guard to the Compact. He said it would have to be planned out with everyone at the table. He said he is for state accounts, that the money coming from the states goes towards supporting the work of implementing MIC3 within the state.

This concluded the questions for the candidates for the position of Chair.

Commissioner Lynch reminded everyone that they would receive a ballot by 4:00 PM EST and to please vote by 12:00 AM EST. If no ballot is submitted, it will be counted as an abstention.

Meet and Greet

ED Imai provided information on the Candidate Meet and Greet which would be held that afternoon at 4:15 PM EST. Commissioners were emailed log in information so they could attend. She explained that each participant would be placed in a breakout room with one of the candidates and the rooms will rotate every fifteen minutes. These will be informal chat sessions for Commissioners to get to know each candidate and their vision for the Commission.

Executive Reports

Chair - Chair Kaminar referenced the presentation demonstrating each goal of the Commission's Strategic Plan. Under Goal 1: Clarity and Awareness, he highlighted "the development of a comprehensive communication strategy." He stated the Commission has been working on that for several months and it goes beyond web-based resources and mailed print resources. He mentioned there is a program developed by the Executive Committee ready to be rolled out to use the tier groups more effectively that will be coming early in 2021. He explained that this will give persons other than members of the Executive Committee an opportunity to take a leadership role in facilitating the tier group discussions on a regular basis.

Chair Kaminar praised the Training Committee for developing and pushing out effective resources to the states for training. He stated he thinks the Strategic Plan is well underway and appreciates the efforts of the Standing Committees and Executive Committee in making progress towards these goals.

Chair Kaminar yielded the floor to ED Imai to ask if she had anything to add. ED Imai pointed out that this is the second Strategic Plan developed by MIC3. It has set the tone for the Commission and has assisted the Compact by projecting the way forward as we make accommodations for military kids.

Chair Kaminar referenced the 2019 minutes in which Commissioner J. Clarke Orzalli (MA) requested a review of each state's Compact statute to see if the verbiage regarding the Department of Defense representative and ex-officio organizations was consistent. Chair Kaminar noted the review had been completed and the answer is found in the docket book on page 83. Chair Kaminar asked Commissioner Orzalli if that answered his question.

Commissioner Orzalli responded that his concerns about representation were related to Coast Guard connected students who he feels aren't being represented. He noted his largest concern is at the national level and said he felt the Commission should address that in a separate item.

Executive Director - ED Imai began her remarks with the Case and Inquiry report. She explained the process regarding calls to the National Office. National Office staff note the calls and track them until they are resolved. The number one type of call is for a referral to a Commissioner, the second most prevalent call is questions from parents to clarify information. She noted that most of the calls received were not applicable because they were not Compact related. She noted that among applicable calls most fell under placement and attendance, specifically where to place a student if a course is not available at the receiving school. The National Office keeps a list of case topics, ED Imai noted there is a list of these under the Commissioner Portal on the MIC3 website. She noted most inquiries received were regarding California, Massachusetts, and Texas, but the majority of the cases are resolved at the school level. She expressed the desire of the national office to make data available to the commission and asked if anyone had any questions. No questions were received regarding the Case and Inquiry report.

Next, ED Imai began the Annual Report, she explained that it is posted on the MIC3 website and hard copies were mailed to Commissioners and ex-officio members. She provided the demographics of the Commissioners. There are currently three vacancies with the recent appointment of the Michigan Commissioner, Mr. Price. There are 46 Commissioners, with the majority of members coming from the educational realm. There are members who serve in education at the state level, but about half of them are at the district level. She recognized there are some military members serving as Commissioners and noted that different views are very important as we work the Compact. She noted there is a written report on Page 99 of the Docket Book which notes what the national staff has worked on over the past year. She thanked the Commissioners for joining them the effort and asked if anyone had a question.

Commissioner McLaughlin asked ED Imai if the notation of Commissioner demographics included military spouses. ED Imai responded that she initially counted Commissioner McLaughlin as the "other" category but offered to move her into the military category.

Vice Chair – Commissioner Anastasio began her remarks by thanking the other members of the Executive Committee. She noted that it has been a great pleasure to work with the group. She said one of her duties was to meet with the ex-officio members, welcoming Nicole Russell as the representative for the National Military Family Association (NMFA) at their meeting in June 2020. During their June meeting they were updated on topics including the Kentucky Retirement System, progress on implementing the strategic plan specifically the tier groups, compliance issues, and the Compact Success Stories Video Project. They also discussed in-person and virtual trainings through the National Office and MISA. The group also discussed the topic of expanding the Compact to include the National Guard and Reserve. She noted that she hopes the collaboration with this wonderful group continues in the upcoming year.

Chair Kaminar praised Vice Chair Anastasio for her service and her candid advice and support.

Legal Counsel – Mr. Masters began his remarks saying he hoped everyone was doing well and continuing to stay healthy. He reported on the advisory opinion denoted as number 1-2019 which was approved by the Executive Committee last year after the ABM. It regarded the issue raised by the state of Tennessee which requested guidance on whether or not the course placement provisions of the Compact included an obligation to recalculate grade point averages

into school districts where the child would be moving. On the review of the Compact, the rules do not mandate that a school district is obligated to recalculate a grade point average unless dealing with a similar grade point system from the school district where they are moving. The Compact does not require public school districts in each of the states to use identical grade point averages, it is not appropriate for the Commission to interfere or require an LEA to recalculate GPAs.

Another issue that he addressed was a policy question regarding the messaging made with members and ex-officio members. It is important for the messaging to be consistent and they clarified that when communicating with third parties, communicating on behalf of the Commission, we are cognizant that we communicate with each other before formal presentations are made. The policy simply requests that ex-officio members advise the Commission that these presentations are being made and allow for some editorial control and approval from the Commission.

Another issue that is being looked at is whether the Compact applies to the Space Force. A formal opinion is forthcoming. The other issue concerns the work of the task force regarding amending the statute with regard to treatment of National Guard and Reserve children that are not on active duty. Mr. Masters said a decision won't be released until this is adequately discussed.

Mr. Masters says the Compact provides the Commission support to enforce the Compact with litigation in regard to appointing Commissioners and having state meetings. The desire is for states to comply with what the Compact requires. He pointed out that litigation wasn't necessary this past year but reminded the Commission they are authorized to invoke this power.

Update on State Council Military Representatives and U.S. DoD Key Issues – Chair Kaminar introduced Mr. Bill Hampton, who serves as the Deputy Director of the Defense State Liaison Office at the U.S. Department of Defense provided an update. This office works to provide state policy makers with expert insight on military families and their quality of life. Mr. Hampton stated that the Defense State office has been in existence since 2004 and works with each state to pass legislation that has a positive impact on military families. One issue they work with is the Purple Star Program. He explained that there are eight Regional Liaisons who live in the region they represent. His desire is to establish relationships between these Regional Liaisons and the Commissioners to discuss the issues of the region.

He said the Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) was approved three years ago and it helped to get the nomination process in order. His office nominates and assigns military representatives to each state, they have streamlined this process within their organization. He stated he sent an email to Commissioners that explained the process of where they are with the military representatives. These representatives represent the Department of Defense's interests and serve two-year terms, but these can be extended. They created an eBook with additional information and training materials, if interested, please contact Mr. Hampton for access to the eBook. He noted an email would come to the Commissioners detailing the Top Ten interests of his organization.

Commissioner McLaughlin stated one of the biggest challenges for her when she was a new Commissioner was filling the Military Representative role. She stated they usually know about six months before they move who the new Military Representative will be, and they can be in touch with the Commissioner so there's not a gap in coverage.

Commissioner Daniel Dunham (VA) said in Virginia the code says the Governor has to appoint a Military Representative. He said it has been a challenge to get the appointment made and asked for assistance in doing so. Mr. Hampton said he would work with his contacts and attempt to make that appointment happen.

Ex-Officio Reports

National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) – Mr. Davis Whitfield, Chief Operating Officer, stated his organization is located in Indianapolis and was established in 1920 with a focus on writing playing rules for 17 sports. There is 70+ learning courses for parents, coaches, etc. on their learning platform. The organization has a state organization in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. There are eight regions that their state organizations are divided into, the organization represents 19,500 high schools. The NFHS' state associations are governed independently by their state and the NFHS provides oversight. There are always eligibility requirements for athletic participation, and this is how it relates to the Compact. Mr. Whitfield encouraged Commissioners to have relationships with the Executive Directors of the NFHS in their respective states and offered to make introductions if necessary. He noted that many of their issues arise from the fact that there are educational and residency requirements for athletic participation. Mr. Whitfield expressed his desire to assist military children as they move from state to state and desire to participate in athletics.

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, Mr. Whitfield explained many states have modified their athletic schedules. He said if you have any questions to contact the NFHS state organization or to contact him. One thing to note is that a student cannot play the same sport in the same year in two different seasons. He provided a slide with a list of eligibility questions for students in regard to athletic participation. One in particular to note is a student must be living with their legal custodian (as opposed to guardian) in most cases in order to participate.

Mr. Whitfield and Chair Kaminar encouraged Commissioners to consider bringing the NFHS state representatives onto their State Councils.

Military Impacted Schools Association (MISA) – Executive Director Fairburn said MISA was formed in 1986 and he represents superintendents and boards of public schools, representing 150,000 military connected students. The Department of Education Impact Aid is money schools receive for having military students living in their boundaries. The schools also receive money from the Department of Defense. The Impact Aid money is in lieu of property taxes. Families on military bases do not pay property taxes. Currently, Impact Aid is only 60 percent funded. To qualify, a school district must at least 20% of its student body military connected. There are 120 school districts that qualify for this funding. The only organization that lobbies for this money to come to schools is MISA.

The school districts that MISA and MIC3 have collaborated on with trainings are the school districts surrounding areas with large populations of military connected children. The trainings

have been well attended and have been very successful. In the future, MIC3 Training and Operations Associate Lindsey Dablow will partner with MISA to do trainings. One issue this year is that School District counts are down because there haven't been students PCSing and some students have been homeschooling. This greatly affects the funding for the Impact Aid school districts for the following year. There is a piece of stand-alone legislation in process which would allow these school districts to use last year's surveys for one year, so their counts are more accurate of their normal population.

Mr. Fairburn thanked Chair Kaminar, ED Imai, and Ms. Dablow for their work this year. He also thanked Vice Chair Anastasio for the ex-officio meetings and noted they have been very helpful. A question was brought forth by Commissioner Weiss "Are the State Commissioners from every state that MISA visits and does training in included in the training or is it done exclusively with MISA and now Lindsey? I love the idea of having Lindsey be one of the trainers to provide consistency but feel the State Commissioners should be a part of the trainings." Mr. Fairburn responded by saying State Commissioners have been a part of every training so far. ED Imai responded with the importance of the State Commissioners attending to help with follow up questions from military families that are state specific.

Chair Kaminar thanked Mr. Fairburn and also highlighted the importance of the Impact Aid funds for the qualifying school districts. Also noted the efforts of school liaison Terry Williams in Little Rock, Arkansas educating military parents on the importance of self-identifying as military families to help their school district obtain their Impact Aid funds.

Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) – Dr. David Splittek, Program Manager, Higher Education Initiatives, introduced MCEC's new Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Becky Porter. Dr. Porter is a board-certified psychologist, a retired military member with over 30 years of service, and she raised two military-connected children. Dr. Porter stated that MCEC's mission has to do with leveling the playing field for military-connected children academically, socially, and emotionally. This mission is advanced by advocacy, collaboration, and education.

In response to COVID-19, their website (militarychild.org) has tools and tips for military parents and families on how to navigate the pandemic. MCEC conducted a Military Kids Now survey of 5,000+ military-connected students ages 13 and older, families, and educators from February 2020 to May 2020 and those results will be coming soon. MCEC will be holding a Virtual Education Summit on November 17 and 18, 2020, in lieu of their National Training Seminar in Washington, D.C. Registration is free for this event and there will be a strand for military-connected parents. The Purple Star School Designation Program will help military parents identify if a school is military friendly. Montana is a new state coming on board with the Purple Star Program. MCEC is currently working on their 2021-2025 Strategic Plan.

Chair Kaminar praised MCEC for all their initiatives and for being wonderful partners. He said MCEC is willing to advise states on how to better educate military children on issues outside the Compact but MCEC will gladly help to address these.

National Military Family Association (NMFA) – Ms. Nicole Russell, Deputy Director of Government Relations NMFA. Ms. Russell has a background in advocacy and is an active-duty Marine Corps spouse. She said NMFA was founded in advocacy and has been around for over 50 years. NMFA focuses on many areas including military children's education. One of their

large focuses is advocating for full funding of the Impact Aid Program. She stated NMFA has strong relationships with everyone who has jurisdiction over DOD issues.

NMFA helps to educate military families on what rights they have under the Compact and through other sources of legislation. As of June, there is a J-1 Visa ban in place, this affects the au pair program, which is very popular among military families. NMFA is actively working to get an exception to the ban for military families. The Operation Purple Program has been around since 2004, it has four programs and campus under it that addresses the social and emotional needs of military children and families. These programs have all pivoted to virtual this year instead of having in-person summer camps for military children.

NMFA has a military spouse scholarship and employment program which allows military spouses to continue their education and prepare them for meaningful employment. NMFA has a new initiative which provides childcare relief to families affected by the pandemic.

Chair Kaminar said all these organizations have one thing in common, advocacy. MIC3 is limited in the amount of advocacy it can do, but the partner organizations can carry the ball on initiatives that we cannot. He thanked all the Ex Officio organizations for being strong partners.

U.S. Department of Defense (USDoD) – Mr. Chuck Clymer, Education Services Program Manager for the US Navy. He serves as the USDoD Representative to the Compact. He stated there are eight Uniformed Services Representatives. He mentioned that the Coast Guard attends two monthly meetings and would be happy to discuss how they are supported by the Compact. He said 80 percent of military children attend public schools. The military School Liaison Program (SLP) representatives do lots of on the groundwork with military connected children.

Mr. Clymer mentioned that COVID-19 was a big challenge this year. The entire PCS cycle has shifted approximately two months, and families are still being impacted in temporary facilities because not all moves have been cleared. He noted there would be a higher number of PCS families in the next few months. He stated that on any given day, there are over 1,000 child and youth family consultants working with military kids and focusing on the social and emotional needs of students.

Mr. Clymer said they had a service day where all 50 DoD state representatives met and looked at best practices, challenges, trends, etc. He mentioned the notes were sent to the Executive Committee. He said another accomplishment was a flow chart process the team and the school liaisons developed for MIC3 services. Chair Kaminar thanked Mr. Clymer for his presentation

Meeting Recess

At approximately 3:20 PM EST Chair Kaminar asked if there was a motion for a ten-minute recess. **Commissioner French motioned and Commissioner Robert Buehn (FL) seconded. Motion carried.**

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Reconvening

The meeting was reconvened at 3:30 PM EST by Chair Kaminar.

Standing Committee Reports

Finance – Commissioner Neuenswander opened his remarks by introducing the members of the Finance Committee. Next, he highlighted the history of the annual dues for states, noting that in 2018 the dues were increased from \$1.00 per military child to \$1.15. He noted the 15 percent only resulted in a 7 percent increase in MIC3 dues because of the reduction in the number of military connected students. The formula is detailed in the Compact rules of which the participants have a copy in their docket books. The formula is based on the number of military connected students ages 5-18, and the data is provided by the U.S. Department of Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC). The minimum threshold for dues is at \$2,300 and the maximum is \$69,000.

He explained that the committee receives the data for the dues in July and August, the proposed dues are approved by the Commission at the ABM, and invoices are mailed out. He referred to a slide regarding the 2021 Annual Budget which was amended from \$675,042 to \$655,043. The projected budget for 2022 is \$731,900. The increased budget for 2022 is based on an issue with the Kentucky Employee Retirement System (KERS), a 17 percent increase in health insurance costs, and anticipation that the 2022 ABM being held in person.

Commissioner Neuenswander said the committee is trying to publish as much as possible of the Finance Committee reports on the MIC3 website. They drafted the investment policy and the Operational Reserve policy this year. In the coming year, they would like to accomplish an audit of the Commission operations and programs to identify areas that might need improvement. Commissioner Neuenswander displayed the Balance Sheet and Income Statement for Fiscal Year 2022.

Blue and Company did the annual audit which produced no findings. He announced that total dues for Fiscal Year 2021 as \$654,843. He said 42 percent of the dues have been paid which is typical for the time of year. Next, he announced the total proposed dues for Fiscal Year 2022 is \$652,317 which is a decrease of approximately \$2,500 over the dues for Fiscal Year 2021. The number of military connected students has declined which results in a smaller amount being collected in dues.

In looking at the projected budget for Fiscal Year 2022, there appears to be a \$73,000 shortfall in revenue compared to the budget. Commissioner Neuenswander said if the budget plays out as projected there will be a need to use some of the reserve money. He then discussed the KERS update and the desire of the organization to get out of the system with a minimum financial penalty pending the appropriate legislation passes. Next, he showed the investments of MIC3 which has proven to be beneficial, growing from roughly \$380,000 to \$434,000.

He referenced two policies the Commission will vote on tomorrow. One is the Investment Policy. The policy is typical of publicly funded organizations. The next policy deals with the Operating Reserve. The desire is to have an operating fund balance of approximately two years of operating costs which would give security to the organization if there is a loss of revenue. Commissioner Neuenswander said the current reserve balance is just a little under two years of operating costs. Both policies have been approved by the Finance Committee and the Executive Committee.

Commissioner McLaughlin asked if the Finance Committee has discussed if and when the current staff position within MIC3 will be filled. Commissioner Neuenswander responded that it has been discussed, there is a plan for interns and part-time employees to fill administrative roles. ED Imai said the position hasn't been filled because when the previous employee left it was hard to fill due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Council of State Government building being closed. ED Imai said there was approval for a part-time administrative person to be hired and they hope to fill the full-time Communications Associate role by the end of December. Commissioner McLaughlin suggested looking at hiring the full-time role as a contract employee since the cost of benefits keeps rising. Chair Kaminar thanked the Finance Committee for keeping the organization in such solid financial standing.

Compliance – Commissioner Daron Korte (MN) thanked attendees for their time and for doing the best they can with the virtual format. The way the Compliance Committee assists states is to work collaboratively with the states. In the past year, there has been an emphasis on the newly adopted Strategic Plan, specifically Goal #2, which has to do with being cohesive and aligned and to maintain one focus, purpose, and outcome. The committee has focused on Commissioner vacancies and on states that have not held State Council meetings. They also worked on processing the Code of Conflict and Conflict of Interest paperwork and reviewing the Strategic Plan to identify areas of need regarding compliance.

Commissioner Korte thanked his committee and did an overview of the Compact's rules and bylaws in dealing with compliance issues. He encouraged Commissioners to familiarize themselves with the Compact Statutes they have in their states. There are intricacies within each state's Compact which may cause responsibilities to vary. For example, the appointment authority can vary from state to state. Commissioner Korte also encouraged Commissioners to look at the bylaws and the Compact rules. The Compliance Committee does keep track of Commissioner vacancies and asked that the National Office be notified if a Commissioner plans to leave their role. One of the annual requirements is for states to submit an annual report and a report stating you held at least one State Council meeting during the Fiscal Year.

Commissioner Korte said there has been success filling Commissioner vacancies. There are still vacancies in Indiana and Mississippi, which the Compliance Committee is focused on helping to fill. Iowa and Pennsylvania are relatively new vacancies, and they will work with the appointing authorities to get those vacancies filled.

The deadline for state end-of-year reports has been extended to September 30, 2020 due to COVID-19. He encouraged states to get those submitted and noted there are samples available on the MIC3 website if needed. Commissioner Korte stated that most states held at least one meeting, if not more. This has been aided by the abundance of virtual meetings due to the pandemic. Commissioner Korte reference the complaint made by the Public Commenter regarding Texas and their lack of a State Council. He said the situation is complex. He and ED Imai have had a conversation with the Commissioner from Texas, and they will be documenting evidence noting their state has been doing the activities of a State Council meeting. He also noted there is a Commissioner now in the state of Michigan which occurred after the docket book was published.

Commissioner Kaminar thanked Commissioner Korte for his superb job as Chair of the Compliance Committee. Commissioner Kaminar stated the time as 4:05 PM EST which is later than the stated ending time. He asked the Commission if they wanted to continue with the two remaining standing committee reports or to recess for the day.

Adjournment

Commissioner Kraeger moved to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Commissioner Kathleen Murphy (NH). ED Imai reminded Commissioners on the Zoom access for the candidate meet and greets that would last for one hour. The meeting adjourned at 4:07 PM EST.

DRAFT