

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Thursday, January 21, 2021

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

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

1. Vice Chair Laura Anastasio (CT) called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM ET on Thursday, January 21, 2021.

ITEM 2 – ROLL CALL

2. Roll call was taken by Cherise Imai, Executive Director (ED). A quorum was established.

ITEM 3 – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. Vice Chair Anastasio led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 4 – APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

4. Commissioner Rosemarie Kraeger (RI) motioned to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mary Gable (MD). Motion carried.

ITEM 5 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 17, 2020

5. Commissioner Brian Henry (MO) motioned to approve the meeting minutes for December 17, 2020, seconded by Commissioner Kraeger. Motion carried.

ITEM 6 – REPORTS

6. **Chair** – In Chair Kaminar's absence, Vice Chair Anastasio gave an update. Chair Kaminar is in process of contacting all the Commissioners and will provide a summary for the EXCOM to review in February. Chair Kaminar attended and was very complementary of the California and New Mexico State Council meetings.
7. **Vice Chair** – An Ex-officio meeting was held on January 7, 2021. Dr. Becky Porter was welcomed as the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) representative. Feedback and ideas were given regarding next year's Annual Business Meeting (ABM). There was discussion on how to incorporate the School Liaisons into this year's ABM. There was a discussion on the Department of Defense's initiative to provide military parents assistance from the Judge Advocate Generals (JAG) Corps with special education issues.
8. Chuck Clymer noted he would speak with Vice Chair Anastasio after the meeting to clarify some issues regarding the DoD's initiative discussed at the Ex-officio meeting. Commissioner Henry cautioned Mr. Clymer regarding the initiative that there are potential problems with advocacy issues and organizations supporting different platforms instead of working with the school districts. Mr. Clymer noted the intention of the DoD's initiative is team building with local school systems.
9. **Executive Director** – ED Imai said press releases announcing the election of the new executive officers was sent out in November and December. The Council of State Governments has a service award program internally and it is very similar to the proposal of MIC3 for the Commissioners. She mentioned of the 20 cases National Office has received this year, 9 of them have been from parents. She gave a summary of recent cases the National Office has received and their resolutions.
10. Commissioner Kraeger inquired if any of the cases have been related to the COVID pandemic. Lindsey Dablow, Training and Operations Associate, noted there have been factors of COVID in many cases. Commissioner Kraeger said her state has been allowing military families who are transferred to remain learning virtually with their current school if desired. ED Imai said schools learning in a virtual format are more likely to accommodate those requests.
11. Mr. Clymer mentioned there are several families who are on PCS orders within the state and the concern that these students are not supported under the Compact. There were a few branches of the services voicing concerns on this issue at his meeting. ED Imai suggested allowing Mr. Clymer to address this during his report or adding this issue to the agenda for the February 2021 meeting.
12. ED Imai noted the Google analytics report generated from the MIC3 website and praised the user-friendly platform for mobile phones. Recently, the National Office supported the New Mexico State Council meeting, managing the meeting platform and drafting minutes. She noted the National Office is supporting State Council Meetings for 6-7 states for Commissioners that do not have access or administrative help.

13. The National Office will attend a Specialized Training of Military Parents (STOMP) brief later in the afternoon and look forward to learning from the organization that assists special needs military families. MIC3 will conduct several trainings for California (2/2, 2/9, 3/2, 3/9, 4/6) and they will also conduct the Missouri Department of Education Area Supervisor Training on 2/11.
14. **Finance** – Commissioner Craig Neuenswander (KS) gave the committee an update on the Balance Sheet, Expenses, and Revenue. He reported some expenditures have been lower this year due to the pandemic. The National Office will be using some funds to replenish supplies. He gave an update on Fiscal Year 2021 dues, with 33 states' dues paid as of the report date. The outstanding states will be sent a reminder. He ended his report with an update on the Vanguard investment report.
15. **Communication and Outreach Committee** – Commissioner Henry gave an update on his most recent meeting which included discussion regarding the strategic plan, the Successful Transitions Video campaign, and the Purple Up! Toolkit. April 21, 2021 is Purple Up! day during Month of the Military Child (MOTMC). He directed Commissioners to the resources available in the toolkit to promote MOTMC.
16. **Compliance** – Commissioner Daron Korte (MN) said Compliance had its first meeting. They welcomed the new members and discussed their vision for the year. Several education projects regarding expectations for Commissioners and data collection are in the works.
17. Commissioner Korte reported two states, California and North Dakota, had questions about Purple Star Schools. These states are being asked to support legislation to create a Purple Star Schools Program and they don't know what their role, as the Commissioner, is as the program is not part of MIC3. Members pointed out there was a difference between supporting a program and administering a program. Several members expressed the issue with Purple Star Schools has come up in recent State Council meetings and they have had to clarify that the program is not sponsored by the Commission. Commissioner Henry stated that some organizations can take on strong advocacy for and against other organizations and it is in the best interest of the organization to remain neutral. Mr. Clymer said the DoD's focus is on supporting MIC3 and the outcomes of MIC3, and the DoD would not want Commissioners, nor states, to be conflicted or distracted from accomplishing the mission. Commissioner Korte suggested creating talking points regarding to address these advocacy requests in order to aid Commissioners.
18. **Rules** – Commissioner Gable reported the Rules Committee meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2021. She stated agreement with Mr. Clymer that her focus as a Commissioner is on accomplishing the mission of MIC3 and the transitions of military students are the most important thing.

19. **Training** – Commissioner Ernise Singleton (LA) said the Training Committee's next meeting is scheduled for February 2021. She met with ED Imai and Ms. Dablow recently to discuss the mentoring program and that process is currently being planned.
20. **Leadership Nomination (LNC)**– Commissioner Kraeger stated the LNC has not met.
21. **DoD Liaison** – Mr. Clymer reported the School Liaisons (SL) are working on a matrix that shows touch points that SLs have on MIC3 issues. It will include areas where school liaisons that are connecting with students and will also reveal gaps. He will send ED Imai a copy of the National Defense Authorization Act 2021. He reported there is a lot of school-related legislation in the act. Specific to MIC3, it requires all of the installation JAGs in special education law.

ITEM 7 – OLD BUSINESS

22. No old business was presented.

ITEM 8 – NEW BUSINESS

23. **Approval of the 2020 Annual Business Meeting Minutes** - Vice Chair Anastasio noted a typo in the 2020 Annual Business Meeting Minutes, page 4 paragraph 1. Replace the word "conference" with "confederate."
24. Commissioner Gable motioned to approve the minutes with the suggested correction. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Henry. Motion carried.
25. **Spring EXCOM Meeting** – This item was tabled to the February meeting.
26. **Website Training, EPIC Contract** – ED Imai reported staff needs additional training on WordPress features and management. She proposed securing a contract with EPIC Technologies, the vendor for website migration, for 10 hours at \$140/hour.
27. Commissioner Gable motioned to approve the contract. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Singleton. Motion carried.
28. **Letter to President and First Lady Biden** – Commissioner Khieem Jackson (CA) suggested ED Imai write a letter to First Lady Biden to engage with her regarding military students. A letter of introduction and engagement was sent which requested a meeting with Dr. Biden to discuss shared goals. ED Imai will update the committee if a response is received.
29. **2020 MCEC Survey Summary Report** – ED Imai informed the EXCOM that recently MCEC released the results of a survey they performed which included almost 5,000 respondents from parents, personnel that worked with military families, including schools.. There was a question regarding Compact awareness on the MCEC Survey, and overall, there

was little awareness of the Compact and the Commission by respondents, a majority of which were parents.

ITEM 9 – EXECUTIVE SESSION

30. Vice Chair Anastasio suggested scheduling a separate meeting before the EXCOM's February meeting to discuss the issue brought up during closed session at the last EXCOM meeting.

ITEM 10 – OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

31. Vice Chair Anastasio asked for feedback on the State Commissioner Guidance – Developing a State Position on the National Guard and Reserve document. It does include a requirement for state councils to send a written position to MIC3 by August 31, 2021.

32. Commissioner Henry made a comment expressing concern about the expansion of the Compact coverage. ED Imai suggested possibility adding a fifth option of no coordinated action by the commission and allowing states to determine individually their action or next steps.

33. ED Imai reported discussions have been held in several State Council meetings and it was expressed by the state council members that a vast majority of members of the National Guard and Reserve do not move in comparison with active duty members.

ITEM 11 – ADJOURNMENT

34. With no further business to conduct, Commissioner Gable motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Henry. Motion carried.

54. Vice Chair Anastasio adjourned the meeting at 2:13 PM ET.