

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Tuesday, January 26, 2021

PRESENT	Craig Neuenswander Tyler Backus Bob Buehn Chad Delbridge Brian Halstead Debra Jackson J. Clarke Orzalli Douglas Ragland Hal Stearns	Committee Chair, Kansas Commissioner Maine Commissioner Florida Commissioner Wyoming Commissioner Nebraska Commissioner New York Commissioner Massachusetts Commissioner Alabama Commissioner Montana Commissioner
EXCUSED	Greg Lynch Kyle Fairbairn	Washington Commissioner Military Impact Schools Association
STAFF	Cherise Imai Lindsey Dablow	Executive Director, MIC3 Training and Operations Associate, MIC3

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

1. The meeting was called to order at 11:02 AM EST by Committee Chair, Commissioner Craig Neuenswander (KS). Roll call was taken by Executive Director Cherise Imai. Quorum was established.

ITEM 2 – APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

2. Commissioner Brian Halstead (NE) moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Debra Jackson (NY). Motion carried.

ITEM 3 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM AUGUST 25, 2020

3. Commissioner Bob Buehn (FL) moved to approve the minutes from August 25, 2020. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jackson. Motion carried.

ITEM 4 – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

4. Chair Neuenswander reports on the Executive Committee (EXCOM) Meeting held in January 2021. He gave a report to EXCOM on the financial standing of MIC3. The Communications Committee gave an update on the Purple Up program. There was discussion on Purple Star Schools at the meeting and the position Commissioners should have with this campaign. The group concluded this is not a MIC3 initiative and Commissioners should not feel obligated to facilitate the program. Commissioner Buehn commented in Florida the

Department of Education is overseeing the program and he is providing support along with the school liaisons.

ITEM 5 – REPORTS

5. **Kentucky Retirement System Update** – There was a written report from the Council of State Governments regarding the Kentucky Retirement System. Chair Neuenswander said the issue will be reported on in future meetings.
6. **FY 2021 Dues, Balance, Revenue and Expenses, Vanguard Investment** – Chair Neuenswander gave a summary of what states have paid FY 2021 dues. Commissioner Jackson shared the governor in New York is not allowing any payments that are not considered essential and wondered if other states are experiencing the same problem. Trainings and Operations Associate Dablow noted two other states have had alternate payment requests but no state has informed the Commission they are unable to pay the dues.
7. Commissioner J. Clarke Orzalli (MA) noted these scenarios support the need for the Commission to maintain an operating reserve.
8. Chair Neuenswander gave an update on the MIC3 Balance Sheet, Income Statement, and the Vanguard investment account. He noted some expenses are down due to the pandemic and the vacant full-time Communications Associate position.
9. Chair Neuenswander stated if expenses are less than budgeted, there will likely be a discussion as to whether some of the states' dues need to be refunded. He noted unless there is a significant decrease in expenditures the amount per state would not be much.

ITEM 6 – OLD BUSINESS

10. **2020 Annual Business Meeting (ABM) Cost Analysis** – Ms. Lindsey Dablow, Training and Operations Associate, reviewed the cost of the 2020 ABM held virtually in comparison with previous years which were held in-person. Part of the expense was an upgrade for GoToMeeting online platform to increase the number of participants on the system, as well as printing and shipping expenses for the meeting documents.
11. Regarding the 2021 ABM, the Little Rock Marriott Hotel allowed MIC3 to move the contract from 2020 to 2021 with the hope that the ABM will be held in-person. She noted the different time frames for what will be owed on the contract to the Little Rock Marriott should the Commission cancel the contract. ED Imai noted \$40K more funds than normal were budgeted for the 2021 ABM to account for safety, health, and social distancing guidelines – such as one table and microphone per Commissioner, which are normally shared.
11. Commissioner Halstead inquired as to why the printing and mailing costs for the 2020 ABM were almost twice what was projected. ED Imai replied it was due to two factors: 1) the increased number of attendees. More than double the usual number of attendees participated

in the ABM than what was anticipated; 2) Hard copies of materials were sent to everyone who requested them.

ITEM 7 – NEW BUSINESS

12. **Strategic Plan Priorities for the Next Year** – ED Imai said the committee has done well with the strategic plan. In the next year, or year two of the strategic plan, the committee needs to research which commissioners are supported by organizations such as the Department of Education. The research will include what kind of funding and administrative support Commissioners receive. ED Imai noted the National Office has provided administrative support for new Commissioners and State Councils. In 2020, the National Office provided support to six or seven states, some of these Commissioners have had multiple meetings.

13. The second item for the Finance Committee to address is to conduct an audit of the operations and programs of the National Office. ED Imai requested permission to conduct a request for proposal for the audit. She noted if the committee approves the request, it would be presented to the Executive Committee for approval at their February meeting.

14. Commissioner Buehn motioned to allow the National Office to draft and secure request for proposals for an operations audit. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tyler Backus (ME). Motion carried.

15. Commissioner Buehn inquired if the pandemic would affect the operations audit. ED Imai replied it wouldn't be an issue as the assessments and interviews would likely be conducted virtually.

ITEM 8 – OTHER BUSINESS

16. **Webinars and Town Halls** – Ms. Dablow gave a summary of the recent webinars and town halls. These include “The Pandemic and its Impact on Schools” with Dr. Keith Mispagel and “NFHS and Extracurricular Activities for Military Students” with Davis Whitfield. The town hall meeting with Dr. Mispagel was postponed from the 2020 ABM as he was unable to conduct facilitate the session due to an emergency at in his school district.

17. Commissioner Chad Delbridge (WY) said he is unable to attend the town hall meeting, but his school liaison will attend.

18. **Conflict of Interest and Code of Conduct Forms Due 1/31** – These are usually collected in-person at the ABM but due to the pandemic must be collected virtually this year. Commissioners will be sent a reminder email with the links.

19. **Impact of the Pandemic** – Commissioner Douglas Ragland (AL) said the school system where he's a school board member is on virtual learning due to high numbers of infection. He reported the district in Birmingham has had two teachers and a student die of COVID-19 within the span of a week, therefore they are trying to take all precautions.

20. Commissioner Orzalli reported his state has better attendance virtually than they do in person. He suggested the possibility of the EXCOM using virtual meetings to reduce cost and increase effectiveness. He suggested reaching out to the state veteran's affairs (VA) for vaccines if any people qualify for VA Healthcare, if they are unable to obtain them through their state. ED Imai noted some states have prioritized school personnel as a priority to receive vaccines while some have not.

ITEM 9 – ITEMS FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

21. Commissioner Orzalli said there is a financial component of the National Guard and Reserve Task Force (NGRTF) that was introduced at the ABM. He suggested having a person from EXCOM look at the financial impact with regards to cost and dues structure. ED Imai noted the EXCOM is releasing guidance on the NGRTF in the next week which will help discussions within the states.

22. Commissioner Jackson has a West Point parent with four children who is moving to South Carolina and would like to be a resource to discuss how the Compact has helped their children. She requested resources to film a video with their testimonial. Chair Neuenswander reminded the committee the National Office is seeking testimonials such as these. ED Imai said she would connect with Commissioner Jackson to discuss how the National Office can assist her in her with the filming.

23. ED Imai thanked the committee for their volunteerism and hard work. EXCOM has a target date of March to decide whether the 2021 ABM will be in person or virtual.

24. Commissioner Orzalli mentioned a report that was brought up from the Air Force with feedback regarding the Compact. He inquired whether the EXCOM was going to respond to that. ED Imai said the Air Force is the only military branch that has done the survey, it is good for awareness for state councils and Commissioners, but no action will be taken. Commissioner Buehn said the report hammered some large schools near Air Force bases. It has raised awareness on military schools and has increased the desire in Florida for the Purple Star Program. ED Imai said some of the data points are misleading in the study and the effectiveness of schools cannot be measured solely on data.

ITEM 10 – ADJOURNMENT

25. With no further business to conduct, Commissioner Delbridge motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Buehn seconded the motion. Motion carried. Chair Neuenswander adjourned the meeting at 12:00 PM EST.