

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Thursday, July 15, 2021

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

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

- Chair Don Kaminar (AR) called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM EST on Thursday, July 15, 2021.

ITEM 2 – ROLL CALL

- Roll call was taken by Cherise Imai, Executive Director. A quorum was established.

ITEM 3 – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- Chair Kaminar led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 4 – APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

- Vice Chair Laura Anastasio motioned to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brian Henry (MO). Motion carried.

ITEM 5 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM JUNE 17, 2021

- Commissioner Henry motioned to approve the meeting minutes from June 17, 2021. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Anastasio. Motion carried.

ITEM 6 – PRESENTATION: PARTNERS IN PROMISE

- Ms. Michelle Norman, Executive Director of Partners in Promise, presented. Ms. Norman noted she is a Navy spouse of over 25 years. One of her children has 21 disabilities and has been enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) since birth through the Department of Defense. She said her family experienced 10 deployments and her daughter has moved five times, attending seven schools. Ms. Norman presented on the crisis military children with special needs currently face. These problems include school districts "waiting out" military families, a glaring lack of resources, and no

mechanism to enforce special education protections. The mission of Partners in Promise (PiP) is "Protecting the Rights of Military children in Special Education through educating and advising military family members, military service organizations, Department of Defense, and public officials." She reported PiP seeks to elevate the voice of EFMP families, educate parents and students in SPED law, and advise and inform those who make policy decisions.

7. Ms. Norman noted COVID affected special needs students heavily with the challenges of virtually learning. PiP collects data of EFMP and Special Education Families and proposes solutions based on the data. She suggested a collaboration with MIC3 could include meetings and working groups to get an accurate picture of what is happening "on the ground" with these vulnerable families. Ms. Norman said this population of military children is most vulnerable to PCS moves and needs predictable and consistent services across states.
8. Commission Ernise Singleton (LA) thanked Ms. Norman for sharing and emphasized the need for special needs students to get services immediately upon a move. Ms. Norman said a data point from their last survey showed 79% of children who moved waited at least a month to receive services in their IEP. Ms. Norman stated PiP is focused on solutions that are wins for the families as well as the school district.
9. Commissioner Henry asked how many families took part in the survey. Ms. Norman stated 500 families completed the survey and noted it is difficult to collect data from this demographic. She said the hope is to collect best practices from states and facilitate collaborations.
10. Commissioner Daron Korte (MN) asked what collaborations PiP has and whether the delays in services revealed in their survey data were experienced in both DoDEA and non-DoDEA schools. Ms. Norman answered PiP is part of Dr. Biden's Joining Forces initiative with 100 other non-profit military organizations. Additionally, they are in communication with the DoD Office of Special Education. She noted there are current efforts to standardize the special education services across military branches. Ms. Norman said the survey results indicated delays in services with non-DoDEA schools as well as OCONUS DoDEA schools.

ITEM 7 – REPORTS

11. **Executive Director** – ED Imai reported she has attended the California State Council meeting; and will attend the New Jersey, and Hawaii meetings next week to brief on the National Guard and Reserve. She said the District of Columbia's Commissioner resigned on July 9, 2021, therefore the Council Meeting was cancelled. A letter was sent to the DC Mayor's office to request the vacancy be filled. She reported she attended the MCSAS meeting last week in Chicago and received additional requests for trainings from military-impacted school districts. ED Imai reported the Army reached out to update MIC3's contact information for a leadership development program directory for Army spouses. MIC3 is listed as a resource and could potentially present at their next conference in early 2022.
12. ED Imai reported the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) Office of Migratory contacted her. The USDOE has a database where they track these students. The organization is interested in MIC3 and how the Commission works in order to set up something similar for migrant education. ED Imai noted the populations are similar and the office is eager to learn about MIC3's rules and regulations. Additionally, she reported the USDOE has a military affairs program that is interested in having a back-to-school webinar.

13. **Finance** – Commissioner Craig Neuenswander (KS) reported 5 states remain outstanding for FY21 dues. He noted 11 states have paid FY22 dues. He gave an update on the Vanguard investments and funds will be deposited into the MIC3 account as part of the Paycheck Protection Program.
14. ED Imai reported CSG sent a memo to the directors that health benefits will increase 15% (on the high end). CSG will attempt to negotiate this down and it will be reported on at the next meeting.
15. **Communication and Outreach Committee** – Commissioner Henry reported no videos have been submitted for the Successful Compact Transitions video program. He noted the committee approved the new awards policies at their last meeting. Additionally, the committee approved the updated Commissioner Toolkit and the draft memorandum to commissioners reintroducing the toolkit.
16. **Compliance** – Commissioner Korte reported on the committee held a meeting in July. He noted the National Office is reaching out to states who have not had State Council meetings in FY 2021. He reported the Committee created a template to submit End of Year Reports which will be launched at the Annual Business Meeting for utilization next year. He added for those states that are outstanding, and the deadline to submit reports has been extended to the end of August.
17. **Training** – Commissioner Singleton gave a report on the Training Committee's June meeting. She noted they checked in on their goals laid out in the Strategic Plan. The committee was asked to provide feedback on the video, webinar, and script of trainings regarding articles of the Compact.

ITEM 7 – OLD BUSINESS

18. **Operations Audit** – ED Imai noted Consultant Brian Riggs continues to review MIC3's documents and will visit Lexington in August to meet with the staff.
19. **Federal and State Legislation/Policy Tracking Contract** – ED Imai said the contract is under review by CSG and thinks it will be available for review soon. She noted she would like to sign off on the contract by August 1, 2021.
20. **NGR: Adopting New Compact Statute for 50 States and the District of Columbia** – Chair Kaminar noted the emails with input from Commissioners regarding the NGR issue. ED Imai provided a summary of several commissioners' communications who question the need for MIC3 to take any action on the NGR issue. She said they asked why the Commission is pushing this issue if the National Guard is not advocating for the change.
21. **2022 ABM (Louisiana) Report** – Ms. Lindsey Dablow shared the results of the site visit regarding 2022 ABM and stated it will be held in Baton Rouge, LA. ED Imai noted the contract has been sent to the contracts division for review. It will be submitted to the hotel to secure the date once approved.
22. **2021 Annual Business Meeting** – ED Imai referenced the 2021 ABM FAQ sheet. She asked for feedback from the EXCOM if the registration fees should be waived for virtual attendees. She reported these attendees do not cost the Commission since they receive a digital docket book. Commissioner Korte inquired if there would be enough revenue to make the budget if a large portion of attendees choose the virtual option. ED Imai responded yes to Commissioner Korte's question. She said any kind of registration fees received are a supplement to the Commission's budget for the event. She noted the total cost of the meeting is not covered by registration fees.

23. The Commission was asked to review the light blue wording that was on the FAQ page that was added from feedback. Chair Kaminar asked for committee members to note if any changes were needed on the FAQ page. ED Imai said proof of vaccination would not be required to attend ABM but those who are not fully vaccinated are mandated to wear a mask. ED Imai briefly reviewed the Travel Reimbursement FAQ page. Ms. Dablow said hotel rooms may be booked through a link on the registration page or by calling the Little Rock Marriott directly.

24. ED Imai briefly reviewed the 2021 ABM Meeting Agenda, specifically highlighting the Pre-Event webinars. She noted the EXCOM moved the pre-event webinars virtual in order to allow the General Session meeting to be further condensed.

25. Ms. Dablow gave an overview of the total cost of the 2021 ABM. The total cost projection includes the Little Rock Marriott expenses, the audio-visual needs, Commissioner reimbursements, vendor payments, and the estimated revenue collected. The estimated total cost was reported as \$145,996.87. ED Imai noted she will use the projected cost amount of \$150,000 for the FY23 ABM budget.

26. **Legal Memorandum and Talking Points for Purple Star Program** – ED Imai reported no response has been received from the letters sent to Ohio and Tennessee regarding the Legal Memorandum and Talking Points for Purple Star Program.

ITEM 9 – NEW BUSINESS

27. **Awards** – ED Imai asked for a approval from the committee for recognition awards for outgoing Commissioners Lakeeshia Fox (DC) and Alan Kerr (SD). Commissioner Singleton motioned to approve the awards, seconded by Commissioner Neuenswander. Motion carried.

28. **Partners in Promise Meetings** – Chair Kaminar gave a background on Partners in Promise and their advocacy efforts. He noted the Commission is not an advocacy group and cannot necessarily PiP wants to do but can do what the law allows. A legal advisory was sought from Rick Masters on what can and cannot be done with a special needs case. ED Imai reviewed a flow cart detailing the special education process under IDEA and the case resolution process for SPED for Commissioners. She said every state and school district has a process and the Compact supports these processes. The last document ED Imai displayed was a narrative showing what the legal parameters of the Compact are and how students are supported. She showed that the document ends with links to highly impacted school districts and their special education services.

29. Members expressed appreciation for PiP's efforts, however expressed concerns about their expectations for the Commission. Members appreciated the documents which clarify the Commission and Commissioner's role, as well as the intent of IDEA and the Compact rules.

ITEM 10– OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

30. ED Imai said she would be sending an ED Update to the Commission this or nest week.

ITEM 11 – ADJOURNMENT

31. With no further business to conduct, Commissioner Anastasio motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Singleton. Chair Kaminar adjourned the meeting at 2:14 PM EDT.