

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Thursday, August 19, 2021

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| PRESENT | John "Don" Kaminar Laura Anastasio Craig Neuenswander Ernise Singleton Daron Korte Brian Henry Mary Gable Rosemarie Kraeger Chuck Clymer | Arkansas Commissioner Connecticut Commissioner Kansas Commissioner Louisiana Commissioner Minnesota Commissioner Missouri Commissioner Maryland Commissioner Rhode Island Commissioner DoD Representative | Chair Vice Chair Treasure & Finance Training Compliance Comm & Outreach Rules Past Chair Ex-Officio |
| STAFF | Cherise Imai Lindsey Dablow | Executive Director, MIC3 Training & Operations Assoc., MIC3 | Secretary |

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

1. Committee Chair, Commissioner Don Kaminar (AR) called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM ET on Thursday, August 19, 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. Commissioner Brian Henry (MO) led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 4 – APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

4. Commissioner Henry moved to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Committee Vice Chair, Commissioner Laura Anastasio (CT). Motion carried.

ITEM 5 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM JULY 15, 2021

5. Commissioner Craig Neuenswander (KS) motioned to approve the meeting minutes from July 15, 2021. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Henry. Motion carried.

ITEM 6 – REPORTS

6. **Chair** – Chair Kaminar said a Commissioner Townhall meeting was held yesterday regarding the 2021 Annual Business Meeting (ABM). The topics included the Travel Policy and ABM logistics, Arkansas data on COVID cases, and discussion and concerns regarding holding the in-person event. He noted the Executive Committee would make a wise decision to proceed with the hybrid format or hold an all-virtual meeting.
7. **Vice Chair** – Vice Chair Anastasio shared about the most recent Ex-Officio meeting. She said the National Military Family Association (NMFA) will have an *Annual State of the Military Family Seminar* on November 17, 2021, in Arlington, VA. Additionally, she said they will release data on the

well-being of military teenagers soon. Vice Chair Anastasio announced NMFA is accepting applications beginning in September to award the ARC Special Education Advocacy Curriculum to 100 families. She said NMFA will sponsor a Facebook Live with the United State Impact Aid Officer Faatimah Muhammad on September 13, 2021, at 1:00 ET. Vice Chair Anastasio said the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) held their 2021 National Training Seminar and thanked MIC3's National Office for their participation

8. **Executive Director** – ED Imai reported there have been several inquiry calls with the beginning of school. She said the National Office received a memorandum from the Council of State Governments (CSG) that the medical benefits increase was negotiated to a 5% increase covered by the organizations and CSG, not the employees. She said the budget projections accounted for this. ED Imai reported she recently onboarded new commissioners and pending new commissioner appointments. ED Imai reported a new article on MIC3 written by S. Allbrook-Huisman which was linked in the agenda.
9. **Finance** – Commissioner Neuenswander noted there are five states outstanding for FY21 dues representing approximately \$85,000. He reported 29 states have paid FY22 dues. He reviewed the FY21 Balance Sheet, Revenue, and Expenditures. He noted Blue and Company commenced the annual financial audit for MIC3.
10. **Communication and Outreach Committee** – Commissioner Henry said the National Office released a memo with the updated Commissioner Toolkit on behalf the committee to the Commission. This fulfilled one of the tactics for the Strategic Plan.
11. **Compliance** – Commissioner Korte referenced the list of State Council meetings and the End of Year Reports and stated the deadline for submittals was extended from June 30th to August 31, 2021.
12. **Rules** – Commissioner Mary Gable (MD) reported the committee met on August 17. She said the Commissioner Awards Program was passed unanimously. Regarding items for the EXCOM, Commissioner Gable reported the Tennessee Commissioner, Deanna McLaughlin, posed concerns regarding the continued annual increase of employee health benefits through CSG. Commissioner McLaughlin asked 1) why the MIC3 is attached to CSG for these negotiations and, 2) could MIC3 negotiate on our own to seek bids for the three staff. Vice Chair Anastasio noted health care benefit rates are best negotiated in bulk and pointed out a company like MIC3 with three employees would not obtain competitive rate in comparison with the rate obtained by CSG.
13. **Training** – Commissioner Ernise Singleton (LA) noted the Training Committee is working to fulfill the initiatives of the Strategic Plan by developing a Graduation training video. She said there is a meeting to review the cost of a voice-over talent to narrate the video. Additionally, she said they are researching learning management systems to further their training needs.
14. **DOD Liaison** – Mr. Chuck Clymer stated they are revamping their Military One Source (MOS) website and MIC3 will have better representation for school liaisons and families. He said the services met yesterday and Air Force and Navy are on hold but planning to attend the ABM. He noted the Army and Marine Corps are not planning to attend due to service travel restrictions.
15. **Leadership Nomination** – Commissioner Rosemarie Kraeger (RI) reported on the last committee meeting. She said there was one applicant for each of the open EXCOM positions for Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer. She said they discussed whether nominations would be taken from the floor and after reviewing Robert's Rules of Order and they by-laws, they will continue to accept these. She

noted there was concern expressed regarding COVID cases in Arkansas and the in-person format of the ABM.

ITEM 7 – OLD BUSINESS

16. **IDEA and Special Needs Guidance and Resources** – ED Imai referenced the Federal IDEA Flowchart. Commissioner Kraeger noted some states have modified timelines of the process and suggested a footnote that this chart is a baseline and reference the source. ED Imai references the Case Resolution Flowchart and what a Commissioner needs to do with Special Education cases. ED Imai reviewed the Legal Advisory that was approved by the EXCOM in July. ED Imai referenced the Narrative that describes how the Compact supports military students and also includes guidelines for parents with special needs children. She noted the document includes links to states' special education departments and Military Impacted School Association's school districts websites.

17. Commissioner Singleton moved for the committee to approve all four documents as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kraeger. Motion carried.

18. **Operations Audit** – ED Imai noted Consultant Brian Riggs recently visited Lexington, and conducted staff interviews. She said Brian Riggs will reach out to the members of the EXCOM to schedule their interviews.

19. **Federal and State Legislation/Policy Tracking Contract** – ED Imai said she met with Dan Logsdon, Executive Director of the National Center for Interstate Compacts, at CSG to discuss the format and frequency of the report. She noted the state report will be weekly and the federal report will be twice a month, beginning after ABM.

20. **NGR Reports** – ED Imai reminded commissioners the NGR reports are due by August 31, 2021. She said the intent is to share the information with the EXCOM at the September meeting.

21. **2021 Annual Business Meeting and COVID** – Chair Kaminar brought up the discussion about the 2021 ABM and whether it should be held virtually. He gave some statistics regarding the current status of COVID in Arkansas noting the shortage of intensive care hospital beds due to the pandemic. He said unless the governor declares of State of Emergency some money will be lost due to hotel costs. Chair Kaminar said his recommendation is to hold a virtual-only meeting.

22. Commissioner Gable moved to forego the hybrid option and have a fully virtual 2021 ABM. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Singleton. There was some discussion and the commissioners agreed citing an abundance of caution. Commissioner Korte noted the state of Minnesota has discontinued out of state travel unless it was essential. Motion carried.

23. Commissioner Kraeger inquired about the financial loss. ED Imai estimated the financial loss is, at minimum, \$28,000. Ms. Dablow said the rooms would be cancelled for commissioners. ED Imai asked commissioners to contact the National Office with any questions about travel arrangements already made.

ITEM 8 – NEW BUSINESS

24. **Awards** – ED Imai asked for the committee to vote on the state award for outgoing Commissioner Tim McMurtrey upon his retirement. Commissioner Kraeger moved to award Commissioner McMurtrey, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Gable. Motion carried.

25. **New Strategic Plan, Contract Consultant** – ED Imai requested permission to get a price quote from consultant Brian Riggs for the new strategic plan. Commissioner Kraeger moved to approve this request. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gable. Motion carried.

26. **8/23 US DOE Military Student Roundtable** – ED Imai said she was contacted by the US Department of Education requesting some military students to participate in a roundtable on August 23, 2021. ED Imai said students' names from Missouri, Oklahoma, and Colorado were forwarded and they will be contacted.

27. **VA Parent Request** – ED Imai displayed an email from a Virginia parent with concerns about six states that don't use the Nemeth braille code for visually impaired students. She requested the EXCOM to draft a position statement advocating for the Nemeth braille code to be used in the state of Virginia. ED Imai noted the commission does not advocate for these types of requests because it's outside their legal authority. Chair Kaminar said the parent initially contacted Commissioner Designee Daniel Dunham (VA) but the parent indicated she wanted to take it to a higher authority. Vice Chair Anastasio suggested the commission send her a letter explaining the position. ED Imai suggested the possibility of asking Legal Counsel Rick Masters for a legal advisory on this issue. The commission agreed that the National Office would send a letter and would consult a legal advisory if necessary.

ITEM 9 – OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

28. Chair Kaminar reminded the commissioners the extended deadline for the annual reports and the deadline for the state positions on NGR is August 31, 2021.

ITEM 10 – ADJOURNMENT

29. With no further business to conduct, Commissioner Singleton motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Neuenswander. Chair Kaminar adjourned the meeting at 2:05 PM ET.