

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, March 23, 2022**

PRESENT	Brian Henry Darcy Benway Bob Buehn Debra Jackson Greg Lynch Craig Neuenswander J. Clarke Orzalli Kyle Fairbairn	Missouri Commissioner Illinois Commissioner Florida Commissioner New York Commissioner Washington Commissioner Kansas Commissioner Massachusetts Commissioner Military Impacted Schools Association	Committee Chair
EXCUSED	Tyler Backus Brian Halstead Rosemarie Kraeger Douglas Ragland	Maine Commissioner Nebraska Commissioner Rhode Island Commissioner Alabama Commissioner	
STAFF	Cherise Imai Lindsey Dablow Stephanie Ramsey	Executive Director, MIC3 Training and Operations Associate, MIC3 Communications Associate, MIC3	

**ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER**

1. The meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM ET by Committee Chair Brian Henry (MO). Roll call was taken by Executive Director (ED) Cherise Imai. A quorum was established.

**ITEM 2 – APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

2. Commissioner Greg Lynch (WA) moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Darcy Benway (IL). Motion carried.

**ITEM 3 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM JANUARY 26, 2022**

3. Commissioner Lynch moved to approve the minutes from January 26, 2022. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Benway. Motion carried.

**ITEM 4 – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EXCOM) REPORT**

4. ED Imai reported the Executive Committee met last week Thursday. They discussed the current year activities, the Tier Group planning, and strategic plan. She attended the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools Meeting in DC the week prior and provided an update to the Military Impacted Schools Association members. In addition, several meet and greet sessions have been scheduled for new commissioners and their mentees to connect. The Committee Chairs briefed on committee projects. The Communications Committee approved a social media postcard which includes a QR code and link to MIC3's social media. In addition, we have new accounts on Tik Tok and Instagram, to help promote the Compact and enhance our outreach efforts. The Compliance Committee continues to track state council meetings; and assists with ongoing commissioner appointments. The Training Committee is developing a new learning Management System as well as new videos to support training on the Compact. The Rules Committee is conducting a review of the

rules and regulations. To date, it has been a busy start for the commission, and we continue to work on meeting the goals in the strategic plan.

## ITEM 5 – REPORTS

5. **FY2022 Outstanding Dues** – Chair Henry reported total dues for Fiscal Year 2022 was \$642,317. As of March 17, 47 of 51 members (92%) have paid \$524,203 (80%). Outstanding states are California, Illinois, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina. The deadline is June 30<sup>th</sup>.

6. **FY2022 Balance, Revenue and Expenses, Vanguard Investment** – Chair Henry noted as of February 22, the fund balance is 1,776,437.33. He reviewed Revenue and Expenses and noted expenses are expected for the 3rd quarter. He also reviewed the Vanguard Investment report, and stated overall, we are favorable financially.

## ITEM 6 – OLD BUSINESS

7. **Strategic Plan** – ED Imai reviewed the strategic plan action items for year 3 that the committee will address over the next several months.

8. **Explore and communicate to the Commission the viability of outside funding sources for the Commission (Revenue Opportunities)** – The committee continued the discussion from the January meeting. They discussed what type of funding is the Compact authorized to seek, given that it is a quasi-governmental agency, and questioned whether they could apply for or accept federal grants. A question regarding need was raised, as the Commission has a healthy reserve. ED Imai noted that when the strategic plan was developed, the finances were not at the level they are now, therefore there was interest in seeking grants and other funding to support our programming at that time. Members questioned if there was a need to seek federal funds and perhaps the Commission had a sufficient budget and reserve to support efforts.

9. ED Imai was asked to seek General Counsel advisement on the eligibility of the Commission to apply for any type of funding. She responded the Commission is able to obtain funding based on the ability to qualify for the funding. In summary, the statute does not prohibit the Commission from accepting funding from a federal agency, private organization, under a grant. Regarding a donation, we are not a 501c3 or non-profit, therefore a donation can be made, however, we are unable to provide a tax-receipt. Members agreed this information was valuable, in the event the Commission would desire to seek funding sources. They agreed at this time our reserve seemed sufficient to cover any initiatives or programs for the Commission, and they could revisit this in the future.

10. **USDOD and Educating Military Service Members and Parents** – ED Imai noted part of the previous discussion included seeking a grant from the US Department of Defense USDOD to educate service members and parents. Members stated parents are not aware of the Compact, and often contact the Commissioner after they tried to resolve the issue themselves, and with much frustration. Commissioner Jackson noted her recent meeting with Fort Drum in her state that there are a lot of change and transitions in the military. Members asked how the USDOD has educated parents in the past. ED Imai reported education across the services vary, and dependent on the service. However, the Commission has worked with USDOD Military Representative to partner and share information; hold training; and disseminate information through military orders; to parents through school liaison, commands, and other avenues. While it has been successful, education is continual with new parents having school aged children; and it is the same as educators who continually turnover in schools. Members requested ED Imai seek a representative from USDOD to brief on their activities at the next

meeting. It was agreed the USDOD gives the Commission and states a list of their priorities, therefore why can't we provide a list of our needs to address. (OPEN ITEM)

11. **State Fiscal Support for the Compact** – Members discussed the final draft of the guidance. They agreed the guidance was not prescriptive and flexible to seek funding to support programs in states. They agreed it would help recruit qualified commissioners to serve in the position, and knowledge the state provides the support needed to carry out the program. They agreed next steps are to release the guidance through memorandum to the Commission to identify states. Once identified, the National Office would work with each to develop a plan of action. Members agreed with the proposal. Commissioner Debra Jackson (NY) motioned to approve the guidance, seconded by Commissioner Bob Buehn (FL). Motion carried. (OPEN ITEM)

12. **Annual Business Meeting Cost** – Training and Operations Associate Lindsey Dablow briefed the Committee on the cost of the ABM over the past 4 years, including Cleveland, OH; and Colorado Springs, CO. She noted the difference between in person, hybrid, and virtual formats; and hybrid is the most expensive option. She noted AV and food costs continue to increase overall. She noted Commissioner reimbursements continue to increase, especially as we are fully seated as a Commission. She added air travel increases are expected for the Fall as gas prices are rising. She highlighted the Military Impacted Schools Association (MISA) which has sponsored the evening reception in the past. She also noted the hotel contract timelines and costs which has increased due to the impact of the pandemic hotel cancellations.

13. Members were concerned about the continual increase in cost of the event based on inflation, and availability of goods based on the recent pandemic and supply challenges. Alternatives suggested holding the ABM virtually every other year, with the off year being in person. They agreed hybrid is very expensive. Ms. Dablow noted the EXCOM will determine the format at their April meeting. ED Imai added the EXCOM was concerned about the cost and had expressed the same concerns. Members agreed to recommend to the EXCOM that a hybrid format not be considered, and an in-person meeting be held. Members also agreed that COVID could impact this recommendation and understood the EXCOM had the flexibility to determine the best format, such as hybrid, dependent on what is happening in Baton Rouge or across states in the Fall. (OPEN ITEM)

## ITEM 7 – OTHER BUSINESS

14. **Farewell Tyler Backus (ME)** – Chair Henry noted although Commissioner Backus was unable to attend today's meeting due to legislative hearings, he recognized his contribution and service. He is leaving his position at the Maine Department of Education and has stepped down from the Commission.

15. **Social Media and Purple Up! Toolkits** – Communications Associate Stephanie Ramsey provided an update on social media and promo efforts. She recommended that members follow or tag #mic3compact if they have social media accounts. She asked members to utilize and share the [toolkit](#) with stakeholders and their state councils in the month of April.

16. **MIC3 Presents Webinar Series** – ED Imai highlighted the upcoming events:  
A. [3/23: Compact 101](#)  
B. [3/30: Legal Perspectives of the Compact](#)

17. **[Successful Transitions Video Program](#)** – ED Imai reminded members of the June 1st deadline for submittals.

**ITEM 8 – ITEMS FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

18. No items were brought forth for the Executive Committee.

**ITEM 11 – ADJOURNMENT**

19. With no further business to conduct, Commission Jackson motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Buehn seconded the motion. Motion carried. Chair Henry adjourned the meeting at 12:03 PM ET.