Commission Vice Chair

Ex-officio Rep.

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# **Ex-officio Meeting** April 7, 2022 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM ET

PRESENT **Ernise Singleton** 

Louisiana Commissioner

Becky Porter Military Child Education Coalition Nicole Russell National Military Family Association

**Davis Whitfield** National Federation of High School Assoc.

EXCUSED Kyle Fairbairn

Military Impacted School Association Chuck Clymer

Department of Defense

STAFF Cherise Imai **Executive Director** 

> Stephanie Ramsey Communications Associate Lindsey Dablow **Training & Operations Associate**

### ITEM 1 - CALL TO ORDER

1. The meeting was called to order at 11:03 AM ET by Vice Chair Ernise Singleton (LA).

### ITEM 2 - ROLL CALL

2. Training and Operations Associate Lindsey Dablow conducted roll call.

#### ITEM 3 – AGENDA

Vice Chair Singleton asked the Representatives present for any changes or additions to the agenda. There being none the Vice Chair moved to agenda Reports.

## **ITEM 4 - REPORTS**

- Executive Committee (EXCOM) Vice Chair Singleton provided background information on the Tier Group meetings that will be held in May and provided next steps. Survey feedback obtained from the Commission following the 2018 and 2019 Annual Business Meeting (ABM) noted Commissioner's desire for more structured Tier Group meetings with a clear purpose. The current Strategic Plan tasked the EXCOM with developing a structure to support the Tier Groups and that initiative will be launched in May 2022.
- 5. National Office - Executive Director (ED) Cherise Imai informed the Representatives that the District of Columbia recently appointed Ms. Clara Botstein to the position of Commissioner, so the Commission is currently 100% filled with no vacancies. However, she noted the Commissioner from Maine, Tyler Backus, informed the National Office that he will be stepping down at the end of April. ED Imai stated former Maine Commissioner Sarah Forster is stepping back into the position in the interim.
- ED Imai reported during the Finance Committee's March meeting several Members asked her and the EXCOM to address the lack of communication regarding the Purple Star program from the Department of Defense (DoD) State Liaison Office. In advocating for the legislation, the DoD State Liaisons requested the state Compact Commissioner be responsible for implementing the program in their state. However, in some instances this created a conflict of interest, and this portion of the proposed legislation was not discussed with the Commissioner. Another issued raised was the lack of

funding for the program creating a financial burden on the responsible party. Dr. Becky Porter Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) stated she would assist the National Office to reach a resolution.

- 7. Communications Associate Stephanie Ramsey informed the Representatives of updates made to the 1-2015 Awards Policy. The Ex-officio Representatives are eligible to be recognized for their years of service to the Commission, so Kyle Fairbairn, Military Impacted Schools Association (MISA), will be recognized for 10 years of service and Davis Whitfield, National Federation of High School Athletics Associations (NFHS), will be recognized for 5 years of service.
- **8.** Ms. Ramsey reminded the Ex-officios that the National Office has been communicating with Bloom to determine best practices when communicating with their High School age members and it was determined to create Reels on Instagram and develop a Tik Tok account. Ms. Ramsey provided an update on the Newsletter timing and content.
- **9.** Ms. Dablow highlighted various items on the FY20-22 Activities document related to training and conferences attended on behalf of the Commission. She noted Month of the Military Child always creates opportunities for training. The two monthly Compact 101 Training sessions hosted by the National Office had more than 224 participants making this the largest training initiative since the pandemic began. Ms. Dablow noted upcoming trainings being hosted by various states.

### ITEM 6 - NEW BUSINESS

- **10. Ex-Officio Topic for Discussion: Initiatives or programs for 2022** Vice Chair Singleton recognized each Representative and asked them to share any upcoming initiatives or programs their organization is working on.
- 11. Vice Chair Singleton yielded the floor to Dr. Porter (MCEC). Dr. Porter shared MCEC is focused on planning and coordinating the upcoming Global Summit. She stated she attended the White Oak Retreat which was a collaborative of organizations serving veterans and military members and while education was not a specific topic there was conversations that developed out of the other topics that could impact education. Vice Chair Singleton concurred with her analysis and thanked Dr. Porter for her report.
- **12.** Vice Chair recognized Ms. Nicole Russell of the National Military Family Association (NMFA) to provide her report. Ms. Russell confirmed NMFA is holding its State of the Military Family Summit on April 19, 2022, where the focus will be on teen mental health wellbeing. She thanked MIC3 for agreeing to present at the Summit and encouraged the other Representatives to attend as well.
- **13.** Ms. Russell informed the Ex-officio Representatives that she is leaving NMFA to become the Executive Director of the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools. Her position on the Commission will be filled in the interim by Eileen Huck who has served on the Commission previously.
- 14. Ms. Russell noted that there has been discussion regarding special education attorneys in the military space. Specifically delays in training for attorneys regarding special education law. Ms. Russell was contacted by an attorney requesting resources related to special education to assist their local military families. The attorney was not aware of the Compact even though they had served in the Armed Forces and had also worked as a DoD civilian employee. Ms. Russell wanted to bring it before the group to make the DoD representative aware of the situation because her concern was it spoke to a larger issue regarding education of the special education attorneys being utilized by the military to assist families.
- **15.** Vice Chair Singleton recognized Mr. Whitfield from NFHS for his report. Mr. Whitfield noted Winter championships were concluding, so focus is shifting to the Spring events. He reported at present the COVID-19 pandemic has not impacted extracurriculars to the level it did in the previous years. Mr.

Whitfield stated he is working with the National Office on a case involving a student athlete and would follow up with ED Imai regarding that issue after the meeting.

- **16.** Changes to MIC3.net Ms. Dablow reviewed the updates to mic3.net including the Webinar and the Events Calendar page. Ms. Ramsey updated the Representatives on the monthly webinars for January, February, and March and where those are located on the website. She provided information on upcoming webinar topics.
- 17. Commission Standing Committee Update Chair Singleton yielded the floor to Ms. Dablow for an update on the Standing Committee. Communications and Outreach is focused on the various aspects of social media including development of a social media Postcard and the Month of the Military Child Toolkit. The Training Committee is working on additional training videos related to *Article V Placement and Attendance* and development of a Learning Management System. Compliance is focused on the conclusion of the fiscal year. They are connecting with states to ensure timely reporting of the End-of-Year Report, State Council meetings, and Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest forms. In addition to reporting deadlines, the Compliance Committee is also reviewing member state's request for assistance or guidance from general counsel to support those states who may need it.
- **18.** The Rules Committee is reviewing the current Rules Book. A complete review of the Rules Book has not been completed for several years so the Committee is in the process of doing that. Finance is monitoring member state's submittals of the annual FY22 dues and exploring other funding streams for the Commission. Finally, the Leadership Nomination Committee is editing the election guide and process based on feedback from previous ABMs.

#### ITEM 8 - OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**19. Items for the Executive Committee –** There being no further comment Vice Chair Singleton thanked the Representatives for their time and collaboration.

# **ITEM 9 – ADJOURNMENT**

**20.** The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 AM ET.