

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Thursday, January 19, 2023

PRESENT	Ernise Singleton Brian Henry John "Don" Kaminar Steve Bullard Chad Delbridge Mary Gable Shelly Ramos Dianna Ganote	Louisiana Commissioner Missouri Commissioner Arkansas Commissioner Kentucky Commissioner Wyoming Commissioner Maryland Commissioner Texas Commissioner Military Representative, USDOD	Vice Chair Treasure & Finance Past Chair Compliance Comm & Outreach Rules Training Ex-Officio
STAFF	Cherise Imai Lindsey Dablow Stephanie Ramsey	Executive Director Training & Operations Assoc Communications Associate	
EXCUSED	Laura Anastasio	Connecticut Commissioner	Chair

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

1. Vice Chair Ernise Singleton (LA) called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM ET on Thursday, January 19, 2023.

ITEM 2 – ROLL CALL

2. Roll call was conducted by Cherise Imai, Executive Director. A quorum was established.

ITEM 3 – APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

3. **Treasurer Brian Henry (MO) motioned to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Steve Bullard (KY). The motion carried.**

ITEM 4 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

5. **Commissioner Don Kaminar (AR) motioned to approve the minutes from the January 16 and 19, 2022 meetings as presented, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion carried.**

ITEM 5 – REPORTS

6. **Chair** – The Chair report was deferred to February.

7. **Vice Chair** – Vice Chair Singleton reported the Ex-officio meeting was unable to take place in January and will be rescheduled to a later date.

8. **Executive Director** – ED Imai deferred to Training and Operations Associate, Lindsey Dablow to provide an update on the recent training conducted by the Commission. Ms. Dablow reported 45 training sessions, both virtual and in-person, have been held in the current fiscal year to date, with 2,100 attendees. Training has tripled in our second year. Ms. Dablow highlighted the first in-person training for Kentucky's Elizabethtown's school personnel and thanked Commissioner Bullard for attending. She noted upcoming training events included a 201 Training requested by the Navy Region

Liaison for California; requests were also received from Washington and New York. ED Imai reported she attended two state council meetings in 2023 – Kentucky and Florida's.

9. **DOD Representative** – Dianna Ganote reported the USDoD Defense State Liaison Office (DSLO) process to identify and finalize their key priorities process is a timeline of 18 months. She said one of the focus areas was to engage School Liaison's in the process. She also noted the DSLO has reorganized regions of responsibility, with 3 new Liaisons hired over the past few months.

10. **Communications and Outreach** – Commissioner Chad Delbridge (WY) reported the Committee held its first meeting earlier this month. They reviewed the strategic plan and goals, approved the updated Purple Up! Toolkit which will be promoted to members and stakeholders; approved the Communications Plan for the calendar year; and said one of the main focus areas is to educate states on the resources available to help promote the Compact.

11. **Compliance** – Commissioner Bullard reported the Committee met on January 10th. They reviewed the strategic plan and their goals; are monitoring state compliance for their annual state council meetings; and are tracking conflict of interest and code of conduct form submittals. Reminders will be sent to members. He noted he needed to follow up with the state of North Dakota on her documentation on the council meeting held in September.

ITEM 6 – OLD BUSINESS

12. **National Guard and Reserve Legislative Toolkit** – ED Imai presented the Toolkit drafted by staff and General Counsel. Members expressed the document was concise and provided the information necessary for states to pursue action should they desire to do so.

13. **Commissioner Bullard motioned to approve the Toolkit as presented, seconded by Commissioner Delbridge. The motion carried.**

14. **Compact Statute Citation Correction** – ED Imai reported an informational paper is being drafted in response to a request from DSLO Director, Geraldine Valentino-Smith. The paper will include a report by state on their status of the correction, as well as priority based on their ability and feasibility to make the correction. She noted the paper will also be made available to member states once approved. She also noted the report would be updated as the National Office met with member states and their stakeholders to obtain the status. (OPEN ITEM)

15. **Congressional NDAA Amendment on MIC3** – ED Imai referenced the NDAA requirement for the Secretaries of Defense and Homeland Security, *“in consultation with states through the Defense-State Liaison Office, shall develop recommendations to improve and fully implement the Military Interstate Children's Compact. The purpose was to identify any barriers:*

- *to the ability of a parent of a transferring military-connected child to enroll the child, in advance, in an elementary or secondary school in the State in which the child is transferring, without requiring the parent or child to be physically present in the State; and*
- *to the ability of a transferring military-connected child who receives special education services to gain access to such services and related supports in the State to which the child transfers within the timeframes required under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ([20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.](#)); consider the feasibility and advisability of:*
 - *tracking and reporting the number of families who use advanced enrollment in States that offer advanced enrollment to military-connected children.*

- *States clarifying in legislation that eligibility for advanced enrollment requires only written evidence of a permanent change of station order, and does not require a parent of a military-connected child to produce a rental agreement or mortgage statement; and*
- *the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Military Interstate Children's Compact, developing a letter or other memorandum that military families may present to local educational agencies that outlines the protections afforded to military-connected children by the Military Interstate Children's Compact; and*
- *identify any other actions that may be taken by the States (acting together or separately) to improve the Military Interstate Children's Compact.*
- *A report was required not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretaries concerned shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and to the States a report setting forth the recommendations developed under subsection (a)."*

16. The Committee agreed while continual improvement of the Compact was a continual focus area of the Commission, they hoped the USDoD understood: Compact law and its jurisdiction by member states; the process of improvement which was limited to the scope of the rules and regulations, and promulgation process for the rules and bylaws of the organization.

17. Ms. Ganote added her office, under Military Family and Community Policy, would also be providing input to the report. (OPEN ITEM)

18. **Contract/Agreement Updates** – ED Imai reported the Training Consultant contract has been signed, while the Staff Development, General Counsel, and Council of State Governments MOU are pending review by the vendors.

19. **Ex-officio Process** – Ms. Dablow reported Blue Star Families (BSF) has inquired on applying to be an ex-officio member. She noted the prior process utilized for the National Federation of State High School Associations in 2015 included a brief on the organization at the Annual Business Meeting on the background, and why they should be a member of the commission. It was noted while the process was in practice and not in policy, the statute stated the full commission would vote on their membership application. Members agreed the BSF was a viable candidate, with the collaboration over the past several years on the survey of military families. A draft copy of the proposed Ambassador Program, which was tabled by the Communications and Outreach Committee last year, was provided as a starting point. The Committee directed the National Office to present a draft for review and discussion at a future meeting. (OPEN ITEM)

20. **Joint Force Educator Toolkit** – ED Imai reported the White House, under the Department of Education, is developing a toolkit for educators and schools. The document will be released in the Spring. The Committee was pleased the Commission was included in the informational guide. ED Imai stated the Toolkit would be promoted widely through the Commission once it was finalized. (OPEN ITEM)

ITEM 7 – NEW BUSINESS

21. **ABM 2022 Reimbursement: Appeal to the EXCOM** – ED Imai reported the Wisconsin and Vermont Commissioners were informed via email of the outcome. She noted she spoke with the Wisconsin Commissioner the previous day regarding the discrepancy of her airflight documentation, and she restated her position that American Airlines changed her final flight destination without her knowledge. ED Imai noted the case closed.

22. **Utah Compact Statute Letter** – ED Imai reported a letter was sent by General Counsel to the Utah Commissioner regarding concern of their statute and non-alignment with other member states. An offer was made to discuss with the Commissioner and stakeholders on correcting the statute back to its original form. Commissioner Rasmussen stated he met with some stakeholders and leadership, and they requested the opportunity to address the issue post legislative session, as it was too late to address it in the current session. (OPEN ITEM)

23. **MIC3 Awards, Ref: [1-2015 Awards Policy](#)** – Communications Associate Stephanie Ramsey recommended former Commissioner Craig Neuenswander (KS) for the State Service Award. **Commissioner Don Kaminar motioned to approve Mr. Neuenswander for the award, seconded by Commissioner Mary Gable (MD). The motion carried.**

24. Ms. Ramsey reported Community Awards, which do not require the Committee's approve, were bestowed on:

- Jacob Oliva, Senior Chancellor, FLDOE (FL)
- Mary Toppa, Executive Assistance, Middletown Public Schools (RI)
- Terry Roller, Assistant State Superintendent, Support Services, Alabama State Department of Education

25. **Blue Star Families** – ED Imai briefed the Committee on the recent Policy Research Advisory team discussion and projects. She also stated the 2022 survey results would be released in Spring.

26. **Open Records** – Ms. Dablow reported under the new process, 5 requests were received, the most recent regarding the Case and Inquiry report.

27. **DSLO and Adding “Space Force” to the Compact Statute** – ED Imai updated the Committee on recent communique regarding the DSLO activity to change the Compact statute without the approval of the Commission and circumventing the Compact promulgation process. She added Commissioner Cindy Hunt (OR) notified once she was made aware of the amendment. Members expressed concern regarding the action being conducted by an ex-officio member of the Commission.

28. ED Imai said the Director requested a legal review by the MIC3 General Counsel, the legal team was preparing a background paper and guidance. ED Imai noted the DSLO Director's understanding was the Space Force was covered under the Compact, and the Commission's legal advisory of the issue was evidence of the coverage – therefore the change was a technical amendment, and the DSLO was assisting the Commission to align with the practice. However, the Committee agreed it was not the insertion of the term itself that was the issue, rather, it was the position of the DSLO office to determine the change was a technical amendment, and independently change the compact statute without the engagement of the Commission. ED added this was why the meeting in mid-December was important – to connect with the DSLO Director early on and to avoid any conflicts. The Committee agreed they hoped the DSLO action was without malintent and from a perspective of not understanding compact law. The Committee agreed the issue should be handled timely and would require leadership engagement. (OPEN ITEM)

ITEM 8 – OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

29. Vice Chair Singleton reported the EXCOM retreat would be held on April 18-20 in Lexington. She also reminded the Committee of the upcoming Compact 101 training on February 22nd.

30. Commissioner Bullard at the recent Compliance meeting, Wisconsin Commission Shelley Joan Weiss requested a copy of the raw data from the ABM Post Event Survey. The Committee agreed the

Commissioner should file an Open Records request, as the data was not made available in this format publicly. ED Imai stated the Commissioner filed her form, however felt she was an internal member of the Commission, and not external (as a member of the public), therefore was exempt from the policy. The Committee agreed with the exception of staff, all commissioners and ex-officio members that request data not provided on the website or in a format published publicly should complete the form. The process was established for data collection and for efficiency. The Committee asked ED Imai to follow up and provide the data in the form it was presented to the Executive Committee – which was a summary. (OPEN ITEM)

ITEM 9 – ADJOURNMENT

31. With no further business to conduct, Vice Chair Singleton adjourned the meeting at 2:12 PM ET.

Respectfully submitted by,
Cherise Imai
Secretary/Executive Director