

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
April 19-20, 2023
Origin Hotel in Lexington, KY

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

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

1. Chair Laura Anastasio (CT) called the meeting to order at 8:10 AM ET on Tuesday, April 19, 2023.

ITEM 2 – ROLL CALL

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

ITEM 3 – WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

3. Chair Anastasio welcomed Executive Committee (EXCOM) members and Communications Associate Christina King was introduced, as this was her first meeting.

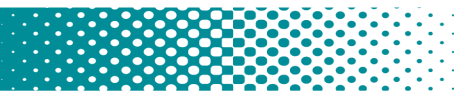
ITEM 4 – APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

4. ED Imai suggested amendments to the Awards section of the agenda, adding Commissioner Peter Laing (AZ) for the State Service award. Commissioner Don Kaminar (AR) motioned to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Commissioner Mary Gable (MD). Motion carried.

ITEM 5 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

5. Commissioner Steven Bullard (KY) motioned to approve the minutes from the March 16, 2023, meeting as presented, seconded by Treasurer Brian Henry (MO). Motion carried.

ITEM 6 – REPORTS



6. **Chair Report** – Chair Anastasio stated the Strategic plan was progressing with goals and objectives being met. Chair Anastasio reviewed the meeting agenda and highlighted topics for discussion.
7. **Vice Chair** – Vice Chair and Louisiana Commissioner Ernise Singleton apologized for joining the meeting virtually. Vice Chair Singleton reported the Ex-officios have met with future meetings scheduled. The Ex-officio Representatives shared their organization's initiatives to support military children. Ex-officio Meeting notes are available on mic3.net.
8. Vice Chair Singleton reported Commission Tier Groups will meet in June and Tier Group 4 has a new Facilitator, Commissioner Clara Botstein (DC), who will lead the meeting in June.
9. **Executive Director** – ED Imai updated the EXCOM regarding the Hawaii training held in March featuring more than six trainings held over a four-day period at the request of Hawaii Department of Education representatives and Compact Commissioner Kathleen Berg (HI). Trainings included: the Hawaii Transition Center Conference; joint service Military Family and Life Consultants; South Central school administrators; and parent briefs. In addition, she met with the State Superintendent of Education; Complex Area Superintendents for South Central and Leeward; Hawaii Component Command and Installation School Liaisons; the Pacific Rim Air Force School Liaisons from Alaska, Japan, Okinawa, and Korea; Indo-Pacific Command J1 Commander and staff; and the Department of Defense Education Activity Liaison to Indo-Pacific Command. Primary discussions focused on cases, education of schools on the regulations, and building family awareness.
10. ED Imai informed the EXCOM Col Andrew L. Roddan, Wing Commander of the 374th Airlift Wing, Yokota Air Base in Japan requested training for his installation and DoDEA schools. He is also coordinating briefs and training opportunities with his service installation counterparts for three other installations. ED Imai and Training and Operations Associate Lindsey Dablow have obtained orders to provide training to 500 participants on May 6-13, 2023. The Air Force has sponsored the expenses. EXCOM requested staff prepare a cost analysis related to all MIC3 training provided in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, noting the virtual and in-person sessions to be presented at the 2023 Annual Business Meeting (ABM).
11. **Activities and Training Update** – Ms. Dablow updated Members on the National Office activities in FY23 including webinars, state council briefs, and training. She highlighted 70 trainings have been held or scheduled this fiscal year compared to 25 in FY22. Ms. Dablow noted the Compact 101 trainings average 100 registrants with a 70% attendance rate.
12. **Social Media Analytics** – Ms. King briefed the current social media analytics for MIC3.net as well as the Commission's social media accounts. She reported overall analytic numbers increased this quarter compared to the same quarter in 2022, with the highest audience located in the United States accessing via desktop or laptop computer. Social media followers and engagements also increased from the previous year.
13. **Case and Inquiry Report** – ED Imai reported 55 cases to date, with four in the last several weeks. Parent inquiries increased compared to Commissioner inquiries in previous years. Similar to past reports, most cases are not compact-related. School choice, enrollment, and course placement continue to be the highest trending issues.
14. **New Commissioners and Vacancies** – ED Imai stated there are Commissioner vacancies in Alaska, Oklahoma, Oregon, Idaho, Iowa, Illinois, and Arizona. Former Commissioner, Bruce DuPlanty,

was appointed during the interim for Arizona until the vacancy is filled. Names have been provided to the Commission for Iowa and Illinois and are pending the official appointment letters.

15. **Blue Star Families** – ED Imai deferred this report until the May 2023 meeting.

16. **USDoD Representative** – USDoD Representative Dianna Ganote reviewed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) requirements. The Office of Military Family Readiness Policy is preparing a report on the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) and the School Liaison (SL) program that will emphasize the difference between the EFMP and SL programs. A copy of the report will be provided to the Commission once approved.

17. **Penn State Study** – Ms. Ganote reported the Defense State Liaison Office (DSLO) is preparing the Military Family and Community Policy report due for release in December 2023 which will contain findings from the Penn State study. The report will include a signed letter by the Secretary of Defense for parents to take to school to assist their students during transition. The first phase of the Penn State study is a literature review, and the second phase will be interviews with key stakeholders and feedback received from questionnaires. The project has yet to be approved by the Office of Management and Budget but once approved more information will be provided to the EXCOM. Ms. Ganote recommended the EXCOM consider inviting Penn State to attend the ABM and present data from the first phase of the study.

18. **Finance** – Treasurer and Finance Chair, Commissioner Henry reported the Finance Committee recently met. On request of the Tennessee Commissioner, Deanna McLaughlin at their prior meeting. She questioned the Commission's affiliation with the Council of State Governments (CSG), utilization of Traditional Bank to conduct CSG's banking and finances, and why the Commission could not select their own banking institution. CSG's Accounting attended the meeting and provided an overview of the services provided to CSG and the Commission, and 10 other affiliate organizations, and how banking institutions are selected. She asked if the Commission could seek their own banking institution, and CSG stated this option would be outside of the scope of the Memorandum of Agreement with CSG, therefore the Commission would need to leave CSG as it would be difficult to manage two different banking systems for CSG finances. Treasurer Henry reported MIC3 is in excellent financial standing. ED Imai reported the Commission under the current CSG affiliate agreement with the Commission, we pay 5% of the annual budget to CSG in indirect cost for administering our fund accounts. Under the new agreement approved by the EXCOM in January, which is in effect as of July 1, the indirect cost will increase to 7%, and in January 2024 to 10%. The EXCOM discussed and agreed the cost and the services provided to the Commission as an affiliate organization was beneficial, and continuing to partner with CSG was the best fiscal option. Commissioner Henry said the Committee will develop a presentation for ABM that outlines the different aspects of this partnership with a cost analysis detailing service and what the Commission would pay we separated from CSG.

19. **Rules** – Commissioner Gable stated the Rules Committee met on Tuesday, April 11, and reviewed the Case and Inquiry Report which ED Imai briefed on earlier in the agenda. Members discussed the current Promulgation of Rules document and amending it to provide an annual deadline date. Setting a deadline for proposed new Rules or amendments to existing Rules would allow the Committee time to receive the proposal, vet the language thoroughly, and vote on each proposed Rule prior ABM. Much of the meeting was spent reviewing the General Counsel's Review and Analysis of MIC3 Policy Guide memo. The Committee discussed the three proposed Rules and requested time to thoroughly review the documents and provide feedback. The Committee will review the feedback at their June meeting.

20. **Promulgation of Rules Amendment** – Annual Deadline Date – Commissioner Gable the Committee discussed setting a specific calendar date to submit proposed rules to the Committee - February 28th or 120 days after the ABM.” The Members expressed concern the second option would not be as clear as the first of providing a specific date. The EXCOM agreed and supported setting a deadline date of February 28th for consistency. This item will be voted on at the Committee’s June Meeting.

21. **External Legislative Toolkit** – The Rules Committee reviewed the final External Legislative Toolkit prepared by staff and General Counsel to assist states with developing or adopting statute language to address issues outside the provisions of the Compact. The toolkit provides guidance to states that want to develop external statutes for topics such as High school credits earned in 8th grade, virtual school, or other highly mobile populations.

22. Commissioner Gable requested General Counsel attend the Rules Committee’s meeting on June 13, 2023, to address concerns and questions regarding the Rules Proposals in relation to the legal memorandum.

Recess – By acclamation, Chair Anastasio recessed the meeting at 9:51 AM ET.

Reconvene – By acclamation, Chair Anastasio reconvened the meeting at 10:06 AM ET.

23. **Leadership Nomination** – Commissioner Kaminar stated overall members were satisfied with the election process, stating only two people had voiced otherwise. On request by two Members, he asked the General Counsel to clarify why the Commission does not need to not allow floor nominations. General Counsel Stuart Michael replied while the Commission uses Roberts Rules, is it a guideline, and the Commission is not required to do everything Roberts Rules states. Commissioner Kaminar stated this is in line with the prior reading by General Counsel, and he will report this statement to the Committee. Commissioner Kaminar concluded his report noting the Committee is looking forward to another smooth election this year.

ITEM 7 – OLD BUSINESS

24. **USDoD State Liaison Office and the Compact Statute Amendment to Add Space Force** – ED Imai reported a call is being scheduled with the Director of the DSLO and would update the EXCOM following the call. ED Imai reminded the EXCOM that Space Force is already covered under the Compact but needs to inform DSLO of the Commission’s process for amending the Compact statute and review the proposed Space Force language. ED Imai recommended inviting leadership from Space Force to attend the ABM.

25. **Citation Correction in State Statutes** – ED Imai briefed the EXCOM on the Citation Correction initiative, noting Delaware is the latest state to advance legislation to correct the citation in their state statute. She stated approximately a quarter of member states have corrected the statute and others will be working on it in the upcoming year. ED Imai reported positive feedback from the Commissioners.

26. **Joint Forces Educator Toolkit** – ED Imai reported the toolkit is pending official release but would be provided to the Commission once available. ED Imai informed the Members a formal request for Secretary Cardona to speak at ABM would be submitted.

27. **Data Collection and Committee Feedback to Date** – Ms. Dablow reviewed the MIC3 Data Collection Memo noting data collection is a requirement set forth in the Compact statute and the Rules.

ED Imai explained the discussion as framed by the Commission's Strategic Plan is focused on what data the committee's think Commissioners can capture and including this on the End-of-Year reports without burdening school districts with data collection. This will continue to be a topic of discussion for the EXCOM and Committees.

Recess – By acclamation, Chair Anastasio recessed the meeting at 12:00 PM ET.

Reconvene – By acclamation, Chair Anastasio reconvened the meeting at 1:00 PM ET.

28. **Rules/Policy Review - Proposed New Rules** – ED Imai reported the Rules Committee suggested modifications to the language of the proposed new Rules provided by General Counsel. Commissioner Gable asked for clarification on the Rules Promulgation Process, and ED Imai responded the Rules Committee will review and edit the proposed drafts, then a published copy will be disseminated for public comment. Based on the feedback and public comment, the Rules Committee may amend the draft then it will be sent to EXCOM for review before a final vote at the ABM. If the Rules Committee does not vote in favor of the proposed Rules draft or the draft is not ready in time for ABM then it will remain a policy and can be addressed at a later date.

29. **Policies–Travel and Reimbursement Guidelines** – Ms. Dablow presented the amended 1-2014 Travel Reimbursement and Guidelines policy. Ms. Dablow stated the current policy has governed MIC3's travel reimbursement practices since 2014 but based on reimbursements submitted following the 2022 ABM, there was need for clarification regarding submitting itemized receipts and providing documentation. The amended policy is intended to clarify the process while allowing for flexibility and outlining the process by which reimbursements will be reviewed by the Commission.

30. **Policies – New Monitoring Compact Statutes and State Legislation** – Ms. Dablow stated proposed policy 1-2023 Monitoring Compact Statute and State Legislation is intended to outline the role and responsibility of the Compact Commissioner as it relates to their state's Compact Statute. Chair Anastasio noted some Commissioners are proactive when addressing issues, but some Commissioners do not have the same access to resources. The EXCOM agreed there needed to be guidance for Commissioners on their role and responsibility in this area.

31. **Policies–New Contact Information and Appropriate Use of Email** – ED Imai stated this subject was discussed during the November EXCOM meeting. In the past Commissioners have mass emailed the Commission for marketing purposes, to promote organizations, or general topics not related to the Commission or Compact. She noted the policy draft will be reviewed by EXCOM first and then reviewed by the Communications and Outreach Committee. The EXCOM agreed the policy language needs to be concise and clarify the email directory available to members strictly be used for Commission and Compact-related items.

32. **State Compact Statute Amendments and Legislative Bills** – ED Imai updated the EXCOM on Virginia Senate Bill (SB) 1929, stating Commissioner Designee Daniel Dunham (VA) informed the National Office amended language has been passed by both the House and Senate and the Governor has signed it. Commissioner Designee Dunham voiced his appreciation for everyone's hard work on this. General Counsel worked with the Governor's legal counsel to submit a replacement bill for the external statute language.

33. ED Imai stated Commissioner Designee Dunham also requested assistance obtaining appointments to Virginia's State Council. ED Imai reported this was accomplished through written correspondence to the Governor's office from the National Office. She added Commissioner Dunham was pleased with the outcome and emphasized the effectiveness and need for staff with these matters.

34. Commissioner Kaminar updated the EXCOM regarding Arkansas SB 387, stating the bill sponsor wanted to amend the Compact Statute, but was advised by MIC3 General Counsel that amendments to the Compact statute should not be made, and the issue was resolved quickly.

35. **New Ex-officio Membership** – ED Imai briefed the Committee on Blue Star Families' request to join the Commission as an Ex-officio organization. The EXCOM supported having Blue Star Families attend the ABM and present their application so the Commission could vote.

36. The EXCOM reviewed the Ex-officio Organization Application Process. The application timeline was amended. The document will be updated to reflect the Member's feedback and presented for review at the EXCOM's May meeting. For this current year, Blue Star Families' application will follow the current protocol, which includes ExCom's review and approval. If the application is approved, the organization will be invited to ABM to present and brief the Commission. The application would a formal Commission vote.

ITEM 8 – NEW BUSINESS

37. **Organizational Culture** – ED Imai reported under the Operations Audit, the National Office is working with Brian Riggs on team and leadership development for staff and the EXCOM. ED Imai noted the Strategic Plan provides framework to ensure we are focused executing the mission and vision, however the culture and how members interact among staff and colleagues continues to draw concern. ED Imai briefed on the Organizational Culture document citing Guiding Principles and stated while the Commissioner's may voice opinions and perspectives in representing their state, it should in a manner that is professional and respectful to colleagues and staff. She emphasized the Commission's mission which is to support and assist military children, and the unified efforts should be focused on this goal. The EXCOM concluded their discussion and agreed to set a clear expectation of what is appropriate and remain focused on the kids.

38. **2023 Annual Business Meeting** – Ms. Dablow reviewed the ABM Cost Analysis. The EXCOM discussed hosting the ABM in-person, virtually or hybrid and the projected cost for the 2023 ABM due to inflation. They also examined similar organization conference and meeting fees.

39. **Commissioner Shelly Ramos (TX) motioned to increase registration fees to \$500 early registration, \$600 regular registration, and \$1,100 late registration. Commissioner Chad Delbridge (WY) seconded the motion. Motion Carried.**

40. **Agenda Draft** – ED Imai reviewed the 2023 ABM draft agenda which incorporated several suggestions from the post event survey from 2022 – including adding an Ex-Officio panel and other topics of interest. The EXCOM discussed having the Ex-officio Representatives participate in smaller discussions or panels for interaction instead of the 101 briefs from previous ABMS to provide a more interactive format Members will continue this discussion in May.

Recess – By acclamation, Chair Anastasio recessed the meeting at 4:25 PM ET to be reconvened the following morning.

Reconvene – By acclamation, Chair Anastasio reconvened the meeting at 8:05 AM ET on Thursday, April 20, 2023.

41. **Brainstorm Theme** – Members shared ideas for a theme for the 2024 ABM citing the need to make sure the theme encompasses the Commission’s mission. The theme selected for the 2023 ABM will be “Fostering Relationships to Support Educational Transitions.”
42. **Future ABM Format** – Chair Anastasio asked the Committee to consider the format, in-person, virtual, or hybrid, for future ABMs. Discussion included comparison of cost and levels of effectiveness and connection fostered by each format. The EXCOM requested an analysis be prepared that illustrates the pros, cons, and total costs of each format.
43. **Financial Forecasting** – Treasurer Henry stated there is a need to raise awareness and confidence in spending and management of Commission funds. He suggested forming an ad hoc committee to analyze the factors affecting expenses, recognize trends and develop a plan that would address these issues, and provide a structure for regular reviews. Treasurer Henry suggested the ad hoc committee be composed of members from the Finance Committee, the Executive Director, and Treasurer. The Committee supported the idea.
44. **Commissioner Diana McLaughlin (TN) Concern Regarding Budget Line Item: Staff Travel** – Treasurer Henry briefed members on a concern expressed by Finance Committee Member, Commissioner McLaughlin, regarding who approves staff travel, and what happens when a budget line item is exceeded for that fiscal year. The Committee agreed if a line item, such as staff travel, is not an issue – if it is justifiable. They noted the budget is a guide and projection of costs based on activities and programs of the Commission. They agreed the Commission, nor any organization, cannot operate without flexibility to manage budgets. They were aware that during the pandemic, we were consistently under budget, and the Commission ended the past seven fiscal years significantly under projections, and understood this was in part, due to the pandemic. They agreed the annual audit of the Commission finances was important to ensuring the finances were in good standing, and the auditor has not had any irregularity or findings. ED Imai added the last recommendation by the auditor was in 2016. He identified the need for the Commission reimbursements to include itemized receipts from Commissioners and recommended an amendment to the Travel Policy. Members agreed the budget is a guideline with flexibility for individual line items to be adjusted as needed. Chair Anastasio added she meets ED Imai weekly and was informed of staff activities, projects, and travel.
45. **Special Guest Commissioner Greg Lynch (WA) Concern Regarding Training** – Commissioner Lynch joined the meeting virtually at 11:03 AM ET on Wednesday, April 19, 2023. Commissioner Lynch addressed concerns about trainings and the cost associated with travel for training. He stated the Commission’s biggest challenge has been maintaining stakeholder knowledge regarding the need and benefits of training compared to the cost. Commissioner Lynch suggested development of a long-range budget strategy to address rising costs associated with travel that would allow states to increase awareness of the Compact and its impact on military families. The EXCOM discussed the need to continue education and outreach not only in the larger states with more cases but also in the smaller states as well as they may need more support. The EXCOM directed staff to develop guidance and consider a training schedule to make sure all states were provided access to training and Commission resources.
46. **Blue Star Families Ex-Officio Application** – Having discussed this item earlier in the agenda the EXCOM moved on in the agenda.
47. **Awards** – ED Imai informed the EXCOM Commissioner Darrell Floyd (OK) notified the National Office of his impending retirement on June 30, and Commissioner Peter Laing (AZ) had recently left the Arizona Department of Education. She added both were eligible for the State Service Award.

Commissioner Gable motioned to approve the awards. Commissioner Delbridge seconded. Motion carried.

48. **2024 ABM Location** – Members discussed possible 2024 ABM locations of New Mexico, Utah, California, and Montana. ED Imai informed Utah was currently not in compliance and California had hosted the ABM previously in San Diego. Members voiced concern about the high cost, weather in October, and availability of flights for Montana. Based on this, Members determined New Mexico is the most reasonable locale at this time. **Commissioner Gable made a motion to approve New Mexico as the 2024 ABM location. Commissioner Ramos seconded. Motion carried.**

ITEM 9 – EXECUTIVE SESSION –

Commissioner Bullard made a motion to move into Executive Session. Treasurer Henry seconded the motion. Motion carried. The EXCOM moved into Executive Session at 1:07 PM ET on Wednesday, April 19, 2023.

Commissioner Gable made a motion to conclude Executive Session at 2:38 PM ET. Commissioner Delbridge seconded. Motion carried.

ITEM 10 – OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS – There being no further business or announcements the Chair moved to adjournment.

ITEM 11 – ADJOURNMENT

49. ED Imai thanked members for attending, for their hard work, and appreciation for their volunteerism on the EXCOM. Commissioner Gable commended ED Imai on her leadership, her vision, and her teamwork. Members praised staff for coordinating the meeting logistics. Commissioner Delbridge and Treasurer Henry also added their praise. =

50. **Treasurer Henry motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Gable seconded. Motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at 10:48 AM ET, Thursday, April 20, 2023.