

ALABAMA STATE COUNCIL
Wednesday, August 9, 2023

PRESENT	<p>Dr. Douglas L. Ragland Dr. Autumn Jeter</p> <p>John Gilchrist</p> <p>Major General Sheryl Gordon Joshua Robertson Kim Vickers</p>	<p>Compact Commissioner, Chair Assistant Superintendent for Support Services, Alabama Department of Education (ALDOE), & Military Education Family Liaison For Nick Moore, Education Policy Advisor, Executive Office of the Governor Alabama National Guard Superintendent of Daleville City Schools Associate Athletic Director, Alabama High School Athletics Association</p>
NON-VOTING MEMBERS	<p>Kimberly Kozel</p> <p>Robert Richert</p> <p>Katheryn Ganster</p> <p>Erica Lewis</p>	<p>Department of Defense Military Representative, and School Liaison Officer, Soldiers Services Center, Fort Novosel, US Army Child & Youth Education Services, School Liaison 42nd Force Support Squadron, Maxwell AFB, AL Child & Youth Education Services, School Liaison 42nd Force Support Squadron, Maxwell AFB, AL School Resource Officer, CYS, Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation</p>
GUESTS	<p>Ethan Branch Stephen Morris</p>	<p>School Liaison, Fort Moore, Georgia Director of Governmental Affairs and Special Assist to the Adjutant General, AL National Guard</p>
STAFF	<p>Cherise Imai Christina King</p>	<p>MIC3 Executive Director MIC3 Communications Associate</p>
EXCUSED	<p>Dr. Eric Mackey Dr. Diane C. Flournoy Nyoka Johnson Sen. J. T. "Jabo" Waggoner</p>	<p>State Superintendent of Education School & Community Stakeholder CYS Coordinator, Anniston Army Depot Alabama Senator for District Sixteen, and Senate Rules Chairman State of Alabama</p>

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:01 AM CT by Alabama Compact Commissioner and Chair, Dr. Douglas L. Ragland.

ITEM 2 – ROLL CALL

2. The Chair directed Ms. Cherise Imai, MIC3 Executive Director, to call roll. A quorum was established.

ITEM 3 – WELCOME

3. Chair Ragland welcomed state council members and guests and provided opening remarks. Dr. Jeter expressed her appreciation as a new member to the council and the liaison on behalf of the Department of Education. She fills Terry Roller's position. Dr. Robertson exclaimed he was excited to be a part of the council and looked forward to working with everyone. Both of his grandfathers retired from the military. Chair Ragland noted Nyoka Johnson is a new member, however, was not present to the meeting.

ITEM 4 – APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

4. **Ms. Kim Kozel motioned to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kim Vickers. The motion carried.**

ITEM 5 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

5. **Mr. Robert Richert motioned to approve the minutes of August 16, 2022, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Vickers. The motion carried.**

ITEM 6 – REPORTS

6. **Alabama Department of Education Update** – Dr. Autumn Jeter provided an update on the pandemic and schools. She reported many school districts began the school year on Monday. She acknowledged there was a teacher shortage, both state and nationwide, in addition to school personnel, such as bus drivers. Per the Health Department, COVID-19 now being treated as the flu. She said the pandemic was hard on the workforce and kids. She highlighted the various summer recovery and other interventions/supports which were available to assist students and address academic gaps. She noted the state was gearing up for the upcoming Purple Star application process in October-December - 122 schools were awarded this past year.

7. **Alabama High School Athletic Association Update** – Ms. Vickers reported no new bylaws went into effect this past year that would impact military families. She highlighted the association's 17-year school athletic grant program which will return \$2.3M revenue to schools – they are the only association to do this nationwide. She added they are gearing up for another season of high school sports which launches on August 24th.

8. **Governor's Office** – Mr. John Gilchrist stated he did not have a report at this time.

9. **Alabama National Guard Update** – Chair Ragland recognized Major General Sheryl Gordon who thanked Governor Kay Ivey for her appointment and noted the Governor's commitment to making Alabama a "military-friendly" state. Major General Gordon noted Alabama's National Guard families do not experience issues related to transitioning due to orders because they live within the state of Alabama. She explained some National Guard families, under Title 10 Orders, have experienced issues when they transition back into the state but noted those have been resolved quickly and efficiently.

10. **FY2023 Dues** – Chair Ragland reported the current fiscal year dues were \$11,603.00, which were paid in full on March 15, 2023, by the ALSDE. Dr. Jeter requested to be copied on emails to the Department on dues invoices and payments.
11. **National Commission** – ED Imai reviewed the *FY2023 Case and Inquiry Report* at the national level with the Council. She noted the data has been collected by the Commission for the past 5 years. Most of the inquiries are received by parents and 72% were not compacted related, however Commissioners and schools assist families with information and referral in these cases. These topics included school choice, early withdrawal and final grades, and pre-k program entrance ages. She reported 52% of the compact related inquiries were regarding Placement and Attendance. Most of the cases (51%) were from Tier 1 or the highest impacted states, such as Virginia, California, and Texas – which is expected. ED Imai reported the Commission's Training Committee was working on a new online, on-demand training system, which would be launched at the upcoming Annual Business Meeting in November.
12. **2023 Annual Business Meeting** – ED Imai reminded Members the registration for the meeting was open and to attend if they were interested. The event will be held in Richmond, Virginia this year at the Marriot Richmond hotel.
13. **School Liaison Officers & Military Representatives Reports**
- Maxwell AFB** – Robert Richert and Katheryn Ganster – Mr. Richert reported the Compact related cases included a reciprocal diploma between Texas and California, and consultation with a local junior high school on excused absences. The current active cases they were working on included a case in Gulf Shores and one local case. Non-MIC3 cases dealt with drugs, presence of guns, and truancy issues. They recognized the reviewers for the Purple Star designation: 53 schools received recognition the previous year, and 122 this past year. They promoted the program and look forward to reseeing designation in fall. They highlighted the Military Child Education Coalition 360 Summits – and stated an education piece on MIC3 was included. Another session was scheduled for the following Tuesday. They highlighted the River Region area, which was recognized as a Great American Defense Community; and they continue to track recent legislation and advising as appropriately as issue revise.
 - Redstone Arsenal** – Erica Lewis – Ms. Erica Lewis reported in October 2022, the Garrison Commander held an Impact Aid kickoff: he shared info with the community, workforce, and residents. They also reestablished homeschool programs for families; conducted workshops for families and educators including Kindergarten workshop; bootcamp; and connecting with military youth at a local elementary school. She noted while there weren't a lot of MIC3 issues, she continues to support families and schools.
 - Fort Novosel** – Kim Kozel – Ms. Kozel stated the installation changed its name from Fort Rucker to Fort Novosel. She served as a reviewer for the Purple Star schools and provided professional development for schools on providing special support for military families. She stated most schools have started in her area. Currently, she is working on a reciprocal diploma case featuring a family that moved from New York to Alabama, which requires state assessment testing.

ITEM 7 – OLD BUSINESS

14. **Compact Statute Citation Correction** – Chair Ragland reported he mentioned the [Compact Citation Correction](#) at last year's meeting. He stated there is an error in the state's Compact statute which references active duty as "Section" 1209 and 1211 which should reference "Chapter" 1209 and 1211 instead. He noted this as an action item for the Council. Mr. Nick Morris, Dr. Jeter, Dr. Mackey, and MG Gordon will work together to submit a correction in the 2025 Legislative Session. **(OPEN ITEM)**

15. **National Guard and Reserve** – Chair Ragland reported the Commission voted not to amend the state Compact statute to expand the coverage to National Guard and Reserve dependents beyond those covered by active-duty status. He reminded members this position was the same position maintained by the State Council on the matter. Most of the states felt the dependents were already being covered and concerns had not been received from families on the matter. The Commission did approve the development of a guidance for states that desired to provide similar Compact accommodations to other student and transient populations through external legislation. The guidance was released earlier this year.

16. ED Imai added a couple of states had contacted the national office with interest, however only one state, Virginia, had passed external legislation which covered students of the State Department employees as they move interstate and return from foreign countries. She added Kentucky had passed external language that covers USDOD civilian employee dependents when they move into Kentucky; and Arkansas covers all National Guard and Reserve school aged dependents, regardless of Title status.

ITEM 8 – NEW BUSINESS

17. **FY2023 End-of-Year Report** – Chair Ragland shared the End-of-Year Report, a submittal that is required annually from Member States. ED Imai added a guide will be released within the next month which will include all state reports.

18. **Updated Council List** – Chair Ragland reported the MIC3 Alabama website has been updated and the council member list is current.

19. **Governor's Month of the Military Child Proclamation** – Chair Ragland reported the Governor signed a proclamation during the month of the military child to recognize their service. He provided a copy for members to view.

20. **Governor's MIC3 Alabama State Council Proclamation** – Chair Ragland reported the Governor signed a proclamation to recognize the Council Members for their service on the body. He thanked Members for their support in addressing cases quickly and for spreading the word about the Compact and how it helps families. He provided a copy for members to view.

ITEM 9 – OTHER BUSINESS

21. Mr. Richert asked if a second, mid-year meeting in January could be considered. Dr. Ragland replied this could be explored.

ITEM 10 – ADJOURNMENT

22. With no further business before the council, **Mr. Richert motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Vickers seconded the motion. The motion carried.**
23. Commissioner Ragland adjourned the meeting at 11:09 AM CT.

DRAFT