



Ex-officio Meeting
April 13, 2023
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM ET

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|---------|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| PRESENT | Ernise Singleton Amanda Woodyard Caitlin Hamon | Louisiana Commissioner Military Child Education Coalition National Military Family Association | Commission Vice Chair Ex-officio Rep. Ex-officio Rep. |
| EXCUSED | Dianna Ganote Kyle Fairbairn Davis Whitfield | Department of Defense Military Impacted Schools Association National Federation of High School Assoc. | Ex-officio Rep. Ex-officio Rep. Ex-officio Rep. |
| STAFF | Lindsey Dablow Christina King | Training & Operations Associate Communications Associate | |

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

1. Vice Chair and Commissioner Ernise Singleton (LA) called the meeting to order at 11:02 AM ET.

ITEM 2 – ROLL CALL

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

ITEM 3 – AGENDA

3. **The meeting agenda was accepted without amendments.**

ITEM 4 – MEETING NOTES

4. **The meeting notes from March 1, 2023 were accepted without amendments.**

ITEM 5 – WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

5. Vice Chair Singleton asked MCEC Representative Amanda Woodyard to introduce herself and share information related to her role. Ms. Woodyard is the Vice President of Education Services which provides education services and programmatic support for educators, teachers, and students. She noted her spouse served 27 years in the Air Force and understands firsthand the issues military children face due to numerous transitions.

6. Vice Chair Singleton asked Communications Associate Christina King to introduce herself to the Ex-officio Representatives. Ms. King provided her professional background to the Representatives.

ITEM 6 – REPORTS

7. **Executive Committee (EXCOM)** – Vice Chair Singleton reported the EXCOM met on March 16, 2023. She informed the Representatives that Tier Groups would meet in June. The EXCOM was updated by the National Office on activities and training taking place on behalf of the Commission and informed the webinar, *Legal Perspective: Commissioner and State Council Role and Responsibilities*, was available on mic3.net. The EXCOM reviewed the *Data Collection Analysis and Review and Analysis of MIC3 Policy Guide* memos from General Counsel.

8. **National Office** – Ms. Dablow noted when the group met in March there were 55 training courses scheduled until the end of fiscal year (FY) 2023 but since then 15 additional training courses were scheduled for a total of 70 training courses. She highlighted gaps in the training audience noting Coast Guard, Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) schools, and military families as areas of focus in FY24.

9. Ms. Dablow informed the group of two pieces of external legislation proposed in member states. The first legislation was Virginia HB1929 which would have provided coverage similar to the Compact for dependents of foreign military service members and the dependents of Department of Defense civilian employees. The proposed statute language conflicted with the current Compact statute; however, headquarters worked with representatives from the Governor's Office, Department of Education, and MIC3's General Counsel to propose an amendment which passed through the legislature and was not in conflict with the existing Compact Statute. Ms. Dablow provided a brief overview of the other piece of external legislation from Arkansas and yielded the floor back to Vice Chair Singleton.

ITEM 7 – NEW BUSINESS

10. **Ex-Officio Organization Updates** – Vice Chair Singleton recognized each Representative and asked them to share upcoming initiatives or programs their organization is working on.

11. Vice Chair Singleton yielded the floor to Ms. Caitlin Hamon, NMFA. Ms. Hamon shared NMFA's State of the Military Family event would be held on April 27, 2023. She noted each Representative should have received an invitation. Ms. Hamon stated the results of Blue Star Families' Military Lifestyle survey were released and she noted the results showed a lack of knowledge among military families regarding the Compact. She offered the Commission NMFA's assistance to reach families and spread awareness of the Compact.

12. Ms. Hamon noted the March 2023 memo from the Secretary of Defense directing DoDEA schools to provide universal prekindergarten and a call for financial support for the initiative from Congress over a five- year period. ED Imai asked if the initiative was being implemented across DoDEA immediately or would it be implemented over a period of time. Ms. Hamon responded pilot programs would be available at certain locations in the fall of 2023, but implementation DoDEA wide would take time because it is a full day program and would require coordination with the Child Development Centers.

13. Vice Chair Singleton recognized Ms. Amanda Woodyard, MCEC. Ms. Woodyard reminded the group that Month of the Military Child events were ongoing throughout the country. She stated MCEC staff were supporting those initiatives. Ms. Woodyard explained the Hidden Helpers Student Leadership Program, possible through a partnership with Wounded Warriors and The Elizabeth Dole Foundation, was established to help youth in caregiver roles identify resources as well as increase leadership knowledge and skills to prepare for life after high school. She noted an upcoming leadership program event was being held over the weekend in partnership with University of San Antonio and would provide an update on that event at the next Ex-officio meeting. Ms. Woodyard provided an update on the 360 Summits being held in Alabama, South Carolina, and portions of Texas that help train school districts as a collective under the Purple Star School Award designation.

14. Vice Chair Singleton recognized Mr. Davis Whitfield, NFHS. Mr. Whitfield updated the group regarding requests from DoDEA schools for NFHS materials. He noted he was working with ED Imai and DoD Representative Dianna Ganote on the request. Mr. Whitfield noted there were no current Compact-related issues presently being addressed by NFHS.

15. **Items for the EXCOM** – Vice Chair Singleton opened the floor for questions. Ms. Hamon requested an update on the DoD Defense State Liaison Office's initiative to update state's statutes

featuring a definition of “uniform services” or “active duty” to include Space Force. Vice Chair Singleton clarified the Compact statute includes Space Force and ED Imai noted legal advisory 01-2020 U.S. Space Force supported this and could be referred to by state legislatures if needed. ED Imai noted this topic would be discussed in the Tier Group meetings and invited the Ex-officios to attend any of those meetings if their schedules permitted.

16. **Ex-officio Opportunities During the ABM** – The Ex-officio Representatives were presented with the opportunity to have informational tables during the first day of ABM. Each organization would have an informational table featuring information relevant to the organization’s mission, military families, and current or upcoming initiatives. The tables would be staffed during the first break of the ABM, but Representatives would not be required to staff the tables continually. They were asked to ensure organizational materials were available on the table. Ms. Dablow requested feedback on the proposal at the July Ex-officio meeting.

ITEM 8 – OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

17. **Purple Up! April 19, 2023** – Vice Chair Singleton informed Representatives the National Office was celebrating Purple Up! day on April 19, 2023. She also provided a summary of the Purple Up! activity planned for Louisiana’s Purple Up! day including recognition for the inaugural class of Purple Star schools for the state.

18. **Approved MIC3 Key Election Deadlines** – Vice Chair Singleton reviewed the deadlines for the Commission’s leadership elections. There being no further comment Vice Chair Singleton thanked the Representatives for their time and collaboration.

ITEM 9 – ADJOURNMENT

19. The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 AM ET.