



Ex-officio Meeting
Thursday, October 12, 2023
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM ET

PRESENT	Ernise Singleton Dianna Ganote Kyle Fairbairn Eileen Huck Becky Porter Davis Whitfield	Louisiana Commissioner Department of Defense Military Impacted Schools Association National Military Family Association Military Child Education Coalition National Federation of State High School Association	Commission Vice Chair Ex-officio Rep. Ex-officio Rep. Ex-officio Rep. Ex-officio Rep. Ex-officio Rep.
STAFF	Cherise Imai Lindsey Dablow	Executive Director Training and Operations Associate	

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

1. Vice Chair Ernise Singleton (LA) called the meeting to order at 12:06 PM ET.

ITEM 2 – ROLL CALL

2. Training and Operations Associate Lindsey Dablow conducted roll call. All ex-officio representatives were present.

ITEM 3 – AGENDA

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

ITEM 4 – APRIL 13, 2023, MEETING NOTES

4. **The meeting notes were accepted without amendments.**

ITEM 5 – REPORTS

5. **Executive Committee (EXCOM)** – Vice Chair Singleton reported the standing committees were preparing for the Annual Business Meeting (ABM) in Richmond. For the first time since NFHS joined the Commission, a new organization, Blue Star Families, had applied to become an ex-officio organization of the Commission and would present their application to the Commission for consideration during the ABM.

6. Vice Chair Singleton noted during Tier Group meetings that the Commission had discussed hosting the ABM in person versus virtual. The synopsis of the feedback was that if cost was not an issue, everyone preferred to meet in person. However, the ABM is the Commission's second-largest expense after staff and benefits. Due to that, most Commissioners expressed the desire to alternate between in-person meetings in the odd years and virtual meetings in the even years. This topic will be discussed during ABM.

7. Vice Chair Singleton provided representatives with an update from the Finance Committee. The Vice Chair informed the Representatives that due to a software system change within the Council of State Government's (CSG) Finance Department, the fiscal year (FY) 2023 audit would be delayed. CSG estimated it would be December 2023 or January 2024 before the Commission's audit would be

completed. At their September meeting, the Finance Committee determined to release the audit information upon receipt and tape a webinar if the audit has findings the Commission needs to address.

8. Vice Chair Singleton provided updates on the Commission's remaining standing committee. There were no questions.

9. **National Office** – Vice Chair Singleton recognized Ms. Dablow, who provided the MIC3 Activities report. In FY23, the National Office attended more than 24 state council meetings, held 68 training sessions, and partnered with MISA and MCEC to provide training and information on the Compact.

10. **ABM** – Ms. Dablow provided updates and information about the ABM meeting, registration, and lodging. There were no questions.

ITEM 6 – NEW BUSINESS

11. **ABM: New Commissioner and Ex-officio Reception** – Ms. Dablow stated the New Commissioner and Ex-officio Reception would be held on November 7th at the Richmond Marriott Downtown at 5:00 PM ET. The reception would feature a brief program to provide context for the new members related to the General Session beginning on November 8, 2023.

12. **ABM: Consent Agenda and Proposed Rules and Policies** – Vice Chair Singleton explained three proposed amendments to existing Rules and two new proposed Rules would be listed on the 2023 ABM page of the Commission's website. The Vice Chair noted the proposed documents were all administrative, affecting the Commission's operations, but would not impact the application of the Compact for military students. The Vice Chair provided a brief overview of each proposed Rule or amendment.

13. Vice Chair Singleton noted there would be two new policies and two amended policies on the Consent agenda. New policy *1-2023 Monitoring Compact Statutes and State Legislation* outlined the Commissioner and the State Council's responsibility to uphold the Compact statute's integrity in their state. It provided guidance and support to the Commissioner and State Council should a state legislature attempt to alter the Compact statute or pass conflicting legislation.

14. New policy, *2-2023 New Ex-officio Organization Application Process*, provided the process by which interested organizations could apply to become ex-officio organizations of the Commission.

15. Vice Chair Singleton stated policy *2-2017 Code of Conduct* had been amended to include a section on appropriate email communications and policy *1-2014 Travel and Reimbursement Guidelines* was revised to clarify ABM travel and reimbursement based on issues identified by the Finance Committee following the 2022 ABM.

16. **Webinars** – Vice Chair Singleton listed three webinars that would be available on the 2023 ABM page: MIC3: Past, Present, and Future, Travel Policy and Reimbursement Guidance, and Rules Promulgation Guide. The Vice Chair recommended that official attendees, including Ex-officio representatives, review the three webinars to familiarize themselves with the content before ABM—especially the Travel Policy and Reimbursement Guidance webinar since official attendees would submit reimbursement requests to the Commission.

ITEM 7 – OLD BUSINESS

17. Ex-officio Organization Updates

- a. **MISA** – Executive Director Kyle Fairbairn updated the Representatives on MISA's fall meeting. He noted with the potential addition of a few school districts, MISA would represent roughly 80% of all kids in the Impact Aid Program.

- b. Mr. Fairbairn noted the discussion surrounding issues with Special Education continued. He stated some groups have tried to use the Impact Aid Program as a precipice for change to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Still, he noted it was an education issue at the federal level and that IDEA needed to be addressed for all children, not only military children.
- c. Mr. Fairbairn outlined issues related to impact aid and the continuing resolution before Congress. He noted the appropriation for impact aid is not forward funded, so schools that rely on the funds would not have access to those funds until the issue was resolved. He noted that impact aid accounts for 80% of the school's budget in some districts.
- d. Dr. Becky Porter, MCEC, asked if partner organizations could do anything to help related to impact aid and the continuing resolution before Congress. Mr. Fairbairn invited everyone to contact their congressperson and advocate for a resolution and funding of the Impact Aid Program.
- e. **MCEC** – Executive Director Dr. Becky Porter shared information about MCEC's 360 Summit held in South Carolina to train school districts on the challenges military students face and how programs like Purple Star, School Liaison, and MIC3 can assist.
- f. Dr. Porter stated that MCEC was updating the curriculum to support the Student 2 Student program.
- g. She shared that MCEC was working on content related to global conflict and how to address the subject with children. She noted that resources would be available on the organization's website and would be a collaborative effort between organizations supporting service members and their families. Vice Chair Singleton asked Dr. Porter to share the resource once it was available.
- h. **NFHS** – Chief Operating Officer Davis Whitfield reported the NFHS' Board of Directors met, and the organization was able to provide a grant to the NFHS Foundation to support its program and services.
- i. He noted that champion play for the fall season had begun. Mr. Whitfield stated that NFHS had begun writing playing rules for flag football, which goes to opportunities for female athletes and participation. He informed the Representatives that wrestling had moved from a male sport to a male and female sport because more than half of the state athletic associations had made the accommodation to facilitate female participation in the sport.
- j. Mr. Whitfield closed his report, reminding members of the NFHS Network that allows service members overseas to stay connected and involved with their student athletes through video streaming of extracurricular activities while deployed.
- k. Mr. Fairbairn asked if NFHS intended to issue a statement regarding transgender participation in athletics. Mr. Whitfield replied that NFHS had not taken a position as a federation, allowing the state associations to determine the issue for their state. He noted that NFHS supports opportunities for all.
- l. Executive Director (ED) Imai asked if the Battlefields to Ballfields initiative had been successful, and Mr. Whitfield responded yes, and he could report on it at ABM. ED Imai asked Mr. Whitfield if DoDEA schools overseas could participate in NFHS, and Mr. Whitfield stated there were opportunities to participate as an affiliate organization. She asked him to report on these items during ABM.

- m. **NMFA** – Government Relations Senior Deputy Director Eileen Huck provided NMFA’s thoughts on the continuing resolution noted by Mr. Fairbairn. She explained the concern for NMFA was the authorization of service member pay during a potential government shutdown.
- n. Ms. Huck noted that NMFA was also concerned about the delay in military promotions requiring Senate confirmation. NMFA sent a letter to Senate leadership asking them to move on the promotions and noted the urgency given current global conflicts.
- o. Ms. Huck updated members on NMFA’s continued partnership with BLOOM and Operation Purple Programs.
- p. **DoD** – DoD Representative Dianna Ganote provided an update on the School Liaison Program and collaboration with the DoD Defense State Liaison Office. She noted that through this initiative, compact-related issues were being identified and would be shared with the Commission once the state reports had been completed.

18. **Items for the EXCOM** – Vice Chair Singleton asked the members if there were any questions or comments they wanted referred to the EXCOM. Mr. Fairbairn responded that as a member of the Finance Committee for several years, he wanted the EXCOM to know that he appreciated the leadership of the EXCOM and supported their attention to the finances and decisions made to support military-connected children.

19. **Ex-officio Presentations for ABM** – Ms. Dablow presented the format and structure of the Ex-officio panel for the 2023 ABM. There were no questions.

ITEM 8 – ANNOUNCEMENTS

20. **Compact 101 Training** - Vice Chair Singleton reminded the Representatives of the remaining Compact 101 Training sessions in November and December 2023. She noted the 2024 Compact 101 Training sessions had been added to the Events Calendar on mic3.net and were open for registration.

ITEM 9 – ADJOURNMENT

21. Vice Chair Singleton adjourned the meeting at 1:00 PM ET.