



MILITARY INTERSTATE  
CHILDREN'S COMPACT  
COMMISSION

## FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

FISCAL YEAR 2022

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**FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, July 27, 2021**

PRESENT	Craig Neuenswander Bob Buehn Greg Lynch Brian Halstead Debra Jackson J. Clarke Orzalli Douglas Ragland Hal Stearns Chad Delbridge	Kansas Commissioner Florida Commissioner Washington Commissioner Nebraska Commissioner New York Commissioner Massachusetts Commissioner Alabama Commissioner Montana Commissioner Wyoming Commissioner	Chair
EXCUSED	Tyler Backus Kyle Fairbairn	Maine Commissioner Military Impacted Schools Association	Ex-officio
STAFF	Cherise Imai Lindsey Dablow	Executive Director, MIC3 Training and Operations Associate, MIC3	

**ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER**

1. The meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM ET by Committee Chair, Commissioner Craig Neuenswander (KS). Roll call was taken by Training and Operations Associate, Lindsey Dablow. Quorum was established.

**ITEM 2 – APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

2. Commissioner Brian Halstead (NE) moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hal Stearns (MT). Motion carried.

**ITEM 3 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM MAY 25, 2021**

3. Commissioner Bob Buehn (FL) moved to approve the minutes from May 25, 2021. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Halstead. Motion carried.

**ITEM 4 – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

4. Chair Neuenswander reported the upcoming Operations Audit was discussed at the Executive Committee (EXCOM) meeting. Executive Director Cherise Imai noted the National Office is preparing for the Annual Business Meeting (ABM). She said the EXCOM is tracking the stats of the COVID-19 variant and will respond accordingly.

**ITEM 5 – REPORTS**

5. **FY2021 Dues, Balance, Revenue and Expenses, Vanguard Expenses** – Chair Neuenswander reviewed the MIC3 financial documents. The commission reviewed the FY21 dues balance sheet which showed 5 states outstanding. Chair Neuenswander noted the balance sheet is higher than normal due to lessened travel during the COVID-19 pandemic. The committee viewed the

Income Statement, which showed a shared purchase of a printer with another Council of State Governments (CSG) affiliate organization. The committee viewed the Vanguard Balance sheets which showed positive gains. The FY22 dues spreadsheet showed 20% of the states as paid.

## ITEM 6 – OLD BUSINESS

6. **CSG's PPP Loan Forgiveness** – Chair Neuenswander stated CSG's Paycheck Protection Program Loan Forgiveness application was approved by the US Department of Labor, Small Business Association. ED Imai noted the amount was for \$88,000 which includes salary and benefits for employees for a 3-month period.
7. **State Fiscal Support for the Compact** – ED Imai stated the National Office is following up regarding how the Compact is funded in the various states. She said the final report will hopefully be presented in August. Chair Neuenswander noted the Commissioners who are state employees often have more support in carrying out the Commission activities as they may have access to resources and staffing to support implementation of the Compact program.
8. **National Guard and Reserve Guidance, Options and Fiscal Impact** – Chair Neuenswander reminded states to submit their *National Guard and Reserve Report* by August 31. ED Imai said she would like to release the documents with the fiscal impact projection of each of the options to the Commission. ED Imai stated the only option that would likely increase states' dues would be Option #1 – which is to modify the current Compact statutes in states. She noted the discussion on dues is a separate discussion and would require a change to the Commission By-laws., she added the Commission could vote to not have any increase at all.
9. Commissioner Greg Lynch (WA) brought up the motivation behind making a change, he said he isn't able to explain to his State Council why this is an issue. Commissioner Clarke Orzalli (MA) noted it is difficult to get the data regarding National Guard interstate moves. The Commissioners viewed the NGR Options – Fiscal Impact Projection document.
10. **CSG Services Contract: Federal & Legislative Bill and Policy Tracking for Military Education** – ED Imai updated the Commission that the contract was signed with CSG and will commence in August. The contract is based on one year, with an option to renew every year, up to four years. for \$87,000 for one year. She will meet with the National Council on Interstate Compacts to discuss logistics and frequency of the report. The reports will be released and shared with the Commission once available. She concluded the purpose of the report was to provide information to Commissioners on legislation introduced and/or passed at the federal and state levels.
11. **Operations Audit** – Chair Neuenswander noted the Operations Audit is one of the Committee's Strategic Plan goals this year. The lowest bid was the most attractive as well and EXCOM awarded the bid to Riggs Enterprise for \$13,500. ED Imai noted she provided the Commission documentation for review to the Mr. Brian Riggs, and he will conduct interviews with the National Office staff in early August.

## ITEM 7 – NEW BUSINESS

12. **FY21 Audit** – ED Imai announced the FY21 Audit results should be received this week.
13. **FY22 ABM Project Total Cost** – Ms. Dablow displayed the 2021 ABM Cost Analysis. The expenses included the Little Rock Marriott hotel expenses, the AV cost to have a meeting in which

virtual attendees can participate, travel reimbursement expenses, etc. The estimated total cost was reported to be \$145,996.87.

14. **Investments Analysis** – Chair Neuenswander noted the Finance Committee reviews the investment portfolio and makes a recommendation to EXCOM with recommendations and/or changes. ED Imai stated the committee is eligible to pull out roughly 5% of the balance to utilize for other projects for the Commission.

## ITEM 8 – OTHER BUSINESS

15. **2021 ABM** – Ms. Dablow stated registration for the 2021 ABM opened last week with an email message from Constant Contact. The registration can also be accessed at the MIC3 website. She recommended Commissioners review two FAQs regarding attending the meeting and travel. Ms. Dablow noted the hotel rooms can be cancelled up to 24 hours before the event. Additionally, she stated there is a clause in the contract should the state of Arkansas shut down due to the pandemic that would allow MIC3 to withdraw with little to no financial liability. ED Imai asked for any concerns or questions regarding the ABM to be passed on to her or Ms. Dablow.

16. **Policies** – ED Imai referenced three new policies related to staffing and travel during the COVID-19 pandemic. The policies were released by CSG and also adopted for MIC3. A key requirement for CSG employees to travel is to be fully vaccinated. ED Imai reported all three MIC3 staff members are fully vaccinated. The policies are in effect until the pandemic ends.

17. Additionally, ED Imai noted MIC3 adopted a new Awards Policy which awards Commissioners for their length of service. The policy was vetted and approved by the Communications and Outreach Committee and the EXCOM.

## ITEM 9 – ITEMS FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

18. No items were presented for the Executive Committee.

## ITEM 10 – ADJOURNMENT

19. With no further business to conduct, Commissioner Stearns motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Buehn seconded the motion. Motion carried. Chair Neuenswander adjourned the meeting at 11:45 AM ET.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, August 31, 2021**

PRESENT	Craig Neuenswander Bob Buehn Debra Jackson J. Clarke Orzalli Douglas Ragland Hal Stearns Chad Delbridge Tyler Backus Kyle Fairbairn	Kansas Commissioner Florida Commissioner New York Commissioner Massachusetts Commissioner Alabama Commissioner Montana Commissioner Wyoming Commissioner Maine Commissioner Military Impacted Schools Association	Committee Chair
EXCUSED	Brian Halstead Greg Lynch	Nebraska Commissioner Washington Commissioner	
STAFF	Cherise Imai Lindsey Dablow	Executive Director, MIC3 Training and Operations Associate, MIC3	

**ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER**

1. The meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM ET by Committee Chair, Commissioner Craig Neuenswander (KS). Roll call was taken by Executive Director (ED), Cherise Imai. Quorum was established.

**ITEM 2 – APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

2. Commissioner Tyler Backus (ME) moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Debra Jackson (NY). Motion carried.

**ITEM 3 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM JULY 20, 2021**

3. Commissioner Chad Delbridge (WY) moved to approve the minutes from July 20, 2021. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Douglas Ragland (AL). Motion carried.

**ITEM 4 – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

4. ED Imai reported the National Office is working with the audiovisual company and the hotel in Little Rock, AR regarding the virtual Annual Business Meeting. She reported the time was adjusted to accommodate all time zones and to allow for a more reasonable meeting time. She asked members to calendar from 12:00-5:00 PM ET on November 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. She noted the Training Committee is working on videos regarding graduation that will be released at ABM. The Communications Committee will relaunch the Successful Compact Transitions video program at ABM. She said the Rules Committee discussed employee benefits at their meeting. ED Imai noted the Executive Committee approved several awards for outgoing commissioners and state council members.

## ITEM 5 – REPORTS

5. **FY2021 Dues, Balance, Revenue and Expenses, Vanguard Expenses – Chair**  
Neuenschwander reviewed the MIC3 financial documents. He referenced the FY21 dues balance sheet which showed 3 states outstanding which equated to \$16,406. Chair Neuenschwander reviewed the FY21 Balance, Revenue and Expenditures. The expenditures were less due to a position vacancy at the National Office and the virtual ABM. He reported the organization is in a very good financial position.
6. **FY2022 Dues, Balance, Revenue and Expenses, Vanguard Expenses – Chair**  
Neuenschwander reported 33 states have paid their FY22 dues. He summarized the Balance Sheet, Revenue and Expenses, and Vanguard Investment report for the committee.

## ITEM 6 – OLD BUSINESS

7. **Medical Benefits Renewal – Chair Neuenschwander** reported CSG negotiated the projected medical benefit increase for staff from 15% to 5% which will be paid for by employers. He noted CSG said keeping the cost of benefits down for employees helps to retain and attract employees.
8. **State Fiscal Support for the Compact – ED Imai** referenced the matrix the National Office created detailing how the Compact is funded from state to state. She noted the commissioners employed by a government or school district agency generally have more resources and support. States' dues are primarily paid for by the State Department of Education. She summarized that many of the resources come from the general departments the Commissioners work for, not necessarily line items in the state's budget. She then shared some suggestions commissioners had on how to obtain funding for Compact related activities. Two comments from commissioners suggested the National Office provide funding for the states' activities.
9. A commissioner pointed out some states are in multiple data fields, ED Imai said she would check the data and report back. ED Imai said moving forward the committee could look at the document and see the suggestions and how to implement them. Additionally, she said the committee could discuss whether funding be dispersed to the states if necessary. ED Imai mentioned the challenge of distributing funds would be overseeing it and how it could be audited. Commissioner Clarke Orzalli (MA) said he has no access to state funds since he is a volunteer, and it would be beneficial to have guidelines on what is expected from each state when seeking funding. Specifically, he requested a document to present to his state detailing what is expected.
10. Commissioner Backus suggested a survey for the Commissioners seeking how much they spend on Compact related duties and activities. Other commissioners stated guidelines would be helpful as they seek funding. ED Imai offered the National Office's services to write a letter of support for funding if needed. She said the National Office provides support for some states with their State Council meetings and their minutes. ED Imai said the National Office would draft a list of state expectations and what a budget may look like. She said they would check in with Commissioner Jackson and Commissioner Orzalli for review before presenting to the committee.
11. **Operations Audit – ED Imai** said Brian Riggs and his staff are currently reviewing the financial information and are interviewing the Executive Committee. She noted the projected date for the report is the end of September. Chair Neuenschwander noted the Operations Audit was part of the Strategic Plan tasked to the Finance Committee.
12. **FY2021 Draft Audit – Chair Neuenschwander** reviewed the FY21 draft audit. He noted there was an increase in revenue due to the Paycheck Protection loan being granted. ED Imai said there

were no significant findings by the auditor. She noted there were three states that were asked to produce an intent to pay confirmation for FY21 dues: Missouri, New Hampshire, and New Jersey. Once the states' confirmations to pay are received, the auditor will release the full audit. Commissioner Backus noted the administrative resources CSG provides ensure a clean audit.

13. **Investments Analysis** – Chair Neuenswander reported the Executive (EXCOM) and Finance Committees are authorized to withdraw up to 5% of the total market value of the investments if necessary for operations. He noted this is not currently necessary. ED Imai noted the 5% amount is \$21,734 should the Finance Committee recommended this amount be withdrawn from the investment account. ED Imai said the committee needs to make a recommendation on this issue at a future meeting.

#### ITEM 7 – NEW BUSINESS

14. **FY2023 Proposed Dues and Budget** – ED Imai said she is waiting for data from the U.S. Department of Defense to draft the FY23 Dues and Budget proposals. ED Imai said she will be able to prepare the budget once the data is received.

15. **ABM Finance Presentation Slides** – Chair Neuenswander referenced the Finance Committee's presentation slides for the 2021 ABM. ED Imai noted slides include general information, how dues are calculated, the FY21 statement, investment reports, and the FY21 audit. Additionally, the slides include the FY22 statement and the FY23 budget projections and dues projections. ED Imai noted it is difficult to budget for the future not knowing when the COVID-19 pandemic will end. ED Imai said the slides will be updated when outstanding dues are received, and other documents are provided by Accounting.

#### ITEM 8 – OTHER BUSINESS

16. **2021 ABM** – ED Imai reminded commissioners to register for the ABM. She noted the National Office will change attendees' status from in-person to virtual. Training and Operations Associate Lindsey Dablow noted the platform for the ABM will be Zoom.

#### ITEM 9 – ITEMS FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

17. Commissioner Orzalli reminded members the National Guard and Reserve report from the states is due to the National Office by close of business today. ED Imai noted the Compliance Committee extended the deadline for states to submit their End-of-Year reports to the National Office by August 31, 2021, as well. She asked commissioners to contact the National Office if they need assistance.

#### ITEM 10 – ADJOURNMENT

18. With no further business to conduct, Commissioner Tyler Backus (ME) motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Orzalli seconded the motion. Motion carried. Chair Neuenswander adjourned the meeting at 11:58 AM ET.



**FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, September 28, 2021**

PRESENT	Craig Neuenswander Bob Buehn Brian Halstead Debra Jackson J. Clarke Orzalli Douglas Ragland Chad Delbridge Tyler Backus Kyle Fairbairn	Kansas Commissioner Florida Commissioner Nebraska Commissioner New York Commissioner Massachusetts Commissioner Alabama Commissioner Wyoming Commissioner Maine Commissioner Military Impacted Schools Association	Committee Chair
EXCUSED	Greg Lynch Hal Stearns	Washington Commissioner Montana Commissioner	
STAFF	Cherise Imai Lindsey Dablow	Executive Director, MIC3 Training and Operations Associate, MIC3	

**ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER**

1. The meeting was called to order at 11:03 AM ET by Executive Director, Cherise Imai. Roll call was taken by ED Imai. Quorum was established.

**ITEM 2 – APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

2. Commissioner Bob Buehn (FL) moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chad Delbridge (WY). Motion carried.

**ITEM 3 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM AUGUST 31, 2021**

3. Commissioner Buehn moved to approve the minutes from August 31, 2021. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Debra Jackson (NY). Motion carried.

**ITEM 4 – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

4. Committee Chair Craig Neuenswander (KS) reported the Executive Committee reviewed state position papers on the National Guard and Reserve. He noted there states selected various options and there was no consensus on one option. ED Imai said the Communications and Outreach Committee released updated Commissioner and State Council toolkits, and the Parent and School Toolkits are currently being revised. She noted the Compliance Committee reviewed and discussed which states held State Council meetings and submitted end of year reports. They also discussed the commissioner vacancies in Indiana and the District of Columbia.

**ITEM 5 – SPECIAL PRESENTATION: OPERATION AUDIT**

5. Mr. Brian Riggs, Consultant, presented a preliminary report on the MIC3 Organizational Assessment. He detailed the approach used which included interviews, a review of MIC3 documents, and a comparison of MIC3 to similar organizations. He displayed the interview questions used and

summarized the responses. He noted he has some additional interviews of EXCOM members to conduct and will present the final report at the 2021 Annual Business Meeting. Mr. Riggs opened up the floor for feedback or questions.

6. Commission Clarke Orzalli (MA) commented it would be helpful to have a network of military connected staff so handoffs of cases that are non-Compact related would go more smoothly. ED Imai stated Mr. Riggs would brief the final report to the Executive Committee at their October meeting.

## ITEM 6 – REPORTS

7. **FY2021 Outstanding Dues** – Chair Neuenswander noted there are three states with outstanding Fiscal Year 2021 dues. He noted Missouri's payment is pending, the New Hampshire commissioner has spoken with the State Superintendent of Education regarding payment, and the New Jersey Department of Education accounting division was contacted, and payment is forthcoming.

8. **FY2022 Dues, Balance, Revenue and Expenses, Vanguard Investment** – Chair Neuenswander noted 38 of the 51 member states have paid FY2022 dues, approximately 53%. He reviewed the Balance Sheet, Revenue and Expenses Sheets, and the Vanguard Investment report. He noted everything looks favorable financially.

9. Chair Neuenswander reported 33 states have paid their FY2022 dues. He summarized the Balance Sheet, Revenue and Expenses, and Vanguard Investment report for the committee.

## ITEM 7 – OLD BUSINESS

10. **State Fiscal Support for the Compact** – Chair Neuenswander referenced the draft *Guidance on Compact Program Funding* document. He said this document can be used as a resource to seek funding for Compact related activities. ED Imai requested feedback from the commissioners and noted the committee would review the document in January at their first meeting of 2022.

11. **FY2021 Audit (FINAL)** – Chair Neuenswander and the committee reviewed the final version of the FY2021 audit. He noted the audit was clean and there were no findings. He attributed the stability of commission finances and annual audit to the committee and national office staff.

12. Commissioner Buehn moved to approve the FY2021 audit report, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Jackson. Motion carried.

## ITEM 8 – NEW BUSINESS

13. **FY2023 Proposed Dues and Budget** – ED Imai noted last year's data for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the US Public Health Service (USPHS) were utilized for the budget proposal because the US Department of Defense did not provide the information in this year's data report to the commission. Overall, there is an increase in the number of military-connected children over last year's number, with increases primarily in the Navy and Air Force. She stated the U.S. Space Force's numbers are included in the Air Force data.

14. Chair Neuenswander noted the FY2023 budget proposal reflects the drop in cost for the Kentucky Retirement System from 49% to 10%. He said the Annual Business Meeting in 2023 is projected to be in person with increased costs to \$170K. The increase is due to holding the meeting in a hybrid format, in the event the pandemic is still in place and members are unable to travel due to travel restrictions or personal reasons. ED Imai clarified the budget amount for 2023 ABM is higher

because Baton Rouge is a higher cost locale than Little Rock, and to account for the substantial audiovisual costs for the hybrid format.

15. ED Imai noted the budget shows 4 full-time positions, including the addition of a full-time administrative position.

16. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve the FY2023 dues as proposed, the motion was seconded by Commission Douglas Ragland (AL). Motion carried.

17. Commissioner Jackson moved to approve the FY2023 budget as proposed, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Buehn. Motion carried.

18. **ABM Finance Presentation Slides** – The committee reviewed the Finance Presentation Slides for the 2021 ABM. Commissioner Ragland noted his name is missing from the committee member slide. ED Imai apologized for the error and noted it will be corrected.

#### ITEM 9 – OTHER BUSINESS

19. **2021 ABM** – ED Imai said commissioners will be mailed docket books and other items for the 2021 ABM. They will also be provided digital docket books, but she noted they can opt out of a physical docket book if they prefer only a digital copy.

20. ED Imai noted Administrative Assistant Mary Pendleton accepted a new job and will be leaving the organization on September 30, 2021. In addition, a new Commissioner for Montana (MT) has been appointed, replacing long-time member, Hal Stearns. Commissioner Stearns will be bestowed an award from the Commission at the next MT State Council Meeting.

21. ED Imai thanked Chair Neuenswander for his service as Treasurer for three years. Chair Neuenswander noted his new position within the Kansas Department of Education does not allow for flexibility to be as available for meetings, but he hopes to remain on the Finance Committee.

#### ITEM 10 – ITEMS FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

22. No items were brought forth for the Executive Committee.

#### ITEM 11 – ADJOURNMENT

23. With no further business to conduct, Commissioner Buehn motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Ragland seconded the motion. Motion carried. Chair Neuenswander adjourned the meeting at 12:05 PM ET.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, January 26, 2022**

PRESENT	Brian Henry Tyler Backus Darcy Benway Bob Buehn Rosemarie Kraeger Debra Jackson Greg Lynch Craig Neuenswander J. Clarke Orzalli Douglas Ragland	Missouri Commissioner Maine Commissioner Illinois Commissioner Florida Commissioner Rhode Island Commissioner New York Commissioner Washington Commissioner Kansas Commissioner Massachusetts Commissioner Alabama Commissioner	Committee Chair
EXCUSED	Brian Halstead Kyle Fairbairn	Nebraska Commissioner Military Impacted Schools Association	
STAFF	Cherise Imai Lindsey Dablow Stephanie Ramsey	Executive Director, MIC3 Training and Operations Associate, MIC3 Communications Associate, MIC3	

**ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER**

1. The meeting was called to order at 11:02 AM ET by Committee Chair Brian Henry (MO). Roll call was taken by Executive Director (ED) Cherise Imai. A quorum was established.

**ITEM 2 – APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

2. Commissioner Greg Lynch (WA) moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tyler Backus (ME). Motion carried.

**ITEM 3 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 28, 2021**

3. Commissioner Buehn moved to approve the minutes from September 28, 2021. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Craig Neuenswander (KS). Motion carried.

**ITEM 4 – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

4. Chair Henry reported the Executive Committee (EXCOM) met in December for two days, and on January 20. The focus of discussion was primarily on planning for the upcoming year and committee meetings. Topics discussed included: approving the committee meeting calendar; the goals and action items for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the strategic plan; and a review of the recent virtual Annual Business Meeting and way ahead on the National Guard and Reserve. He reported the EXCOM will meet in-person in April with the consultant to develop the 3<sup>rd</sup> strategic plan.

**ITEM 5 – REPORTS**

5. **FY2021 Outstanding Dues** – Chair Henry reported total dues for Fiscal Year 2021 was \$654,843. As of December 1, 2021, 50 of 51 members (94%) have paid \$649,615 (99.2%). New Jersey

owes \$5,228. Commissioner Tony Trongone provided an update on January 13 that he contacted the Governor's office and they responded they would work on processing the payment.

6. **FY2022 Dues, Balance, Revenue and Expenses, Vanguard Investment** – Chair Henry noted 43 of the 51 member states have paid FY2022 dues, approximately 84%. Outstanding states: CA, GA, IL, LA, NJ, NM, NC, PA. Reminders will be sent in March if invoices have not been paid by then. He reviewed the Balance Sheet, Revenue and Expenses Sheets, and the Vanguard Investment report. He noted everything looks favorable financially.

#### ITEM 6 – NEW BUSINESS

7. **Strategic Plan Review** – ED Imai reviewed the strategic plan action items for year 3 that the committee will address over the next several months.

8. **Explore and communicate to the Commission the viability of outside funding sources for the Commission** – The committee discussed what type of funding is the Compact authorized to seek, given that it is a quasi-governmental agency, and questioned whether they could apply for or accept federal grants. A question regarding need was raised, as the Commission has a healthy reserve. ED Imai noted that when the strategic plan was developed, the finances were not at the level they are now, therefore there was interest in seeking grants and other funding to support our programming at that time. Members questioned if there was a need to seek federal funds and perhaps the Commission had a sufficient budget and reserve to support efforts. ED Imai was asked to seek General Counsel advisement on the eligibility of the Commission to apply for any type of funding. (OPEN ITEM)

#### ITEM 6 – OLD BUSINESS

9. **Operations Audit** – Chair Henry yielded the floor to Consultant Brian Riggs to provide highlights of the recent Audit.

10. The also committee discussed concerns and feedback regarding the audit from an email dated January 24, expressed by Commissioner Shelley Joan Weiss (WI). They noted future audits by the Commission could seek feedback from other sources. Her email reads:

*It appears that different viewpoints are not sought or welcome. The best example was the selection of interviewees by the consultant. He said he interviewed staff and EXCOM members. I question the reliability and validity of the results of interviews of folks who are paid by the Commission and/or are making decisions on behalf of the Commission. If all Commissioners were surveyed, it would have increased confidence in the results of his interviews. When respondents are handpicked or may personally benefit from the study, it screams of sycophancy. The results cannot and should not be trusted or used as they may be skewed and not representative of the spectrum of Commissioners. Basing future goals and actions of the organization on the input of a few handpicked individuals is not a reliable or valid approach. It would be helpful to know what the criteria was for selecting folks who were interviewed and how many folks from different groups (e.g. Commissioners of large, small, medium military states, Commissioners with short, medium, long terms of service) were involved in the sampling for responses. When information is presented to us with little or no "context" (e.g., who was interviewed and why were they chosen), it does not appear to be representative of the organization. Research protocols should follow and demonstrate ethical transparent practices that encourage trust and confidence in the process and results.*

11. Commissioner Buehn moved to approve the report and to forward the information to the EXCOM to determine next steps. Seconded by Commissioner Rosemarie Kraeger (RI). Motion carried.

12. **State Fiscal Support for the Compact** – Chair Henry and the committee reviewed the second draft of the guidance. They agreed the guidance provided the information necessary for a commissioner to seek funding from the appropriate funding authority within their state, version of the FY2021 audit. He noted the audit was clean and there were no findings. He attributed the stability of commission finances and annual audit to the committee and national office staff.

13. Commissioner Kraeger moved to table the item to the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Backus. Motion carried. (OPEN ITEM)

### ITEM 7 – OTHER BUSINESS

14. Chair Henry reminded members to submit their COC and COI forms by the end of the month.

15. He also reminded members to complete the [Vanderbilt Survey](#) on the Efficacy and Implementation of the Compact in States by Friday, February 4.

16. MIC3 Presents Webinar Series

- Wednesday, 1/26 at 2:00 PM ET, [NMFA: Military Teen Experience - Mental Health and Well-Being Report](#)
- Wednesday, 2/16 at 2:00pm ET, [MCEC: SchoolQuest](#)

### ITEM 8 – ITEMS FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

17. No items were brought forth for the Executive Committee.

### ITEM 11 – ADJOURNMENT

18. With no further business to conduct, Commission Debra Jackson (NY) motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Douglas Ragland (AL) seconded the motion. Motion carried. Chair Henry adjourned the meeting at 12:20 PM ET.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, March 23, 2022**

PRESENT	Brian Henry Darcy Benway Bob Buehn Debra Jackson Greg Lynch Craig Neuenswander J. Clarke Orzalli Kyle Fairbairn	Missouri Commissioner Illinois Commissioner Florida Commissioner New York Commissioner Washington Commissioner Kansas Commissioner Massachusetts Commissioner Military Impacted Schools Association	Committee Chair
EXCUSED	Tyler Backus Brian Halstead Rosemarie Kraeger Douglas Ragland	Maine Commissioner Nebraska Commissioner Rhode Island Commissioner Alabama Commissioner	
STAFF	Cherise Imai Lindsey Dablow Stephanie Ramsey	Executive Director, MIC3 Training and Operations Associate, MIC3 Communications Associate, MIC3	

**ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER**

1. The meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM ET by Committee Chair Brian Henry (MO). Roll call was taken by Executive Director (ED) Cherise Imai. A quorum was established.

**ITEM 2 – APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

2. Commissioner Greg Lynch (WA) moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Darcy Benway (IL). Motion carried.

**ITEM 3 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM JANUARY 26, 2022**

3. Commissioner Lynch moved to approve the minutes from January 26, 2022. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Benway. Motion carried.

**ITEM 4 – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EXCOM) REPORT**

4. ED Imai reported the Executive Committee met last week Thursday. They discussed the current year activities, the Tier Group planning, and strategic plan. She attended the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools Meeting in DC the week prior and provided an update to the Military Impacted Schools Association members. In addition, several meet and greet sessions have been scheduled for new commissioners and their mentees to connect. The Committee Chairs briefed on committee projects. The Communications Committee approved a social media postcard which includes a QR code and link to MIC3's social media. In addition, we have new accounts on Tik Tok and Instagram, to help promote the Compact and enhance our outreach efforts. The Compliance Committee continues to track state council meetings; and assists with ongoing commissioner appointments. The Training Committee is developing a new learning Management System as well as new videos to support training on the Compact. The Rules Committee is conducting a review of the

rules and regulations. To date, it has been a busy start for the commission, and we continue to work on meeting the goals in the strategic plan.

## ITEM 5 – REPORTS

5. **FY2022 Outstanding Dues** – Chair Henry reported total dues for Fiscal Year 2022 was \$642,317. As of March 17, 47 of 51 members (92%) have paid \$524,203 (80%). Outstanding states are California, Illinois, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina. The deadline is June 30<sup>th</sup>.

6. **FY2022 Balance, Revenue and Expenses, Vanguard Investment** – Chair Henry noted as of February 22, the fund balance is 1,776,437.33. He reviewed Revenue and Expenses and noted expenses are expected for the 3rd quarter. He also reviewed the Vanguard Investment report, and stated overall, we are favorable financially.

## ITEM 6 – OLD BUSINESS

7. **Strategic Plan** – ED Imai reviewed the strategic plan action items for year 3 that the committee will address over the next several months.

8. **Explore and communicate to the Commission the viability of outside funding sources for the Commission (Revenue Opportunities)** – The committee continued the discussion from the January meeting. They discussed what type of funding is the Compact authorized to seek, given that it is a quasi-governmental agency, and questioned whether they could apply for or accept federal grants. A question regarding need was raised, as the Commission has a healthy reserve. ED Imai noted that when the strategic plan was developed, the finances were not at the level they are now, therefore there was interest in seeking grants and other funding to support our programming at that time. Members questioned if there was a need to seek federal funds and perhaps the Commission had a sufficient budget and reserve to support efforts.

9. ED Imai was asked to seek General Counsel advisement on the eligibility of the Commission to apply for any type of funding. She responded the Commission is able to obtain funding based on the ability to qualify for the funding. In summary, the statute does not prohibit the Commission from accepting funding from a federal agency, private organization, under a grant. Regarding a donation, we are not a 501c3 or non-profit, therefore a donation can be made, however, we are unable to provide a tax-receipt. Members agreed this information was valuable, in the event the Commission would desire to seek funding sources. They agreed at this time our reserve seemed sufficient to cover any initiatives or programs for the Commission, and they could revisit this in the future.

10. **USDOD and Educating Military Service Members and Parents** – ED Imai noted part of the previous discussion included seeking a grant from the US Department of Defense USDOD to educate service members and parents. Members stated parents are not aware of the Compact, and often contact the Commissioner after they tried to resolve the issue themselves, and with much frustration. Commissioner Jackson noted her recent meeting with Fort Drum in her state that there are a lot of change and transitions in the military. Members asked how the USDOD has educated parents in the past. ED Imai reported education across the services vary, and dependent on the service. However, the Commission has worked with USDOD Military Representative to partner and share information; hold training; and disseminate information through military orders; to parents through school liaison, commands, and other avenues. While it has been successful, education is continual with new parents having school aged children; and it is the same as educators who continually turnover in schools. Members requested ED Imai seek a representative from USDOD to brief on their activities at the next



meeting. It was agreed the USDOD gives the Commission and states a list of their priorities, therefore why can't we provide a list of our needs to address. (OPEN ITEM)

11. **State Fiscal Support for the Compact** – Members discussed the final draft of the guidance. They agreed the guidance was not prescriptive and flexible to seek funding to support programs in states. They agreed it would help recruit qualified commissioners to serve in the position, and knowledge the state provides the support needed to carry out the program. They agreed next steps are to release the guidance through memorandum to the Commission to identify states. Once identified, the National Office would work with each to develop a plan of action. Members agreed with the proposal. Commissioner Debra Jackson (NY) motioned to approve the guidance, seconded by Commissioner Bob Buehn (FL). Motion carried. (OPEN ITEM)

12. **Annual Business Meeting Cost** – Training and Operations Associate Lindsey Dablow briefed the Committee on the cost of the ABM over the past 4 years, including Cleveland, OH; and Colorado Springs, CO. She noted the difference between in person, hybrid, and virtual formats; and hybrid is the most expensive option. She noted AV and food costs continue to increase overall. She noted Commissioner reimbursements continue to increase, especially as we are fully seated as a Commission. She added air travel increases are expected for the Fall as gas prices are rising. She highlighted the Military Impacted Schools Association (MISA) which has sponsored the evening reception in the past. She also noted the hotel contract timelines and costs which has increased due to the impact of the pandemic hotel cancellations.

13. Members were concerned about the continual increase in cost of the event based on inflation, and availability of goods based on the recent pandemic and supply challenges. Alternatives suggested holding the ABM virtually every other year, with the off year being in person. They agreed hybrid is very expensive. Ms. Dablow noted the EXCOM will determine the format at their April meeting. ED Imai added the EXCOM was concerned about the cost and had expressed the same concerns. Members agreed to recommend to the EXCOM that a hybrid format not be considered, and an in-person meeting be held. Members also agreed that COVID could impact this recommendation and understood the EXCOM had the flexibility to determine the best format, such as hybrid, dependent on what is happening in Baton Rouge or across states in the Fall. (OPEN ITEM)

## ITEM 7 – OTHER BUSINESS

14. **Farewell Tyler Backus (ME)** – Chair Henry noted although Commissioner Backus was unable to attend today's meeting due to legislative hearings, he recognized his contribution and service. He is leaving his position at the Maine Department of Education and has stepped down from the Commission.

15. **Social Media and Purple Up! Toolkits** – Communications Associate Stephanie Ramsey provided an update on social media and promo efforts. She recommended that members follow or tag #mic3compact if they have social media accounts. She asked members to utilize and share the [toolkit](#) with stakeholders and their state councils in the month of April.

16. **MIC3 Presents Webinar Series** – ED Imai highlighted the upcoming events:  
A. [3/23: Compact 101](#)  
B. [3/30: Legal Perspectives of the Compact](#)

17. **[Successful Transitions Video Program](#)** – ED Imai reminded members of the June 1st deadline for submittals.

**ITEM 8 – ITEMS FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

18. No items were brought forth for the Executive Committee.

**ITEM 11 – ADJOURNMENT**

19. With no further business to conduct, Commission Jackson motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Buehn seconded the motion. Motion carried. Chair Henry adjourned the meeting at 12:03 PM ET.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, May 25, 2022**

PRESENT	Brian Henry Bob Buehn Brian Halstead Debra Jackson Greg Lynch Craig Neuenswander J. Clarke Orzalli Douglas Ragland Kyle Fairbairn	Missouri Commissioner Florida Commissioner Nebraska Commissioner New York Commissioner Washington Commissioner Kansas Commissioner Massachusetts Commissioner Alabama Commissioner Military Impacted Schools Association	Committee Chair
EXCUSED	Tyler Backus Darcy Benway Rosemarie Kraeger	Maine Commissioner Illinois Commissioner Rhode Island Commissioner	
STAFF	Cherise Imai Lindsey Dablow Stephanie Ramsey	Executive Director, MIC3 Training and Operations Associate, MIC3 Communications Associate, MIC3	

**ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER**

1. The meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM ET by Committee Chair Brian Henry (MO). Roll call was taken by Executive Director (ED) Cherise Imai. A quorum was established.

**ITEM 2 – APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

2. Commissioner Brian Halstead (NE) moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Douglas Ragland (AL). Motion carried.

**ITEM 3 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM JANUARY 26, 2022**

3. Commissioner Debra Jackson (NY) moved to approve the minutes from March 23, 2022. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Halstead. Motion carried.

**ITEM 4 – USDOD MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE BRIEF**

4. Mr. Chuck Clymer, US Department of Defense (USDOD) Military Representative (MILREP) to the Commission provided an update to the Committee. He said all services were planning on attending the upcoming Annual Business Meeting (ABM) in October. He noted he served for three years as the MILREP and a transition to a new liaison was forthcoming. He emphasized the importance of the role in supporting the transition of military kids and families; and work of the Commission. The services have realigned several leads in states based on service mission changes within those states. The USDOD has changed their reports and data that was previously available is no longer available or more difficult to obtain. For example, data is no longer available by installation, and must be pulled by zip code.

5. Mr. Clymer reported the USDOD has worked over the past year and a half to work collaboratively with Dianna Ganote within the Military Family and Community Policy (MFCP) to work across services to inform military families about the Compact. Focus areas: includes three areas: installation commanders; parents; and the educators. Initiatives include: newcomer briefs at each installation; web-based information on the school liaison program and on the MIC3 through [Military One Source](#) and the installation pages. Regarding the educators, the school liaisons built the information to make the schools and districts aware of the Compact. While all services retain their own initiatives, across the DOD, there has been more collaboration to work together to share information.
6. Commissioner Clarke Orzalli (ME) asked how Coast Guard (CG), NOAA and USPHS families are informed about the Compact. Mr. Clymer said the Navy has an agreement with the CG and NOAA to assist their families – which includes issues that arise when they move. In addition, he works closely with the CG liaison on cases; and all three liaisons attend their meetings; and information is shared across the senior executive service (SES) levels. Commissioner Orzalli said in Maine, he includes the two CG representatives on their state council and in conversations, however he was pleased to hear the senior level was engaged in discussions and planning.
7. Mr. Kyle Fairbairn, Executive Director, Military Impacted Schools Association, said the biggest concern he has heard from schools, is that parents are still not aware of the Compact – especially as the move duty stations. Mr. Clymer said having worked with military families over the past 20 years, that they are exposed to a large amount of information, and although it is available to them and have access, it's a constant challenge to help them retain the information. The MIC3 and school liaison information are included on orders, which also include locale specific information. In sum, it will be constantly challenging, and we need to continue to share information to remind families these resources exist to support them. Members thanked Mr. Clymer for the work and efforts by himself and the USDOD to support the Compact.

#### ITEM 5 – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EXCOM) REPORT

8. ED Imai reported the Executive Committee met earlier this month. The Training Committee continues to develop new videos and the new learning Management System. as well as new videos to support training on the Compact. Compliance continues to monitor the activities by states. She reminded members state council meetings, and the end-of-year report is due by June 30<sup>th</sup>. She added the year end reports would be compiled in a booklet for dissemination. The Leadership Nomination recently met and approved the election documents which will be released on June 1. The Rules Committee was reviewing Rulebook and are expecting a couple of rule proposals. Lastly an award for a Florida State Council member, as well as Delaware's Susan Haberstroh was approved. Commissioner Haberstroh is an inaugural member and has served 13 years.

#### ITEM 6 – REPORTS

9. **FY2022 Outstanding Dues** – Chair Henry reported total dues for Fiscal Year 2022 was \$652,317; 49 of 51 members (96%) have paid \$578,109 (89%). Outstanding states are California and Illinois, and staff continues to follow up with both states. The deadline is June 30<sup>th</sup>.
10. **FY2022 Balance, Revenue and Expenses, Vanguard Investment** – Chair Henry noted as of May 20, the fund balance is 1,778,481.79. He reviewed Revenue and Expenses and noted expenses are expected for the 4th quarter to date. He noted the following would be higher than projected at year end: Consultant Fees for Strategic Planning, Legislative Reports, and General Counsel. General Counsel expenses are projected at \$20K this year. In addition, Legal Fees, if litigation was pursued with a current case, it will likely exceed the \$3K budget.

Finally, he reviewed the Vanguard Investment report, and stated overall, we are favorable financially, although the balance has decreased.

11. **FY2023 Dues** – Chair Henry reported the total amount is \$672,687. To date, 3 out of 51 members (6%) have paid \$8,898 (1.4%) – Arkansas, Connecticut, and Montana. The remaining Balance was \$663,789. Invoices were sent earlier this month and the deadline is June 30, 2023.

## ITEM 7 – NEW BUSINESS

12. **RECENT CASES** – Chair Henry updated the Committee on two cases brought to the Executive Committee which required legal advisement and engagement. The first was regarding extracurricular and baseball tryouts which was investigated by General Counsel. In sum, baseball tryouts were held over 3 days. The student and parent claimed the day 2 and 3 days were not provided to the student, therefore he missed the dates and was eliminated. The schedule was on a google doc that was only accessible by the coach to the players and parents. Although there were no caps to the number of members, the military student was the only one eliminated. Because there weren't enough members for the team, 8<sup>th</sup> graders tried out and made the team. It was agreed the school did not handle the parent communication well, however it was not clear if the student was provided the practice information, as he was getting information from his classmates.

13. The second was a high school level world history course taken by a student in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade in North Carolina. It was counted by the overseas USDOD school. When the student moved to the current state, the district said they would not count the course, even as an elective. The course is at the same time as orchestra, and the family selected this particular school for the music program. In January, the national office and general counsel met with the Commissioner and district. The state department was asked to weigh in on the issue, and they declined to provide guidance as “education is a local issue”. They referenced the district appeals process. The parent filed an appeal with the district which was denied after a 60-day review (mid-May). The parent was advised by the Commissioner and state department to file an appeal to the Department. There is a 60-day response time. The parent contacted the national office for assistance. Upon review of the case, time sensitive nature, and concern for the student, the EXCOM approved a default letter be sent to the district. In summary, these two cases will result in legal expenses that will exceed the 3K line item in the budget. We wanted to ensure the Committee was informed.

14. Members appreciated the update and noted for the record the Committee may consider increasing the line items in future budget proposals.

## ITEM 8 – OLD BUSINESS

15. **Strategic Plan Item: Contracting USDOD to raise awareness of the Compact** – The committee agreed with the update provided by Mr. Clymer, we would continue to work closely with the USDOD on their initiatives to educate on the Compact.

16. **State Fiscal Support Memorandum** – ED Imai reported the memorandum would be released to the Commission. An update would be provided at the next meeting.

17. **2022 Annual Business Meeting** – ED Imai reported EXCOM determined the ABM would be held in person this year, they continue to monitor external factors that may impact the event. She added registration would be released in July and reminded members to note the October 18-20<sup>th</sup> date on their calendars.

## ITEM 9 – ITEMS FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

18. **USDOD Defense State Liaison Office (DSLO) and the Purple Star Program** – Commissioner Lynch reported legislation for the Purple Star program was introduced in the Washing Legislature this past year, and language included the MIC3 Washington State Council would oversee the program. He expressed concern that the Purple Star program was outside of the statute and rules of the Commission, therefore, to mandate in the proposed bill that the state council lead an external initiative with no funding was unreasonable. He also felt that if this approach was being utilized, the Commission should be looped in and informed so Commissioners may be informed. Mr. Clymer said he was aware that this has been a challenge in other states; and there has been concern that the initiative would be in conflict with Commission duties. He would share this feedback with the DSLO office and his senior leaders; and Chair Henry said he would bring the concern to the Executive Committee.

19. Members agreed the Commission is a quasi-governmental agency whose focus is on implementing the Compact – rules and statute. While they recognized the Purple Star program as supporting military students, it was outside of the Compact's scope - therefore, the program is a state focused issue.

## ITEM 10 – OTHER BUSINESS

20. **New Strategic Plan: Member Sessions** – ED Imai encouraged members to attend and participate in the sessions scheduled for May 30 and June 1 at 2:00PM ET. The purpose was to obtain member feedback on the draft plan.

21. Next meeting: Wednesday, July 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM ET.

## ITEM 11 – ADJOURNMENT

22. With no further business to conduct, Commission Jackson motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Buehn seconded the motion. Motion carried. Chair Henry adjourned the meeting at 12:03 PM ET.