



Ex-officio Meeting
Thursday, February 6, 2025
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM ET

PRESENT	Daron Korte Dianna Ganote Kyle Wood Davis Whitfield	Minnesota Commissioner Department of Defense Military Child Education Coalition National Federation of State High School Associations	Commission Vice Chair Ex-officio Rep. Ex-officio Rep. Ex-officio Rep.
ABSENT	Kyle Fairbairn Eileen Huck Tom Porter	Military Impacted Schools Association National Military Family Association Blue Star Families	Ex-officio Rep. Ex-officio Rep. Ex-officio Rep.
STAFF	Cherise Imai Lindsey Dablow Allie Thomas	Executive Director Training and Operations Associate Operations Coordinator	

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

1. Vice Chair Daron Korte (MN) called the meeting to order at 11:02 AM ET.

ITEM 2 – ROLL CALL

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

ITEM 3 – AGENDA

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

ITEM 4 – REPORTS

4. **Executive Committee (EXCOM)** – Vice Chair Korte reported that the EXCOM would meet in Lexington, Kentucky, in April to discuss the proposed dues increase and development of the 2026-2028 Strategic Plan. The EXCOM met in January and approved the Norman Arflack Leadership Award for former North Dakota Commissioner, Davina French, for her years of service and commitment to the Commission.
5. The Finance Committee met in January and reported that the Commission's annual audit was complete. No significant findings were reported. The Finance Committee reviewed the operations and staffing assessment provided by Education Management Solutions (EMS), and the final report was released to the full Commission.
6. The Compliance Committee met in January and recommended changing the Code of Conduct (CoC) and Conflict of Interest (Col) submission deadline to align with the Commission's other end-of-year reporting deadlines. The EXCOM approved the amended CoC and Col submission deadline of June 30th, which will go into effect in 2026.
7. **National Office** – Ms. Dablow provided an overview of the national office activities held in FY2025, including training sessions, state council meetings, and congressional meetings. Executive Director (ED) Cherise Imai reported that the national office attended the Army Senior Leadership Conference for the last four years and participated in the marketplace this year. Thirty organizations attended the meeting and were

given 1-2 minutes each to brief the members. ED Imai noted that the marketplace was efficient for networking with other organizations and bringing awareness to the Compact.

ITEM 5 – BUSINESS

8. **2024 Post-Annual Business Meeting (ABM) Survey** – Ms. Dablow reviewed the results of the Post-ABM Survey, which included positive feedback regarding the ex-officio panel and other presentations. One suggestion for consideration was for the ex-officio members to brief on their organizations and partnership with the Commission at the 2025 ABM.

9. **2020-2022 Strategic Plan** – Vice Chair Korte reported that the Standing Committees had outstanding tasks from the 2020-2022 Strategic Plan and reviewed the third-year goals of the current strategic plan. He stated that the Rules Committee would conduct a five-year analysis on the cases and inquiries received by the national office to determine patterns or trends. The focus for the ex-officio organizations would be strengthening partnerships and building relationships with external organizations. Vice Chair Korte announced he would be attending the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) spring conference with ED Imai and asked the members to inform ED Imai or Chair Singleton of any other events that would be beneficial for the national office or the EXCOM to attend that would help strengthen and build partnerships.

10. **Advisory Opinion** – Vice Chair Korte introduced the legal advisory *1-2025 Ex-officio Conflict of Interest on the Finance Committee* that was requested by the Tennessee Commissioner and released to the Commission. The legal advisory listed the Compact statute, Rules, and by-laws that specified ex-officio members are required to participate on Standing Committees, including the Finance Committee. Vice Chair Korte expressed appreciation for the ex-officio members' work to raise awareness of the Compact and the importance of their partnership with the Commission. He thanked the representatives for attending and participating in the ABM. No questions or comments were received.

11. **Ex-officio Organization Updates** – Ms. Dianna Ganote, Department of Defense (DoD) Representative, provided an update on DoD activities. She reported that the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) report was complete and would be released soon, with information taken from the Pennsylvania State Clearinghouse SPEAK study. The DoD was working on an open letter that parents could provide to schools with information regarding the Compact and other protections afforded to military-connected children.

12. Ms. Ganote shared that the Defense-State Liaison Office released its top ten priorities for 2025, two of which were related to education: advanced enrollment and special education. She was excited to announce that a weeklong joint-services training summit would be held in January 2026 and would be attended by almost 260 School Liaisons.

13. **Items for the EXCOM** – No feedback or comments were provided for the EXCOM.

ITEM 6 – ANNOUNCEMENTS

14. **Compact 101 Training** – Vice Chair Korte shared the 2025 Compact 101 Training sessions graphic that outlined the monthly sessions for the year and stated he would be utilizing the training with the new members of his state council. He encouraged the ex-officio members to share the training graphic with their stakeholders and other interested organizations or parties.

ITEM 7 – ADJOURNMENT

15. Vice Chair Korte adjourned the meeting at 11:35 AM ET.