

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Friday, December 8, 2023**

PRESENT	Ernise Singleton Daron Korte Greg Lynch Laura Anastasio Chad Delbridge Steve Bullard Mary Gable Shelly Ramos Dianna Ganote	Louisiana Commissioner Minnesota Commissioner Washington Commissioner Connecticut Commissioner Wyoming Commissioner Kentucky Commissioner Maryland Commissioner Texas Commissioner USDOD Representative	Chair Vice Chair Treasure & Finance Past Chair Comm. & Outreach Compliance Rules Training Ex-Officio
STAFF	Cherise Imai Lindsey Dablow Darren Embry Jordan Artrip	Executive Director Training & Operations Assoc. Embry Merritt Womak Nance Embry Merritt Womak Nance	Secretary  General Counsel General Counsel

**ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER**

1. Commission Chair, Ernise Singleton (LA) called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM ET.

**ITEM 2 – WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

2. Chair Singleton welcomed new members, Commissioner Daron Korte (MN) as Vice Chair and Commissioner Greg Lynch (WA) as Treasurer to the Executive Committee (EXCOM).
3. Attendees and staff introduced themselves.

**ITEM 3 – ROLL CALL**

4. Roll call was conducted by Cherise Imai, Executive Director (ED). A quorum was established.

**ITEM 4 – APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

5. **Commissioner Laura Anastasio (CT) motioned to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Treasurer Lynch. The motion carried.**

**ITEM 5 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

6. **Commissioner Steve Bullard (KY) motioned to approve the minutes from the October 19, 2023, meeting as presented, seconded by Commissioner Shelly Ramos (TX). The motion carried.**

**ITEM 6 – REPORTS**

7. **CHAIR** – Chair Singleton reported her state received a request from the Council of Chief State School Officers and Collaborative for Student Success to sign on to a letter to the US Department of Defense urging them to work with states to develop a standardized agreement regarding data collection and access to accurate, secure, and standardized data on students who enlist in the military as a

career. Commissioner Bullard noted the Association for Defense Communities was interested in this data as well and supported the effort.

8. **PAST CHAIR** – Commissioner Anastasio reported the Commission was invited to brief on the Compact at the National Council of State Education Attorneys (NCOSEA) in late October in San Diego, California. Attendees included attorneys from the attorney general offices, as well as state department and board of education attorneys. The opportunity was facilitated by former Maine Commissioner, Sarah Forster. Overall, many attendees were not aware of the Compact, and the brief was well received – the time spent was worthwhile.

9. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** – Training and Operations Associate Lindsey Dablow reported continued interest by stakeholders for Compact training and briefs. Next week she was scheduled to conduct training in South Carolina near Shaw Air Force Base. ED Imai reported the Council of State Governments (CSG) had finalized their decision on the employee benefits increase which was briefed at the September meeting. CSG determined the organizations would cost share the 12% increase for employees, which meant organizations would fund 18% and employees would have a 6% increase. The intent was to shield employees from a 12% overall premium increase. ED Imai stated that based on two employees' premiums, the impact on the Commission/employer for health benefits was an increase of a little over \$3K over current costs. The increase was effective in January and for the FY2024 budget.

10. Finally, ED Imai informed members an Open Records request was received in early September by Commissioner Deanna McLaughlin (TN) was fulfilled except for one item, "Detailed Reports from FY2021-2024", which required additional processing time by CSG Accounting. Once the 105-page report was received from accounting, the document was sent to the state on September 27th. This closes this item. ED Imai reported a second request was received from Commissioner McLaughlin on November 20<sup>th</sup> requesting the 2024 Annual Business Meeting hotel contract. As part of the review process, the request was sent to General Counsel for review. Once approved, a cover letter and the document were provided to the state on November 27<sup>th</sup>. Concerned about the fiscal impact on the Commission, the Committee asked staff to provide a cost analysis to assess the cost of processing open records requests.

11. **US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE REPRESENTATIVE** – Ms. Dianna Ganote reported the Defense State Liaison Office was unable to secure the approval to brief the report to the Commission as planned earlier this week, however, a new date has been selected.

#### ITEM 7 – OLD BUSINESS

14. **2023 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING** – Ms. Dablow reviewed the actual and projected costs of the recent meeting, which also included the comparative actual costs for FY2019, 2021, and 2022. Overall, the actual expenses were \$831 over the projected cost of \$203K. She noted four submittals were outstanding and that CSG requires travel reimbursements to be filed within 30 days of travel. Ms. Dablow reviewed the 2024 projected budget for in-person, in-person/hybrid, in-person/virtual, and virtual. She noted several line items, such as meeting room rental, food and beverage, and vendor payments, were not able to be projected at this time, therefore these were not included in the projection. Finally, she reviewed the post-event survey data for the recent ABM. She noted the Committee would review the report again in April to plan for the 2024 meeting.

#### ITEM 8 – NEW BUSINESS

15. **FINANCE REPORT** – Treasurer Lynch reported the Finance Committee (FINCOM) met on December 6<sup>th</sup>. He stated he surveyed members on 14 questions to ascertain general budget and finance knowledge. A majority of members responded the way you would think they would, however, some did not respond well, perhaps because they were new to the committee. He asked staff to poll the 3 members who were not present to provide the opportunity for all members to respond. He asked if the EXCOM would be open to the poll, and they responded they would.
16. Treasurer Lynch presented the potential goals for FINCOM; however, he noted in their meeting due to time constraints, the discussion was tabled to their next meeting in January. The purpose was for FINCOM to adopt goals for the upcoming year – he added the goals are aligned with the strategic plan and would be a guide for their agenda items in the upcoming year. Finally, he expressed the importance of establishing operating principles inside at least the FINCOM, that are present in other national committees.
17. Treasurer Lynch reported the FINCOM's 2024 ABM recommendation was to continue to hold the meeting in person as scheduled. Members appreciated the recommendation and brief by Ms. Dablow on the projected cost for the 2024 event, however, they felt they needed more time to digest the information, as well as the FINCOM recommendation, as this was an important decision by the body. They agreed the item would be placed on the January agenda.
18. **2024 Standing Committee Appointments** – Chair Singleton reviewed the appointments which are effective in 2024. She reminded members appointments were made based on the survey data on committee preferences from both commissioners and ex-officio members. She noted several members have switched committees, and a new tier group facilitator, Commissioner Nick Sojka (NC), was appointed for Tier Group 1. The appointments were effective January 1.
19. **2024 Meeting Dates – Treasurer Lynch motioned to approve the appointments, seconded by Commissioner Bullard. The motion carried.**
20. ED Imai reminded members a notification through Constant Contact would be released within the next few weeks notifying members of their appointments and meeting dates. Once this was released, staff would send meeting requests through Outlook to secure the dates on members' calendars.
21. **FY2023-25 Strategic Plan, Year 2 Goals** – Members reported on the upcoming year's goals:
- Executive Committee – Chair Singleton reported the focus would continue to be the execution of the strategic plan and addressing the general business of the organization.
  - Communications and Outreach – Commissioner Chad Delbridge (WY) reported their focus was on increasing the utilization of resources, tools, and training to educate stakeholders on the Compact; assessing resources to ensure we are delivering the BEST tools and resources to stakeholders; and collecting data/stories that showcase how the Compact has helped students, and how states are implementing the Compact.
  - Compliance – Commissioner Bullard reported his committee would continue to monitor state compliance under the Compact and implement the new rules passed at the ABM.
  - Finance – he referenced the goals he highlighted in his earlier report.
  - Rules – MS. Dablow reported the Rules Committee will work on implementing the February 28th deadline for the receipt of new or amended rules from states or standing committees. Additionally, they will update the Rules Book based on the new and amended rules adopted in November. They will also develop a template to collect data on cases and outcomes.

- Training – Commissioner Ramos stated they will assess the new learning management system, and work on phase two which is focused on commissioner training.
- Leadership Nomination – Commissioner Anastasio stated the committee will review the recommendations and feedback from the post-event survey and the prior committee and assess and provide clarity on the format of the electoral process.
- Ex-officio – Vice Chair Korte reported Blue Star Families has not identified their representative to the commission to date, and we are awaiting the official appointment letter. Additionally, he said the first meeting of the ex-officio group is scheduled in January and he looked forward to furthering the discussion of partnership and collaborative support for military families and kids.
- Executive Director – ED Imai reported on the intent to fill staff vacancies, attend to the logistics for the 2024 committee meetings, and ensure the leadership and committees were well-supported to meet their intended goals and outcomes for Year 2.

#### ITEM 9 – OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

22. ED Imai reported the next Compact 101 training session was scheduled for Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM ET.

23. ED stated the [ABM Media Release: Interstate Compact Celebrates Military Children and Families](#) was disseminated by CSG Communications on November 30<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 PM ET. She asked members to contact her if they were interested in drafting a state-specific release regarding their election to office or reappointment.

#### ITEM 10 – ADJOURNMENT

24. **With no further business to conduct, Chair Singleton wished members a very happy holiday season and adjourned the meeting at 1:59 PM ET.**