



Tier Group 3 Meeting Notes
June 20, 2024
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM ET

Table with 4 columns: Category, Name, Title, and Role. Rows include PRESENT (Benjamin Rasmussen, Utah Commissioner, Tier Group 3 Facilitator), EXCUSED (Davina French, North Dakota Commissioner), STAFF (Cherise Imai, Executive Director), and GUEST (Greg Lynch, Washington Commissioner, Treasurer).

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:01 PM ET by Tier Group 3 Facilitator and Utah Commissioner Benjamin Rasmussen.

ITEM 2 – ROLL CALL

2. Operations Coordinator Allie Thomas conducted roll call. As the tier groups are not formal committees of the Commission, per Robert’s Rules, a quorum was not necessary. Commission Treasurer and Washington Commissioner Greg Lynch was welcomed as a guest to moderate the discussion of an agenda item.

ITEM 3 – AGENDA

3. The meeting agenda was displayed for attendees to view.

ITEM 4 – NEW BUSINESS

4. Finance: Budget, Dues, and Reserve Policy Discussion – Commission Treasurer and Washington Commissioner Greg Lynch reported the Finance Committee was tasked with evaluating and analyzing the Commission’s long-term financial viability to project a new multi-year budget and assist with developing the next strategic plan for fiscal years (FY) 2026-2028.

expenditures to determine what, if any, cost saving measures could be instituted. The two largest expenditures of the Commission were staffing costs and the Annual Business Meeting (ABM) expenses, with the third being affiliate support costs associated with the Council of State Governments.

5. Commissioner Lynch asked the group members how much time their states would need to plan for and adjust to a dues increase. Commissioner Barbara Clemmer (PA) stated that now would be the best time for her to introduce the idea of a dues increase to Pennsylvania's Department of Education because of her position within the department she would need additional time to educate her colleagues and respond to concerns.

6. Commissioner Michael Price (MI) stated that he would not need as much time because the state dues for Michigan were paid out of his department, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. Commissioner Laura Anastasio (CT) commented that Connecticut should not need more than a year to plan and implement a dues increase, and Commissioner Don Kaminar (AR) agreed that his state was the same.

7. Commissioner Lynch asked the group members about their thoughts on the current Commission expenditures and to provide any recommendations they felt could financially benefit the Compact. Commissioner Price asked where legal fees fit into the Commission's financial structure. Commissioner Lynch responded that legal fees were steadily increasing but did not fall in the top three largest expenditures for the Commission.

8. Commissioner Kaminar stated that the Finance Committee should anticipate pushback from some states regarding dues increases and that the Finance Committee should consider how it will educate and promote the members so they can do the same in their states. Commissioner Lynch responded this was exactly why the topic was being introduced at the Tier Group meetings to gather insight on how much time would be needed for the introduction and planning period and what the thoughts of the Commissioners were beforehand.

9. Commissioner Rasmussen asked whether the Commission was considering hosting more ABMs virtually rather than in-person to save costs on travel expenses and facility fees. Commissioner Lynch responded that the Executive Committee (EXCOM) was considering this idea, and the Finance Committee was evaluating the benefits of virtual ABMs.

10. **Secretary of Education Request: Good, Better, Best Practices** – Executive Director (ED) Cherise Imai reported the Secretary of Education, Dr. Miguel Cordona, had requested for the Commission to provide a list of best practices related to implementing the Compact so that he can promote the Compact. The list was formatted in three tiers: good, better, and best practices. Examples included how many State Council meetings a state could be encouraged to hold each year and Commissioner attendance at appointed Standing Committee meetings. ED Imai reviewed the outlined practices and advised the group that the practices were not to be used for evaluating or comparing the States and that they were only suggestions. The Tier Group was asked to review the items and provide additional items or additional language to existing items for clarification and context.

11. Commissioner Kaminar suggested Commissioners could hold State Council meetings in various locations throughout their state, which would increase engagement for the Compact by allowing more attendees to partake in the meetings. Commissioner Rasmussen asked whether Purple Star initiatives could be added to the list of practices because it would be good for engagement and marketing the Compact. ED Imai responded that Purple Star was originally left off the list since it is not a Commission program, however it could be added as a practice because of the awareness factors.

12. **Discussion on Compact Rules, SEC 5.104 Placement Flexibility** – Training and Operations Associate Lindsey Dablow reported Nevada Commissioner Felicia Gonzales had submitted a proposed Rules amendment for *SEC. 5.104 Placement Flexibility*. The Nevada Commissioner had proposed the amendment following a case regarding misalignment of semesters and the flexibility to waive required seat time. The student completed the first semester at the sending school and immediately transitioned to the receiving school for the second semester. An overlap in the sending school's first semester end date and the second semester start date at the receiving school resulted in the student missing three weeks of seat time at the receiving school. The transition was due to the custodial parent's deployment. Once the parent returned from deployment, the student returned to the sending school for the following school year, where it was discovered that the receiving school did not award grades or credit for the previous semester due to the three weeks of missed seat time which were required in the receiving state. The Tier Groups were asked by the Rules Committee to discuss whether any of the Commissioners had used Rule SEC. 5.104 before or had cases where required seat time was an issue to gain insight on how or if an amendment would affect case resolutions.

13. Commissioner Rasmussen stated the rule is already flexible for waiving requirements and should be left as is. Commissioner Price asked what happens if neither school comes to an agreement to award the credit or grades. Ms. Dablow responded that one school usually does give in, but it depends on what state the student moves to and how the schools could accommodate the student.

14. Commissioner Clemmer stated she recently had a case where the sending district in Pennsylvania did not meet placement requirements for the receiving district in New York. The student could not prove mastery of courses but had passing grades for Pennsylvania's curriculum. The school in New York accepted a letter from Pennsylvania that stated the student was considered passing and allowed the grades from Pennsylvania to count for placement and credit. Commissioner Clemmer agreed that the Rule language was flexible already and a legal advisory held more weight for providing resolutions. Commissioner Lynch commented that most cases get resolved when the right people get involved to do the right thing for the student.

ITEM 5 – OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

15. **Commission Annual Deadlines** – Commissioner Rasmussen reminded Members June 30 was the end of FY2024 and each member state was required to have held a State Council meeting, submitted their End-of-Year Report, and submitted their state dues payment by then. He noted the national office could be contacted if anyone had questions or needed assistance.

ITEM 6 – ADJOURNMENT

16. There being no further discussion, Commissioner Rasmussen adjourned the meeting at 3:46 PM ET.