



Tier Group 4 Meeting Notes
June 10, 2024
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM ET

Table with 4 columns: Status (PRESENT, EXCUSED, STAFF), Name, Title, and Role. Lists attendees like Clara Botstein (District of Columbia Commissioner) and staff like Cherise Imai (Executive Director).

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:02 PM ET by Tier Group 4 Facilitator and District of Columbia (DC) Commissioner Clara Botstein.

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. Half of the Tier Group 4 states were present as established by the attendance of seven state Compact Commissioners.

ITEM 3 – AGENDA

3. The members reviewed the agenda. Commissioner Botstein noted time would be provided at the end of the meeting if Commissioners had topics they wanted to discuss.

ITEM 4 – NEW BUSINESS

4. Finance: Budget, Dues, and Reserve Policy Discussion – Executive Director (ED) Cherise Imai reviewed information provided by Commission Treasurer Greg Lynch (WA) and the Finance Committee. The Executive Committee (EXCOM) directed the Finance Committee to conduct a review that evaluates and analyzes the Commission's long-term financial viability to prepare for a new strategic plan for Fiscal Years (FY) 2026-2028.

provided questions for the tier group to discuss and provide feedback for the Finance Committee to consider.

5. The first question was how many years the Commissioners would need to plan and coordinate a potential dues increase with their State Councils and other state officials. Commissioner Laura Kacer (IA) stated dues increases implemented with an adjusted dues formula made sense for keeping up with inflation and increasing costs. Six months to one year would be enough time for Iowa to plan for and incorporate the increase into the state's budget for the Compact. Commissioner Chad Delbridge (WY) reported that he holds four State Council meetings each year to keep his members updated on Compact matters and agreed that Wyoming could plan for a dues increase within one year.

6. Commissioner Daron Korte (MN) agreed that one year should be sufficient time for a state to implement a dues increase, unless the state's legislature worked on a two-year schedule for budget planning, which could require more internal discussion with the state's financial controller. Commissioner Michael Rodriguez (DE) and Commissioner Spencer Barzee (ID) agreed that a state's financial planning schedule would be a large factor for the length of time needed to plan for an increase, but agreed one year was reasonable.

7. The second question asked Commissioners what their expectations were from the national office and Commission staff regarding training, support, and how often they have used the national office for assistance. Commissioner Rodriguez stated he appreciated the national office staff participating in Delaware's State Council meetings and providing updates on the Commission to his members and School Liaisons. Commissioner Delbridge reported he used the national office several times this year for assistance and support with his State Council meetings and trainings and he appreciated everything the staff does for the Compact Commissioners. Commissioner Botstein reported the School Liaisons for Washington, D.C. generally resolve most issues without escalating cases or requiring Commission assistance, but she appreciates the tailored support that staff provides and believes the assistance is very beneficial, particularly for onboarding new Commissioners and those in their first years with the Compact.

8. **Secretary of Education Request: Good, Better, Best Practices** – ED 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 at his quarterly meetings. The list would be 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. The Tier Group was asked to review the items listed under good, better, and best practices and provide additional items or additional language to existing items for clarification and context.

9. Commissioner Kacer commented that the listed practices would be a good document for new Commissioners to set performance goals and for the Commission to be transparent about what is expected from the member states at the minimum level. Commissioner Delbridge asked whether the number of State Council meetings should be reconsidered, since some state Compact statutes differed in the required number of meetings to be held each year. ED Imai clarified the numbers in the document were only suggestions, and that the Commissioners could hold as many meetings as they felt were necessary for their State Councils or were required in their statute.

10. Commissioner Korte asked whether the purpose of the best practices list was solely for the Secretary of Education's use or if the states were going to be graded by the Compliance Committee as well. ED Imai confirmed that the states would not be compared or graded, and the best practices list was not a rubric for evaluation purposes. Commissioner Korte agreed that the document listed efficient

practices and was very informative to explain how states could improve themselves. ED Imai stated that a questionnaire would be sent out to the members once all four Tier Groups had met to get more input and commentary from the Commissioners before the list would be approved for release to the Secretary of Education.

11. **Discussion on 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.

12. Commissioner Korte commented that he thought he had used SEC. 5.104 previously in Minnesota, but he could not recall the exact case details. The other Commissioners were not able to specify whether they had used the specific Rule. Commissioner Botstein asked whether the case would have been harder to solve if the student had moved to a different state following Nevada rather than the original sending state. Ms. Dablow responded that it would depend on the state and whether they had different rules. Commissioner Delbridge commented most schools would do what is best for the student to award credit or transcripts but if not then the language of the Rule could use more substance for clarification. Commissioner Kacer questioned how schools in Nevada handled similar issues for students who were not military connected, because it did not sound like the issue would be resolved in a fair way for the student to continue with the following semesters. The other members agreed that it would be difficult for other states to accommodate the student's future placement without the credit from Nevada.

## ITEM 5 – OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

13. **Commission Annual Deadlines** – Commissioner Botstein 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. She noted the national office could be contacted if anyone had questions or needed assistance.

14. **2025 Annual Business Meeting (ABM)** – ED Imai state that Indianapolis, Indiana had been selected to host the 2025 ABM in person. The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) offered to sponsor the meeting at the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) facilities, which reduced the estimated costs for the meeting by eliminating facility fees and audio/visual technology fees. The national office was scheduled to join representatives of NFHS in Indiana for a site visit to tour the facilities and nearby hotels. Commissioner Barzee asked if other affiliates or organizations had offered discounts for hosting the ABM in their home states and mentioned that he was not opposed to Compact Commissioners paying for their own travel to the ABM or only holding in-person ABMs every other year. ED Imai answered that the national office had investigated receiving discounts or sponsorship for the ABM before and would continue to do so.

**ITEM 5 – ADJOURNMENT**

15. There being no further discussion, Commissioner Botstein adjourned the meeting at 2:55 PM ET.