



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Thursday, September 27, 2024

Table with 4 columns: Category (PRESENT, EXCUSED, STAFF, GUEST), Name, Title, and Role. Lists attendees such as Ernise Singleton (Louisiana Commissioner, Chair) and Steve Bullard (Kentucky Commissioner, Compliance).

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

- 1. Commission Chair Ernise Singleton (LA) called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM ET.

ITEM 2 – ROLL CALL

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

ITEM 3 – APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

- 3. The agenda was accepted as presented by acclimation.

ITEM 4 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- 4. The minutes were approved unanimously by acclimation.

ITEM 5 – OLD BUSINESS

5. Future ABM Format: Poll Everywhere – ED Imai reported the national office researched polling applications and software that could be used for the Finance Committee to conduct a poll regarding the format of future Annual Business Meetings (ABMs) with the full Commission.

6. FY2026 Amended Budget – Treasurer and Finance Chair Greg Lynch (WA) reported the fiscal year (FY) 2026 budget had been approved in August.

State Governments (CSG) Accounting and reviewed each line item of the budget to correct a few areas, particularly the items regarding employee benefits and salaries, and ABM expenditures. CSG Accounting also reviewed the five-year projected budget and stated that the numbers looked good. ED Imai reviewed the difference in the original approved total and the new lower total that was approved by Treasurer Lynch and the Finance Committee.

**7. Commissioner Chad Delbridge (WY) motioned to approve the amended FY2026 Budget. Commissioner Mary Gable (MD) seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

**8. FY2027-2032 Dues Projections and Budget Forecasts** – Treasurer Lynch introduced Finance Committee member and New York Commissioner Debra Jackson to the meeting and reviewed the Finance Committee's projections for FY2027-2032. There would be a 55% catch-up in dues in FY2027 to bring the dues formula to \$1.78 per military-connected student, followed by a 3%, 4%, or 5% increase annually through FY2028-2032. The Finance Committee originally recommended a 5% increase to the EXCOM.

9. Chair Lynch reported FY2026 would require a reserve cash-out of \$290,000 to balance the budget before the FY2027 dues increase to \$1.78. At a 3% annual increase after, there would be a \$200,000 surplus the first year followed by a deficit of over \$20,000 each year after through FY2032. At a 4% annual increase, there would be a smaller deficit in FY2028 and FY2029 but then the numbers would go into the green for each year after. The Finance Committee amended their recommendation of a 5% annual increase to a 4% annual increase for FY2028-FY2032.

10. Commissioner Kathleen Murphy (NH) asked if the projected numbers reflected the decrease in student populations. Treasurer Lynch stated the Department of Defense (DOD) had just updated their numbers for military dependents, and those were the numbers that were being carried forward for the five-year budget planning cycle. He reiterated that the Commission has no control of that number and this point would need to be made at the ABM to explain the need for a flexible reserve and future dues considerations.

11. Commissioner Gable asked if the projected dues and budgets for FY2027-2032 considered the ABM format being in-person or virtual. Chair Lynch responded the line items for the ABM format were calculated if the meeting was held in-person each year, but that could be modified later if the format were to change. He stated that the Finance Committee was crafting a budget for FY2027 to incorporate a dues increase without knowing how the full Commission would vote in FY2026.

12. Treasurer Lynch reviewed the Finance Committee's upcoming tasks for the next year and stated one of the tasks was to identify new revenue sources. Commissioner Murphy asked if the Commission's partners pay anything directly. ED Imai responded that the only partner to make monetary contributions is Military Impacted Schools Association (MISA), who provide funds for the reception that is held at the ABM, and that this contribution is more than some Tier Four states pay in dues. Treasurer Lynch stated the topic of partnership fees begins to fall under the scope of public funds and would need to be discussed with more legal guidance.

13. Commissioner Gable stated the Commissioners were going to need materials to give their state Chief Financial Officers and governing bodies more for them to understand the need for these dues increases and budget increases. Treasurer Lynch stated that he was going to introduce the dues increase and budget to his State Council at their next meeting and prepare some material. Commissioner Jackson stated she discussed the dues and budget with her State Council and the key difficulty will be the difference in state impact. Tier One states already know how important the Compact

is and are more willing to approve a dues increase without pushback, while states in Tiers Three and Four might have more reservations and would need more explanation for the increase.

14. Treasurer Lynch stated he would introduce the 4% dues increase to the full Commission at ABM and would make the presentation interactive with the Finance Committee members and other Commissioners. The projected dues and budget for FY2027-2034 would be included in the ABM docket book.

15. **2024 Annual Business Meeting** – ED Imai reviewed the approved 2024 ABM General Session Agenda and stated that it was complete and included in the docket book. The breakout sessions for the strategic planning session with consultant Lorna Festa were finalized and the room assignments would be provided. A follow up email would be sent and the strategic planning sessions would be discussed in more detail at the next EXCOM meeting that would be held on Tuesday, October 15, 2024, before the New Commissioner and Ex-officio Reception.

#### **ITEM 6 – ADJOURNMENT**

20. **Commissioner Lynch motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Gable seconded the motion.** The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 PM ET.