

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, May 27, 2026
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM ET

PRESENT	Greg Lynch	Washington Commissioner	Chair
	Dale Brungardt	Kansas Commissioner	
	Brian Henry	Missouri Commissioner	
	Debra Jackson	New York Commissioner	
	Deanna McLaughlin	Tennessee Commissioner	
	Nickolas Sojka	North Carolina Commissioner	
EXCUSED	Laura Cyr	Maine Commissioner	
	J. Clarke Orzalli	Massachusetts Commissioner	
	Kyle Fairbairn	Military Impacted Schools Assn.	Ex-officio
	Davis Whitfield	National Fed. of State High School Assns.	Ex-officio
STAFF	Lindsey Dablow	Executive Director	
	Trevin Stevens	Communications Associate	
	Allie Thomas	Operations Coordinator	

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

1. Treasurer and Committee Chair Greg Lynch (WA) called the meeting to order at 11:01 AM ET.

ITEM 2 – ROLL CALL

2. Executive Director Lindsey Dablow conducted the roll call, establishing a quorum.

ITEM 3 – APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

3. **Commissioner Nick Sojka (NC) motioned to approve the meeting agenda, seconded by Commissioner Brian Henry (MO). The motion carried.**

ITEM 4 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

4. **Commissioner Dale Brungardt (KS) motioned to approve the minutes from March 25, 2026, seconded by Commissioner Sojka. The motion carried.**

ITEM 5 – REPORTS

5. **Executive Committee (EXCOM)** – Ms. Dablow reported that the EXCOM met in Lexington, Kentucky, in April for the Spring Retreat and noted that the report was sent to Committee members before the meeting for their review. She provided a summary of the report and gave updates on additional items, including the June 1 release of both the Annual Business Meeting (ABM) registration and Election Application Memorandum, closure of the proposed Rules amendment comment period, and updates to policy *2-2022 Open Records Request*.
6. **National Office** – Ms. Dablow reported on the National Office activities, including state engagement and training, available webinars, strategic initiatives, Month of the Military Child highlights,

and a redesign of the Resources page on mic3.net.

ITEM 6 – OLD BUSINESS

7. **Annual Finance Development Rubric** – Ms. Dablow provided an overview of the Current Fiscal Timeline and the Finance Committee Fiscal Planning Calendar, indicating the current process for budget planning and noting the budget factors that are outside of the Commission's control. She introduced proposed adjustments to the budget timeline, highlighting where certain items would be considered and approved by the standing committees and EXCOM earlier in the year. Treasurer Lynch explained the intent was to provide the information earlier in the calendar year because most member states hold the annual State Council meeting beginning in April and ending in June. The members agreed that the adjustments would be beneficial to most states. Commissioner Sojka asked how substantial economic changes between April and October would factor into the adjusted budget. Treasurer Lynch clarified that the proposed budget could be adjusted to allow for substantial unexpected items that could affect the budget, and Ms. Dablow noted that any changes could be addressed at the ABM prior to the approval of the proposed budget.

8. **Commissioner Debra Jackson (NY) motioned to approve the modified General Fiscal Timeline, seconded by Commissioner Brungardt. The motion carried.**

ITEM 7 – NEW BUSINESS

9. **FY2028 Budget** – Ms. Dablow introduced the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2028 Budget, confirming that the proposed amounts followed the annual 3% increase in line with the five-year budget forecast approved at the 2025 ABM. Commissioner Deanna McLaughlin (TN) asked if the proposed budget was limited to three staff members or if it factored in adding a fourth. Treasurer Lynch confirmed that the budget accounted for the hiring of a fourth staff person, and positions would be considered based on the staff evaluation report provided by Education Management Solutions (EMS). Commissioner McLaughlin recommended that the Commission not fill the Deputy Director position. She noted the recommendation in the EMS study reflected the previous holder's contributions to the Commission. She recommended the position only be filled if a staff member or person with strong knowledge of the organization deserved the reclassification.

10. **Commissioner Sojka motioned to approve the FY2028 Budget, seconded by Commissioner McLaughlin. The motion carried.**

ITEM 8 – OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

11. **Compliance – End-of-Year Deadlines** – Ms. Dablow reminded the members to submit their Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest forms, state council meeting documentation, and End-of-Year Reports by the June 30, 2026, deadline.

12. **Compact 101 Training** – Ms. Dablow reminded members of the upcoming Compact 101 Training that would be held on June 2, 2026, and encouraged members to share the training with their state councils and partners.

ITEM 9 – ITEMS FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

13. Commissioner McLaughlin inquired whether a standardized toolkit could be developed and distributed to appointing authorities to support the appointment of state Compact Commissioners. Treasurer Lynch emphasized the importance of proactive engagement with appointing authorities and

ensuring they are well-informed about the Compact. The members discussed commissioner roles as defined in state statutes, noting challenges associated with high turnover rates among commissioners. They also highlighted the importance of appointing vice chairs for standing committees to ensure continuity, maintain institutional knowledge, and provide consistent oversight of committee-administered programs.

14. Ms. Dablow referenced the 2026–2028 Strategic Plan, which includes initiatives to enhance engagement with appointing authorities and increase overall awareness of the Compact. Treasurer Lynch indicated that he would present the Committee's feedback to the EXCOM for consideration at its next meeting in June.

ITEM 10 – ADJOURNMENT

15. **Commissioner McLaughlin motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Henry.** The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM ET.

Respectfully submitted by,
Lindsey Dablow
Secretary