MILITARY INTERSTATE CHILDREN'S COMPACT COMMISSION

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday, July 22, 2026
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM ET

PRESENT	Greg Lynch	Washington Commissioner	Chair
	Brian Henry	Missouri Commissioner	
	Debra Jackson	New York Commissioner	
	Deanna McLaughlin	Tennessee Commissioner	
	William Niemeyer	Rhode Island Commissioner	
	J. Clarke Orzalli	Massachusetts Commissioner	
	Nickolas Sojka	North Carolina Commissioner	
EXCUSED	Dale Brungardt	Kansas 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	
GUEST	Jennifer Belanger	Maine Commissioner	

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

1. Treasurer and Committee Chair Greg Lynch (WA) called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM ET.

ITEM 2 – ROLL CALL

2. Executive Director Lindsey Dablow conducted the roll call, establishing a quorum. She welcomed Commissioner Jennifer Belanger (ME), who was attending the meeting as part of the new commissioner onboarding process.

ITEM 3 – APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

ITEM 4 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

4. **Commissioner Sojka motioned to approve the minutes from May 27, 2026, seconded by Commissioner Henry. The motion carried.**

ITEM 5 – REPORTS

5. **Executive Committee (EXCOM) –** Ms. Dablow reported that the EXCOM met in June and July, where they approved the *Vice Chair Appointment Guide* for launch at the Annual Business Meeting (ABM), and released the *Commissioner Role and Responsibilities Guidance for Appointing Authorities* to the Tier Groups for review at their summer meetings. She reminded the members that the

ABM registration was open and to book their hotel reservations prior to the September deadline.

6. **National Office –** Ms. Dablow reported on the National Office activities, including state engagement and training, Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 compliance items, upcoming webinars, and an overview of the FY2026 financial summary. She noted that the 2026 annual audit process was underway and the preliminary communications indicated that there were no significant issues.

ITEM 6 – OLD BUSINESS

7. **Proposed Policy: 1-2026 Financial Review Rule SEC 2.103 –** Ms. Dablow provided an overview of the proposed finance review policy developed to support the required review of the dues calculation formula under *SEC 2.103 Dues Formula*, including the *Annual Finance Development Rubric*. The proposed policy outlined financial monitoring responsibilities, budget oversight and reporting, reserve fund management, financial review criteria, and a review of timelines and documentation requirements, along with the rulemaking requirements for any dues formula changes. The members expressed support for the policy and recognized it as a framework that could be amended as needed.

8. **Commissioner Sojka motioned to approve the policy 1-2026 Financial Review of Rule 2.103, seconded by Debra Jackson (NY). The motion carried.**

ITEM 7 – NEW BUSINESS

9. **Finance Committee Review and Recommendation Regarding Fiscal Impact –** Ms. Dablow noted that the Commission was focusing on addressing the shift in federal education responsibilities across various federal agencies by working to identify and build partnerships with state and federal organizations beyond the Department of Education. The Finance Committee was tasked with exploring the financial implications of expanding partnerships and engagement efforts as outlined in the 2026-2028 Strategic Plan.

10. Ms. Dablow reviewed financial information related to the ABM, including the historical practices for setting fees, comparison of the fee structure to similar organizations, cost-per-attendee data from prior ABMs, and the impact of a federal government shutdown on attendance and registration revenue. The members noted the impact of venue selection, airfare and hotel costs, and accessibility on the total event cost. Members also discussed whether the registration fees should be tied directly to the actual event costs. Commissioner McLaughlin recommended evaluating the return on investment from partner participation and considering airport accessibility when selecting meeting sites. Commissioner Jackson emphasized balancing airfare savings against higher venue costs, with Commissioner Sojka suggesting a more structured and business-focused venue selection process. The Finance Committee would continue to review the overall methodology used for selecting future meeting locations and evaluate the financial implications.

11. Treasurer Lynch provided a brief presentation on ex-officio membership regarding the Strategic Plan and future budget planning, focusing on the financial implications of expanding ex-officio membership. The Committee discussed existing ex-officio membership policies, privileges and responsibilities of ex-officio members, and the potential to expand representation to organizations such as the US Coast Guard, US Public Health Service, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

12. Commissioner J. Clarke Orzalli (MA) suggested evaluating the direct and indirect costs associated with ex-officio membership and exploring financial or in-kind contributions from partner

organizations. Commissioner Sojka recommended a formal process for the ex-officios to report on their contributions annually. Commissioner Deanna McLaughlin (TN) suggested evaluating the return on investment from ex-officio organizations regarding communications, training, and outreach. The Committee agreed that further analysis was needed to quantify costs associated with expanding ex-officio participation and defining partnership expectations.

ITEM 8 – OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

13. **Compact 101 Training –** Treasurer Lynch reminded members of the upcoming Compact 101 Training that would be held on August 4, 2026, and encouraged members to share the training with their state councils and partners.

ITEM 9 – ITEMS FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

14. No further items were received for the EXCOM.

ITEM 10 – ADJOURNMENT

15. **Commissioner Henry motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Sojka.** The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 PM ET.

Respectfully submitted by,
Lindsey Dablow
Secretary