

# State Council for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

## Minutes

December 8, 2014

**Members in Attendance:** Dr. Jerry Guess, Ron Harder, Jeremy Lasiter, Dr. Phillis Nichols Anderson, Erasmo Reyes, John Steele, Dr. Tony Thurman, Dr. Janice Walker

**Meeting location:** Arkansas Department of Education, Four State Capitol Mall, Little Rock, Arkansas

**Others in Attendance:** Senator Jane English

### **Welcome/ Call to Order:**

Jeremy Lasiter called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

### **Introductions:**

Mr. Lasiter introduced himself as the Compact Commissioner appointed by the Arkansas Department of Education Commissioner. Members then introduced themselves.

ADE Commissioner Tony Wood stopped by to express his gratitude to members for their willingness to serve.

Senator Jane English noted that she was pleased to have sponsored the legislation created the State Council, grateful that it passed, and happy that meetings were taking place.

### **Terms:**

The three appointed members drew lots to determine the length of their terms. Mr. Harder, appointed by the Governor on 9-12-13, drew a three-year term (expires 9-12-16). Dr. Walker, appointed by the President Pro-Tempore on 1-13-14, drew a five-year term (expires 1-13-19). Dr. Thurman, appointed by the Speaker of the House on 5-20-14, drew a four-year term (expires 5-20-18).

### **Appointment of Military Family Education Liaison:**

Mr. Lasiter discussed the role of the Military Family Education Liaison. The liaison will assist military families with transition-related issues. Mr. Lasiter nominated John Steele, Deputy Director of the 19<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Group at Little Rock AFB. He invited Mr. Steele to make remarks about his experience. He then opened the floor for questions from the Council. Mr. Lasiter asked if there were any other nominations. Dr. Guess made the motion to nominate Mr. Steele for Military Family Education Liaison. Mr. Reyes seconded. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

### **Background:**

Mr. Lasiter presented the background of the Compact. Major points include:

- Military children make between six and nine transitions (on average) throughout their K-12 education
- These transitions present both academic and interpersonal issues for military children
- All 50 states and the District of Columbia are members of the Compact
- Arkansas had a similar law in place regarding military children prior to joining the Compact in 2013
- There was not a single no vote on the legislation, which indicates the support of the legislature in Arkansas
- The major issues of focus are: enrollment, placement, attendance, eligibility, and graduation
- Each state has one voting member on the national commission. Jeremy Lasiter has the vote from Arkansas
- Mr. Lasiter plans to have representatives from the national organization at the next meeting to talk to the Council about best practices and lessons learned

**State Council Responsibilities:**

Mr. Lasiter discussed the responsibilities of the State Council. The main obligation of the Council is to educate school districts and parents about the requirements of the Compact. He noted that the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) website has information, webinars, and promotional materials that are useful. He also said that he will work with the Department of Education to create a state website that has more Arkansas-specific information.

Mr. Lasiter asked Council members to let him know to what groups they present information.

Mr. Lasiter asked members to complete a Statement of Financial Interest and noted that they are due January 31, 2015 for calendar year 2014.

**Other Business:**

The Council is required to meet once a quarter. Mr. Lasiter proposed the months of March, June, September, and December. He stated that a meeting schedule with proposed dates will be sent to members soon. He reminded them that all meetings must take place in Pulaski County, and teleconferencing will be available.

**Future Meeting Dates: TBD**  
**Meeting adjourned at 2:53 p.m.**  
**Recorded by Brittany Kincaid**