

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

Minutes

December 14, 2015

Conference Call

Members in Attendance: Compact Commissioner John Kaminar, Lenisha Broadway, Dr. Tony Thurman, Dr. Janice Walker, Stephanie Koonst for John Steele

Meeting location: Conference Call

Others in Attendance: Senator Jane English and Roger Palmer, Arkansas Department of Education-Guidance and Counseling

Call to Order:

John Kaminar called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Minutes:

Mr. Kaminar asked for a motion to approve the September 21, 2015 minutes. Ms. Broadway made the motion to approve, Dr. Walker seconded, a roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Old Business:

Communication Plan: Mr. Kaminar updated members on the one-page informational piece that was created to promote the Arkansas State Council. It has been sent to Suzanne Knowles in the Guidance and Counseling unit of ADE. She will send it to the school counselors in the state. The informational video discussed at the last meeting will be produced. Other informational materials are being produced, and Mr. Kaminar stressed the importance of maintaining consistent message for them. Mr. Kaminar noted that the council should get on the agendas for the upcoming Arkansas School Boards' Association conference and the Arkansas Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development conference. He asked members to let him or Brittany Kincaid know of any other conferences at which the council should try to present.

New Business:

Arkansas Issues: Mr. Kaminar discussed a current Arkansas case in which the military student's GPA would be make her valedictorian, but the school district has a policy that valedictorians must have attended all years of high school there (the student transferred into the district during high school). Mr. Kaminar has spoken to the district, which is reluctant to make an exception. The National Rules Committee for MIC3 stated that the Compact does not apply to class rank. The final decision has not been made.

Another pending issue is from a family that is transferring to an Arkansas district from Japan. The district will not enroll the student without a utility bill, and the parents are afraid they will miss the enrollment period before they are settled. They have not yet received their PCS paperwork. Dr. Thurman pointed out that is pretty consistent for districts, and he thinks that it is likely to be worked out.

Council Name: Mr. Kaminar noted that the formal name of the Arkansas State Council is quite long and difficult to use. He asked members if they would be willing to use a shortened name for Arkansas business and materials. He suggested Arkansas Council for Military Families. Ms. Broadway made a motion to adopt this name for state use. Dr. Walker seconded. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Month of the Military Child: Mr. Kaminar noted that April is the Month of the Military Child (MOMC). Last year was the first year Arkansas participated. The Council created a proclamation for the State Board of Education, which was presented at the April meeting. John Steele and Stephanie Koonst assisted in gathering some military families to be present at the SBE meeting. Some military child information was shared via social media by the Arkansas Department of Education and school districts (PCSSD also did military child spotlights). The Governor's Office did their own proclamation, as well. Mr. Kaminar noted that he should be in touch with Ken Griffin, the Veterans' Liaison at the Governor's Office. He asked members to be thinking about additional things the Council can do to promote MOMC and suggested it be an agenda item at the next meeting. Members noted:

- Dr. Walker said that since most districts have communications directors the Council should compose a flyer and send to each
- Dr. Thurman noted that AAEEA often pushes information about such things out to districts, so it is important to contact them
- Mr. Kaminar mentioned having a representative of the Council do a spot on some of the morning news shows
- Dr. Thurman suggested sending press releases to all news stations
- Mr. Kaminar suggested Sen. English and Dr. Thurman would be good representatives to have on the news
- Dr. Thurman said he would have their Communications Director, Liz Massey, put together a release and contact Ms. Kincaid about booking shows

New Member: Mr. Kaminar noted that Erasmo Reyes has resigned as a Council member because of new employment. He is working with Michelle Griffin of ADE to get a new member appointed. This member must be from a military installation.

Triple A: Mr. Kaminar noted that he learned at the National Conference that it is a good idea to have a liaison from the state Activities Association participate in Council meetings. He asked members how they would feel about reaching out to Triple A. Dr. Thurman suggested Lance Taylor. Dr. Thurman made a motion to ask Triple A to appoint a liaison. Ms. Broadway seconded, a roll call was taken, and the motion carried.

Next Meeting: Mr. Kaminar noted that the council should discuss Month of the Military Child at the February meeting. Ms. Kincaid will coordinate a date and alert members. Mr. Kaminar asked members if they would prefer a different meeting site since parking is an issue at ADE. Dr. Thurman suggested Triple A and offered to contact Lance Taylor to give him background on the Council. Mr. Kaminar will contact Mr. Taylor after Dr. Thurman does.

Future Meeting Dates: TBD-February 2016

Meeting adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Recorded by Brittany Kincaid, ADE