

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

## Minutes

September 21, 2015

**Members in Attendance:** Compact Commissioner John Kaminar, Dr. Jerry Guess, Ron Harder, Dr. Tony Thurman (via telephone), Dr. Janice Walker, John Steele, Erasmo Reyes (via telephone)

**Meeting location:** Room 201-A, Arkansas Department of Education, Four State Capitol Mall, Little Rock, Arkansas

**Others in Attendance:** Dr. Mark Gotcher, Arkansas Department of Education-Deputy Commissioner  
Suzanne Knowles, Arkansas Department of Education-Guidance and Counseling Public School Program Coordinator

### Call to Order:

John Kaminar called the meeting to order at 1:00.

### Minutes:

Mr. Kaminar asked for a motion to approve the June 22, 2015 minutes. Dr. Guess made the motion to approve, Mr. Harder seconded, and the motion carried.

### New Business:

**Dr. Mark Gotcher:** Mr. Kaminar introduced Dr. Gotcher. Dr. Gotcher spoke briefly to compact members and expressed his desire to make school transitions smooth for military families.

**New Member Lenisha Broadway:** Mr. Kaminar announced that Lenisha Broadway will fill the position vacated by Phillis Nichols Anderson. Ms. Broadway is the Vice President for the Arkansas region of Lighthouse Academies.

**National Meeting:** Mr. Kaminar reminded compact members that the national meeting will take place November 5-7. He will attend and asked any members that plan to attend to contact Brittany Kincaid.

**Arkansas Issue:** Mr. Kaminar shared that the first issue in which the Arkansas Compact has been involved (which was discussed at the June 22 meeting) is resolved. The Arkansas student who transferred to Texas received her diploma and is headed to college.

**Ideas for the Commission:** The council members began a discussion about ways to be more effective, including:

- Raising awareness about the council by promoting it within certain groups, such as military personnel and school counselors, administrators, and principals
- Creating Arkansas-specific brochures (and not focusing on the national group)
- Reaching out to Arkansas military installations and perhaps getting on the agenda of one of their mandatory briefs
- Updating the PowerPoint currently on the website

A motion was made by Dr. Guess to put together information for the upcoming counselor trainings taking place at the co-ops. Mr. Harder seconded, and the motion carried.

Mr. Kaminar told members that the council's page has been linked on the ADE's main page of the website under "Parents" section, thus giving it more prominent placement. Dr. Walker mentioned creating an Arkansas-specific welcome video for the website. Dr. Guess made a motion to create a new

welcome video and ask the Governor and ADE Commissioner to participate. Dr. Walker seconded, and the motion carried.

Mr. Harder noted that feedback from school counselors and military families about what gaps need to be filled would be helpful moving forward. Mr. Kaminar asked Ms. Knowles how best to get that information from the counselors. Ms. Knowles said she would ask for feedback from them, and a questionnaire with specific questions would be useful. She noted that counselors would be somewhat familiar with the council, since many had seen a presentation about it a couple of years ago.

Mr. Reyes asked about school board policies, particularly concerning extracurricular activities. Mr. Harder noted that the Arkansas Activities Association (Triple A) sets policies for extracurricular activities. Members discussed having a superintendent reach out to Triple A.

Mr. Kaminar stated that he would like for ADE leadership to visit military bases and possibly meet with military officials. He asked Mr. Reyes and Mr. Steele to think about how best to make that happen. They agreed to send any information to Mr. Kaminar or Ms. Kincaid.

**Next Meeting:** Mr. Kaminar noted that the council should discuss Month of the Military Child at the December meeting. Ms. Kincaid will send out a date for the December conference call.

**Future Meeting Dates: TBD-December 2015**

**Meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.**

**Recorded by Brittany Kincaid, ADE**