



## MINUTES

# THE ARKANSAS COUNCIL FOR MILITARY CHILDREN

Thursday, September 8, 2022, 10:00 A.M.

Fort Smith Public Schools, 3205 Jenny Lind Rd, Fort Smith, AR 72901, Auditorium Building B

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### I. Call to Order and Roll Call (J. Kaminar, A. Cress)

Chair John Kaminar called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. He stated that in the absence of Abby Cress, Vice Chair Andelyn Wright would serve as secretary.

The following members were present:

John Kaminar (Chair)  
Andelyn Wright (Vice Chair)  
Jody Bergstrom  
Richie Arthur (Proxy for Dr. Shawn Cook)  
Rep. Karilyn Brown (Proxy for Rep. Bruce Cozart)  
Belinda Harris-Ritter  
Loreena Hegenbart  
Sen. Jane English (Proxy for Sen. Missy Irvin)  
Tanya Sharp (Proxy for Dr. Debbie Jones)  
James Hopkins (Proxy for Brian Melton)  
LaShawnda Noel  
Bobbie Olles  
Dr. Janice Walker (Proxy for Dr. Jeremy Owoh)  
Terri Williams

The following member was absent:

Amy Arnone

The following members were excused:

Dr. Kerry Schneider  
Lance Taylor  
Emily Taylor (Proxy for Dr. Tony Thurman)  
Col. Bern Smith  
Jessica Saum  
Rick Porter

A quorum was established.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance** (J. Kaminar)

At Chair Kaminar's request, Dr. Mike Farrell (Fort Smith Public Schools) led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. Recognition of Host School District** (J. Kaminar)

Chair Kaminar acknowledged Fort Smith Public Schools for hosting the Council meeting and thanked Dr. Mike Farrell for making the necessary arrangements.

**IV. Introduction of New Members and Guests** (J. Kaminar)

Chair Kaminar introduced Dr. Laura Landerman-Garber, who created and oversees the Holiday cards for Our Military program.

**V. Approval of Agenda** (J. Kaminar)

Ms. Bergstrom made the motion to adopt the agenda and Dr. Walker seconded. There was no discussion. Motion carried.

**VI. Approval of Minutes (July 14, 2022)** (J. Kaminar)

Ms. Harris-Ritter noted ahead of the meeting that roll call for the July meeting incorrectly indicated that she was absent. Chair Kaminar stated he would make the correction. Dr. Walker noted a grammatical error. Chair Kaminar stated he would correct the error. Dr. Walker moved to adopt the amended minutes. Rep. Brown seconded Dr. Walker's motion. Amended minutes were adopted with no further discussion.

**VII. Public Comments** (J. Kaminar)

There were no public comments.

**VIII. Chair's Report** (J. Kaminar)

- A.** District Military Education Coordinators. Chair Kaminar stated that currently 59 school districts meet the statutory requirement to appoint a District Military Education Coordinator (DMEC) and that all are in compliance.
- B.** Training Sessions. Chair Kaminar stated that virtual training sessions for DMECs and School Military Liaisons are scheduled for September 27, October 13, and November 2, 2022. A Commissioner's Memo has been published. Mr. Kaminar noted that several people have already registered for the sessions.
- C.** Holiday Cards for Our Troops. Chair Kaminar stated that a Commissioner's Memo with writing prompts has been published to publicize the program. He recognized Dr. Landerman-Garber, who shared the history of the holiday cards rooted in patriotism and community service. She said it also acts as a civics lesson for school students while raising awareness for students/teachers/community for military-connected families. She commended Arkansas for outstanding participation in the program.
- D.** School Liaison Training. Ms. Saum and Mr. Kaminar will participate in training for Air Force School Liaison Program Managers in San Antonio. Their participation as panelists to discuss best practices was facilitated by Ms. Terri Williams.
- E.** MIC3 Annual Business Meeting. Chair Kaminar stated that the Annual Business Meeting for MIC3 would take place in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on October 19 and 20. It is a public meeting

and registration is free on the MIC3 website.

**IX. Vice Chair's Report (A. Wright).**

Vice Chair Wright introduced a resolution commending Ms. Williams for her successful efforts to establish a STARBASE program at the Little Rock Air Force Base. She read the resolution to the Council. Ms. Bergstrom moved to adopt the resolution. Rep. Brown seconded. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

**X. Reports by Committees, Task Forces, or Liaisons**

- A. Awards Committee (Dr. J. Walker).** Dr. Walker reported that the Awards Committee is hoping to finalize the draft of the Outstanding Military Scholar Award Program for presentation to the Council. She stated that the Council is waiting for the results of the grant application to pay for Purple Star School banners. She also reported that she, Chair Kaminar, and Ms. Williams attended the dedication of a mural dedicated to military children and families at the Jacksonville Museum of Military History. She stated that the Committee will meet again on September 20, 2022 at 10:00 AM.
- B. Military Family Forum Committee (A. Wright).** Committee Chair Wright discussed the upcoming Virtual Military Family Forum scheduled for October 12, 2022.
- C. Outreach Committee (T. Williams).** Ms. Williams thanked the Council for the resolution passed earlier in the meeting. She then presented parent trifold flier to the Council. She noted the creation was a collaborative effort with Laura Hopkins, the Camp Alliance graphic designer. Some suggestions for corrections were made and. Ms. Williams hopes to present to other school liaisons at conference next week.
- D. Strategic Planning Committee (J. Bergstrom).** Ms. Bergstrom commended the other committees on their work done. She discussed the Governor Challenge conference and noted that other attendees openly recognized ACMC for the work the Council is accomplishing. She reported that Camp Alliance also applied for a grant for Purple Star School banners.
- E. Military Family Education Liaison (B. Olles).** Ms. Olles reported on the new state assessment the is being implemented. She stated that a grant will be announced soon for "Project Lead the Way" with a Commissioners' Memo to follow soon. She reported on the "Arkansas Aware" podcast that will soon be available.
- F. Department of Defense Liaison (Col. B. Smith).** Ms. Williams report on behalf of Col. Smith. She reported that the STARBASE open house would take place Friday, September 30, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM.
- G. Special Education Liaison (R. Porter).** No report.
- H. Special Advisor (J. Saum).** No report.

**XI. Old Business (J. Kaminar)**

- A. Military Family Appreciation Month (November).** Chair Kaminar reminded the Council that November is Military Family Appreciation Month. He stated that events would be held at the Little Rock Air Force Base, the Ebbing Air National Guard Station, and Camp Robinson. He encouraged schools and families to participate

**XII. New Business (J. Kaminar)**

- A. Training and Outreach Efforts.** Chair Kaminar stated that he is not certain that the Council's training efforts are reaching all stakeholders, especially service members and their families. He suggested expanding the mission of the Outreach Committee to include training. Dr. Walker moved to have the Outreach Committee consider whether its mission should be expanded. Ms. Bergstrom seconded. There was no discussion. The motion carried.
- B. Expansion of Purple Star Recognition Program.** Chair Kaminar briefly reviewed the history of the state's Purple Star School program and the success it has enjoyed so far. He asked the

Council to consider what the program might look like in the future. He suggested that the Council could possibly develop criteria for Educational Services Cooperatives in which all districts have achieved Purple Star status. He suggested the Council might consider criteria for a Purple Star Community or County. He acknowledged that funding even for the current program is an issue but did not feel that this should prevent the Council from considering what the future of the program might be. Ms. Bergstrom moved that the Strategic Planning Committee develop a way forward for the Purple Star recognition program. Ms. Noel seconded. There was no discussion. The motion carried.

**XIII. Date/Time/Place for Next Meeting** – November 10, 2022, 10:00 AM, Cabot Public Schools Professional Development Center, 602 N. Lincoln Street, Cabot, Arkansas and via Zoom

**XIV. Adjournment.** (J. Kaminar) There being no further business to discuss, Chair Kaminar asked for a motion to adjourn. Dr. Walker moved that the meeting be adjourned. Ms. Bergstrom seconded. Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 10:51 AM.

*Minutes recorded by A. Wright*