



MEETING MINUTES

ARKANSAS COUNCIL FOR MILITARY CHILDREN

Thursday, January 12, 2023

10:00 A.M.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The Arkansas Council for Military Children (Council) met Thursday, January 12, 2023. Chair John Kaminar called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

PRESENT:

Mr. John Kaminar, Chair

Ms. Jody Bergstrom

Ms. Melissa Butler (Proxy for Ms. Bilenda Harris-Ritter)

Mr. Don Hoover (proxy for Dr. Debbie Jones)

Mr. Brian Melton

Ms. Bobbie Olles (MFEL)

Dr. Janice Walker (proxy for Dr. Jeremy Owoh, representing the Awards Committee)

Dr. Kerry Schneider

Ms. Terri Williams

ABSENT:

Ms. Andelyn Wright, Vice Chair (Excused)

Ms. Amy Arnone

Mr. Shawn Cook

Sen. Jane English (proxy for Sen. Missy Irvin) (Excused)

Rep. Brian Evans (Excused)

Ms. Loreena Hegenbart (Excused)

Ms. LaShawnDa Noel

Mr. Lance Taylor (Excused)

Mr. Ricker Porter (Special Education Liaison, non-voting, Excused)

Ms. Jessica Saum (Special Advisor, non-voting, Excused)

Col. Bern Smith (DOD Liaison, non-voting)

GUESTS:

Col. Don Berry (Arkansas Veterans Coalition)

Caitlin Hamon (National Military Family Association)

A quorum was not present.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Brian Melton led the Council members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Recognition of Host School District

Chair Kaminar thanked the Camp Pike Armed Forces Reserve Center and the 90th Sustainment Brigade for hosting the meeting.

IV. Introduction of New Members and Guests

Chair Kaminar announced new member Mr. Don Hoover with the Bentonville School District, proxy for Dr. Debbie Jones and State Representative Brian Evans. Chair Kaminar introduced guests Col. Don Berry and Caitlin Hamon.

V. Approval of Agenda

There was no quorum, so no vote was taken on the agenda.

VI. Approval of Minutes (September 8, 2022 and November 10, 2022)

There was no quorum, so no vote was taken on the minutes. It was pointed out that Bilenda Harris-Ritter's name was misspelled in the September minutes.

VII. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

VIII. Chair's Report (J. Kaminar)

Chair Kaminar reported that four training sessions for district military education coordinators and school military liaisons are scheduled for January 19, February 14, March 8, and April 13.

Chair Kaminar reported that the MIC3 national office has posted a revised rule book. It is available on the MIC3 website and is included in the meeting packet.

Chair Kaminar stated that Arkansas has a new Secretary of Education, Mr. Jacob Oliva, and a new adjutant general for the Arkansas national Guard, Major general Jonathan Stubbs. He stated that he hopes for an opportunity to meet with both to brief them on the Arkansas Council for Military Children.

There were no questions.

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

There was no report.

X. Reports by Committees, Task Forces, or Liaisons

A. Awards Committee (Dr. J. Walker)

Dr. Walker reported the awards committee met on January 10 and set a workday to revisit the military scholar award. The work session is January 13th from 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. at the Air Force Base university center.

Dr. Walker reported that the Awards Committee was considering the dates for receiving nominations for the Outstanding District Military Education Coordinator award and Outstanding Service to Military Families award. She expected that commissioner's memo on both awards would be released soon.

Dr. Walker presented five applications for Purple Star School status from the South Conway County School District in Morrilton. She stated that since there was no quorum for today's meeting the applications would be voted on by e-mail. There were no questions.

B. Military Family Forum Committee (A. Wright)

Chair Kaminar reported the next meeting will be February 15th via conference call.

C. Outreach Committee (T. Williams)

Ms. Williams reported the next meeting of the Outreach Committee will be January 17 at 10:00 A.M. Three main topics to discuss are the Month of the Military Child scheduled for April 21st, parent training and DMEC training. There were no questions.

D. Strategic Planning Committee (J. Bergstrom)

Ms. Bergstrom reported the next meeting will be January 31st at 1:00 P.M. The committee is considering a program for Purple Star Communities and is trying to be very mindful of what is currently in place and what are the best practices. She said there would be a guest speaker to discuss the Military Order of the Purple Heart. She stated she hoped that soon, the Council can adopt purple star communities. Chair Kaminar noted that Arkansas would be the first state to attempt this. There were no questions.

E. Military Family Education Liaison (B. Olles)

Ms. Olles reported the Social Studies, Literacy and Math Standards have been taken to the State Board of Education. Social Studies Standards have been approved. Math Standards have been postponed for further review. There were no questions.

F. Department of Defense (Col. Smith)

Ms. Williams reported on Col. Smith's behalf. She stated that the Air Force Base would host its airshow October 21-22, 2023. She suggested that the Council may want to be represented in some way. She stated that the STEM Festival will coincide with this event. There were no questions.

G. Special Education Liaison (R. Porter)

There was no report.

H. Special Advisor (J. Saum)

There was no report.

XI. Old Business

A. School District Survey

Ms. Williams stated that the survey of military families would go out at the end of January.

XII. New Business

A. Schedule of Committee Meetings

Chair Kaminar stated he would like to publish a comprehensive list of the standing committee meetings for the upcoming academic year on the Council webpage. He asked all committees to develop a schedule, to be considered at the May Council meeting. He said he believed this would better serve the public.

B. School District Representation on the Council

Chair Kaminar reported that the Council may have different school district representation beginning in the next academic year. He pointed out that the statute requires a representative from the school district in each congressional district with the greatest enrollment of children of military families. Currently the 2nd Congressional District is represented by the Jacksonville-North Pulaski School District and the 4th Congressional District is represented by the Lakeside School District. However, based on

enrollments currently report in the ADE Data Center, those Council seats will likely change to the Little Rock School District and the Sheridan School District respectively. He stated that whatever the enrollment is as of July 1, that will determine the representation on Council.

C. Definitions and Powers of Designee and Proxy

Chair Kaminar stated that Ms. Harris-Ritter had developed some definitions of Designee, Proxy and Attendee as they pertain to the Council. He stated that greater clarity was needed. He suggested that the Council vote on these at the next meeting.

D. 2023 Legislative Session

Chair Kaminar asked Col. Berry to speak regarding possible legislation. Col. Berry stated that an amendment was needed to the statute to allow a designee for the Arkansas Activities Association. He had not drafted the wording for this bill and asked that if any member of Council had any suggestions, please share those with him. Col. Berry also reported that he, Ms. Terri Williams and the Outreach Committee would be working on the parent handbook.

XIII. Date/Time/Place for Next Meeting

Chair Kaminar stated that the next meeting would be March 09, 2023 at 10:00 am at the Pea Ridge School District, 979 Weston Street, Pea Ridge Arkansas. There will be a zoom link available.

XI. Adjournment

Chair Kaminar congratulated Beebe and Hackett School Districts on achieving Purple Star School District status. A formal announcement will be sent to the superintendents of those districts.

There being no further business to discuss, Chair Kaminar declared the meeting adjourned at 10:59AM.

Minutes recorded by Abby Cress