

Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative Board Minutes September 29, 2026

Schools Present: Prescott, Texarkana, Blevins, Genoa, Spring Hill Proxy-Peter Maggio, Lafayette Proxy- Harvey Sellers, Nevada, Hope

Schools Not Present: Fouke

Co-op Staff Present: Phoebe Bailey, Gina Perkins, Jenny Smead, David Hampton, Hannah Ward, Tiffany Moore, Tyler Linton

Guest Present: Dr. Matt McClure-Director AR Rural Ed Assoc.

The meeting was called to order by Lloyd Jackson.

Larry Smith made a motion to approve the minutes from August. Peter Maggio seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Peter Maggio made a motion to approve the financial and expenditure reports from August. The motion was seconded by Larry Smith. The motion was approved.

2026-2027 Coop Budget- Handouts were presented with the proposed 26-27 SWAEC operating budget. A motion was made by Larry Smith to approve the proposed budget as presented. It was seconded by Peter Maggio. The motion was approved.

Fixed Assets- The coop has two durangos and a playground that needs to be removed from fixed assets. A motion was made by Peter Maggio to remove these items from fixed assets. The motion was seconded by Jonathan Crossley. The motion passed.

Personnel- Ms.Bailey recommended that we hire Aundrea Jester as our birth-three assistant. A motion was made by Roy McCoy to approve the hire. It was seconded by Peter Maggio. The motion was approved.

Letter Grades/Growth Data- Ms.Bailey went over growth data and letter grades for our district buildings. She talked about how our schools are already showing improvements.

Teacher Center Updates

MIP- New guidance is available to support districts in developing effective Math Intervention Plans for students in grades 3-8 who are not performing at or above grade level on the state assessment.

Educator Effectiveness and Licensure- there are some changes this year including the deadline for annual ratings which is now April 1st

CTE- The deadline for the Paxton Patterson Lab grant is November 1st.

Training- Each district is required to establish a behavioral threat assessment team and ensure that every member of the team completes both Basic and Advanced Behavioral Threat Assessment training. The dates will be linked in Monica's notes.

Para Test- A new test has been developed and will completely take the place of the old one at the end of August 2027. In addition, passing scores have also changed for the ParaPro test.

Tess/LEADS- upcoming training dates have been released and are linked in the notes.

Director Updates- Phoebe Bailey

- A bipartisan bill making the “science of reading” a priority in some federal literacy grants passed the U.S. House of Representatives on Wednesday, signaling Congress’ growing interest in a movement to reform reading instruction that has so far been driven primarily by state legislation.
- The October 13 public comment deadline for E-Rate is approaching. The FCC is considering significant questions about the future and structure of the program, making input from the education community especially important. Firsthand experiences can help ensure the FCC has a strong record of how E-Rate is used in communities across the country.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced the Harvest to Hallways Initiative to provide new investments and technical assistance for school meal programs. The announcement is the latest step in a broader federal effort to change federal nutrition programs. USDA is also expected to release new school meal regulations in the coming months.
- Issue 3 is a constitutional amendment concerning economic development in the state of Arkansas that authorizes the General Assembly to provide for the creation of economic development districts within cities, counties, or cooperative areas to promote economic development within the economic development district. More information is listed in the board notes.

Tiffany Moore, SWAEC Math Specialist, and Tyler Linton, SWAEC Mentoring Specialist, shared a little about themselves and their experiences in the classroom. They also discussed how they are already working with and assisting our districts to support educators and improve student outcomes.

Dr. Matt McClure- Director of AR Rural Ed Association- Dr. McClure provided an update from rural ed. He discussed the ways they are currently assisting districts and encouraged them to provide feedback on how they could better support their needs. There were many questions and discussions among the board members.

With no further business, a motion was made by Bradley Wright to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Peter Maggio. The meeting was adjourned.

