

Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative Board's Minutes

February 13, 2024

Schools Present: Prescott Proxy- Angie Bryant, Spring Hill Proxy- Peter Maggio, Genoa Proxy- Lisa Posey, Hope Proxy- Carla Narlesky, Texarkana Proxy- Gwen Adams

Schools not present: Nevada, Fouke, Lafayette, Blevins

Co-op Staff Present: Phoebe Bailey, Monica Morris, Gina Perkins, Jenny Smead, David Hampton

Guest Present: Dr. Brandi Benton- Virtual Arkansas, Lori Arnette- Community Health Nurse Specialist with the Arkansas Department of Health

The meeting was called to order by Director Phoebe Bailey

Gwen Adams made a motion to approve the minutes from January. Angie Bryant seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Peter Maggio made a motion to approve the financial and expenditure report from January. Gwen Adams seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Virtual Arkansas- Dr. Brandi Benton was on hand to talk about updates for Virtual Arkansas. They can help provide classes, teachers, and curriculum that are needed by districts. They will be offering 17 new CTE courses. She encouraged all administrators to go on their website and look at all the new courses they will be offering. Dr. Benton said there will be two summer sessions this year. Concurrent credit will be offered through this. They have also developed the "Assessment and Competency Engine" to help in preparation for the ATLAS testing for grades 6-10. She encouraged schools to utilize this. It will be available in the Fall of 2024.

Curriculum Updates- Lori Arnette talked about the continued rollout from the co-op to distribute to the districts additional Narcan kits. She encouraged that all schools have additional staff that are knowledgeable in using this if needed other than the nurse and school resource officer. She went on to discuss a new program that is designed to be built into courses such as PE and Health. It goes over information concerning the dangers of tobacco products. This is built for K-12. She is trying to get workshops together to show how to implicate this in classes. Ms. Arnette also talked about counseling that is available for students who want to quit vaping. She has some information on this that she will send to Ms. Bailey to send out to the districts.

Teacher Center Updates- Monica Morris

Professional Development Needs Survey- This survey is different from years past as it is an open-ended survey. Principals need to complete the survey.

HQIM: Science: Biology- There will be training for this in West Helena at Great Rivers Cooperative: March 6-7 and June 4-6.

ATLAS Summative Testing- The testing window has been updated. The writing window is March 4-15. The reading, math, and science window is April 15- May 24.

Teacher Value-Added Modules In LEA Insights- Office hours will be 2/19 and 2/26 from 1:00 p.m.- 2:00 p.m.

ArPEP- The application process opens March 1. Applicants must have a passing Praxis and a minimum 2.5 GPA. Please have them contact Monica Morris for additional information.

Novice Teacher Academy- This is a one time event for all Novice teachers. This will be July 16,17,18. There will be more details coming soon.

Career Readiness Feedback- There was an informational meeting held on January 23. There is a powerpoint presentation from this attached in the board handout folder.

Literacy Tutoring Grant- COM-24-032 Information for this can be found on the Literacy Tutoring Grant website. This is for qualifying students only.

School Site Safety Assessment- The training for this will be May 6 at South Central Cooperative in Camden.

Director Updates- Phoebe Bailey

AR Education Committee- a meeting was held on February 5. Ms. Bailey attached information from this in the board handout folder.

Early Start Dates- if you plan on starting school before August 19 a waiver must be filed. Ms Bailey stated any districts who wanted to be on the agenda for the early special meeting that she needs your materials by noon on February 14. She will send out a deadline date for districts wishing to be on the March meeting agenda.

Safe Firearm Storage - The Administration released a new resource that superintendents and principals can use to communicate to parents and families about the importance of safe firearm storage, and encourage more people to take preventive action by safely storing firearms.

USED Releases National Education Technology Plan - USED released its 2024 National Educational Technology Plan. This issue is more proactive and focuses on three big gaps that are restricting the ability of technology to be transformative in education.

Student Value-Added Measures- This is used to provide school and district administrators with secure and confidential exploration of student level growth scores. Ms. Bailey encouraged all district administrators to look at this information and to utilize it to their advantage. She also went through on how to find and retrieve this information.

With no further business, Peter Maggio made a motion to adjourn. Angie Bryant seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.