Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative Board Minutes
October 20, 2026

Schools Present: Prescott, Lafayette, Texarkana Proxy-Demarcus Green, Spring Hill Proxy- Peter Maggio, Nevada, Genoa, Hope-via zoom
Schools Not Present: Blevins, Fouke
Co-op Staff Present: Phoebe Bailey, Monica Morris, Gina Perkins, Jenny Smead, David Hampton, Hannah Ward, Katlin Niemeyer
Guest Present: Ellie Hall and Emily Smith- Early Development Instrument (EDI)

The meeting was called to order by Phoebe Bailey.

Roy McCoy made a motion to approve the minutes from September. Bradley Wright seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Peter Maggio made a motion to approve the financial and expenditure reports from September. The motion was seconded by Roy McCoy. The motion was approved.

Personnel Policy- A new AI policy was presented for adoption, and David Hampton provided a brief explanation of its purpose and key points. A motion was made by Bradly Wright to accept the policy. The motion was seconded by Peter Maggio. The motion was approved.

Personnel- Ms.Bailey recommended two new hires. Graycee Smillie as Teacher Center Clerk and Celina Campbell as the Lead ABC Teacher for the new Prescott site. A motion was made by Jon Estes to approve the hires as presented. The motion was seconded by Peter Maggio. The motion was approved.

EDI- Ellie Hill and Emily Smith were here today to discuss Early Development Instrument. This is a tool that aims to assess and improve school readiness for kindergarteners. They talked about the data they collect and how the schools can use it to better help early childhood education in their area.

K-3 Screener- Ms. Bailey reviewed math and literacy screener data for each district, highlighting how results compare to statewide performance. K-2 interims are opening so compare student scores from screeners to their first interim. Ms.Bailey asked the districts to go back and look at scores by grade and building to identify strengths and weaknesses and to compare results to screeners from last year.

TCC Updates-Monica Morris

K-2 Interims- K–2 interim assessments opened on October 19 and are required.

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

Roster Verification- Roster verification is now open in LEA Insights. The window runs from October 12, 2026, through April 25, 2027. Districts should review for accuracy. Additional resources are available on the Roster Verification webpage.

Fiscal Distress- Districts that have experienced two or more indicators are required to complete the Early Intervention Checklist by November 1. Refer to CM FIN-27-001 for additional details and guidance.

Success Ready- The graduation rates as well as the merit and distinction review window will run from November 2 through November 20. An informational webinar will be held on October 22.

CTE Grants- The deadline for New CTE Start-Up Grants is November 3, and the Computer Science Innovation Grant deadline is November 1.

Director Updates- Phoebe Bailey

Secretary Oliva announced several leadership changes and upcoming initiatives. Matt Sewell will take over Coordinated School Support. Michelle Johnson has assumed the interim role previously held by Hope Worsham.

The state is also rolling out the Science of Learning initiative, focusing on math and science. Carl Hendriz will present on Science of Learning at the AAEA conference in January. Legislative topics submitted for AAEA to watch during the upcoming session included public school funding concerns, teacher compensation, school safety and student behavior, accountability and accreditation, pre-K funding, and dyslexia support.

AASA reported that a federal appeals court decision has raised significant questions about the administration and funding of the nation's Universal Service Fund (USF) programs, including E-Rate.

AASA shared new guidance from the U.S. Department of Education (USED) outlining increased enforcement of the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA). The guidance addresses requirements for parental consent, student surveys, and the collection of sensitive student information, emphasizing the responsibilities of school districts in protecting students' rights and ensuring compliance.

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.