

Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative Board's Minutes May 23, 2024

Schools Present: Prescott, Texarkana, Nevada, Hope, Lafayette County

Schools Not Present: Fouke, Genoa, Spring Hill, Blevins

Co-op Staff Present: Phoebe Bailey, Monica Morris, Gina Perkins, Jenny Smead, David Hampton, Chad Morris, Vicki Jewell, Angie Gentry

The meeting was called to order by Roy McCoy

Jonathan Crossley made a motion to approve the minutes from the April and May special meeting.

Robert Poole seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Jonathan Crossley made a motion to approve the financial and expenditure report from April. Robert Poole seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

SWAEC Audit- Ms. Bailey stated that our audit has been completed but we have not received the final paperwork from it yet.

SWAEC Paper Bids- Ms. Bailey presented a handout that contained quotes for paper bids for the upcoming school year. After discussion, Jonathan Crossley made the motion to accept both bids for Contract Paper Group. SWAEC staff will obtain samples for both kinds of paper that a bid was submitted for and decide which one will be better. The motion was seconded by Robert Poole. The motion was approved.

Personnel- Ms. Bailey presented a new hire for DESE, Lisa Tyler, as Special Education Specialist. Robert Poole made a motion to approve the hire. The motion was seconded by Lloyd Jackson. The motion was approved.

Resolution for Board based on ACT 802- Board Resolutions that were submitted last year are good for two years. If someone new needs to be added, a new resolution will need to be filled out.

Mentoring Grant Update- Vicki Jewell distributed copies of the Appendix for the new training manuals. This shows how the information will be presented to novice teachers. There will be some changes on performance measures but those will be sent out later.

Acceleration In Learning- Chad Morris went over information concerning the AR App. This is taking the place of the GT Program application. He also went over acceleration information. He reminded the districts to please check their policy on student acceleration. If you don't have one, it needs to be created. All districts need to make sure they have an employee in place to handle this.

Director Updates- Phoebe Bailey

Overtime Law Update: Teachers will not be eligible for overtime. This will likely apply to employees like school nurses, athletic trainers, and librarians.

Child Nutrition: USDA released the final rule for updates to the school nutrition standards. Schools will not have to do anything for the 2024-2025 school year. Everything will remain the same.

TIPS/TAPS: Senate Bill 53 legislation allows districts to go through one million for construction or renovation.

Early Start Date: the state has approved an early start date of July 1

Cozart School Funding: Representative Cozart wants to meet with the superintendents in each coop individually to discuss his proposal to change the funding formula.

School Safety Grants: there is \$50 million but since so many schools have not spent their funds, DESE is not wanting to release additional funding at this time

Ms. Bailey passed out consortium forms for Perkins, Student Enrichment, Ed.Examiner, and Early Childhood Education. Districts will fill out the ones that are needed and turn them back into the coop.

Teacher Center- Monica Morris

ACT Prep - there will be sessions for teachers to better help prep students for this. June 27 will be for math and science and June 28 will be for English and reading.

Solutions Tree- Brandon Jones, from Solutions Tree, will be here June 12. This would be very beneficial for administrators.

Tier I Updates- this workshop will be June 26 at SWAEC. The afternoon session will cover AI information and how to address this within the schools.

With no further business, Robert Poole made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Opal Anderson. The meeting was adjourned.

