

Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative Board's Minutes September 20, 2023

School Present: Blevins, Lafayette, Hope, Nevada, Genoa Proxy- Bradley Wright,
Texarkana Proxy- Demarcus Green, Prescott Proxy- Jay Turley,

Schools Not Present: Spring Hill, Fouke

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

Guests Present: UAHT- Dr. Christine Holt, Autumn Reeder-Blevins

The meeting was called to order by President Roy McCoy.

Demarcus Green made a motion to approve the minutes from August, seconded by Jay Turley. The minutes were approved.

Stephanie Dixon made a motion to approve the financial and expenditure report from August. Bradley Wright seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

MENTAL HEALTH GRANT DATA- Jessica Dearing briefly talked about the school based mental health program additions that are coming. She said they have provided direct support to 57 students so far. She went on to talk about the HELPme app update available to all member districts.

2023-2024 CO-OP BUDGET APPROVAL- Ms. Bailey passed out the proposed SWAEC Budget for 2023-2024. After a brief discussion, Dr. Crossley made a motion to accept the budget and seconded by Opal Anderson. The motion passed.

CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY- David Hampton presented the Continuity of Operations and Technology plan. Dr. Crossley made a motion to approve this plan, seconded by Demarcus Green. David also went over new laws that have gone into effect for this school year concerning technology. He said he would go over this in greater detail during the meeting for the school technology coordinators next Wednesday, September 27.

MENTORING UPDATES- Vicki Jewell went over the Novice Teacher Mentoring Manual for the 2023-24 school year. She also discussed the NIET Lead Designation Grant. She said that we need at least 12 participants and asked the superintendents to get the information filled out that she had sent as soon as possible. Ms. Jewell talked about making sure you have your District Mentoring Point of Contact and making sure it is listed correctly in Cycle 1. She also stated she is almost done meeting with all superintendents and building principals to create a personalized plan to ensure success with novice teachers. She handed out hard copies to the districts that had been completed.

ECH LEADS UPDATE- Angie Gentry talked about ways to better serve and prepare for our students as they are progressing through school. SWAEC is applying to be the Local Early Childhood Lead Organization for our area. She is requesting our district superintendents fill out letters of recommendation for SWAEC concerning this.

TEACHER CENTER UPDATES- Monica Morris

Daunting but Doable Workshop- This is for principals, assistant principals, and any other administration. This will be held at SWAEC on September 21-22. Nearby co-ops are also hosting this training if districts need to split up their staff to avoid all administrators being out at one time.

ATLAS- Classroom Tool Training will be held on September 19th, 21st, 26th, and 28th from 3:30-4:00 This will be recorded and shared.

Science of Reading- AWARENESS is always coded **SR01**. All administrators and other educators who do not require proficiency should be coded with SR01 after completing the requirements.

Praxis Cut Score Changes- these changes are retroactive as of September 1, 2023. Ms. Morris said she has contacted all ArPEP candidates who were impacted by this change. DESE licensure agents will be contacting everyone impacted as well.

Community Service Requirements for Graduation- DESE released a guidance document to help schools with this requirement which is part of the LEARNS Act. It can also be found in the Commissioner's Memo COM-24-021

Leads Training- upcoming training opportunities: September 28 at Northwest ESC and October 5th at Wilbur Mills ESC

DIRECTOR UPDATES- Phoebe Bailey

- Ms. Bailey gave out a handout about how to accelerate learning and improve student achievement. She specifically talked about the sections concerning addressing absenteeism and improving student mental health.
- She also presented another handout with school subject areas broken down by grade level and where our districts are as a whole. She said we are making improvements.
- Essential Standards- Ms. Bailey also stated that we need each school to send us their essential standards so SWAEC can compile a data dashboard that could be shared across our region.

With no further business, Opal Anderson made a motion to adjourn. Demarcus Green seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.