

## **Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative Board's Minutes February 19, 2026 held at Nevada School District**

**Schools Present:** Nevada, Hope, Genoa, Texarkana, Prescott, Spring Hill Proxy-Ronald Smead, Lafayette

**Schools Not Present:** Fouke, Blevins

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

The meeting was called to order by Jonathan Crossley.

Lloyd Jackson made a motion to approve the minutes from January. Roy McCoy seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Jon Estes made a motion to approve the financial and expenditure reports from January. The motion was seconded by Bradley Wright. The motion was approved.

**Nevada School District Presentation-** Drake Givens, the agricultural education teacher, along with several of his students, delivered a presentation to the board about their FFA program. They highlighted the variety of agriculture courses offered, emphasizing how these classes provide hands-on learning experiences and prepare students for careers in agriculture and related fields. The students also shared information about the competitions and events they participate in through FFA, noting the numerous awards and recognitions they have earned. Board members had the opportunity to view a few of these items in person, gaining a firsthand look at the students' accomplishments. In addition to discussing their successes, the students spoke about how involvement in the FFA program is shaping their future plans. They explained how the leadership skills and real world experiences they gain are helping guide their career paths and personal development.

**Fixed Asset Removal-** Ms. Bailey presented a list of items recommended for removal from the fixed asset list. A motion to approve the removals was made by Roy McCoy and seconded by Lloyd Jackson. The motion passed.

**Personnel-** Ms. Bailey asked the board to accept the resignation of Heather O'Shields, effective February 13, 2026. She also asked the board to approve the hiring of Jamaya Parker as a Hippy Home Visitor. Roy McCoy made a motion to accept the personal packet as presented. The motion was seconded by Jon Estes. The motion passed.

**Teacher Recognition-** Patricia Cole, 3rd grade teacher at Nevada, was recognized for earning the highest VAM score within our cooperative districts.

**Kids First Presentation-** Kids First briefly discussed the services that they offer. They are collaborating with schools to help develop strategies that directly impact student success. They asked the districts to reach out for those who would be interested in partnering with them.

**Technology-** Ms. Bailey presented a handout with technology updates to be implemented by spring 2027. These have to do with ADA Title II digital accessibility requirements. David Hampton will have training to help with this implementation.

### **Director Updates- Phoebe Bailey**

**Local Leads-** The ADE Office of Early Childhood informed the SWAEC Local Leads that our application for Early Childhood Professional Services has been selected for funding. This decision was made following a thorough review of the application and all supporting materials. The maximum award amount for the project is \$150,000 for the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. These are funds that previously went only to ASU and University of Arkansas.

**Growth Scores-** Ms. Bailey presented a handout concerning each district's student growth scores. This is also linked in the google drive.

### **Teacher Center Updates- Monica Morris**

**SOR Training-** this will be held March 12th in Little Rock. The link to register is in the google drive.

**Summative Testing Window-** The testing window for K-2, grades 3-10 and EOC, ALT ELPA and ELPA21 has been extended. These dates are listed in the google drive.

**Roster Verification Timeline-** Rosters can be viewed now, but can not be edited until April 4th. If corrections are needed now due to missing students, classes, etc., you can do that now in eSchool.

**Special Education-** Arkansas districts and schools will have access to a new, no cost option for managing Special Education IEP and Section 504 Plan documentation through PowerSchool's statewide, Arkansas compliant platform. The platform is intended to support districts interested in moving to a more unified Special Education and 504 Plan system of support and is customized to meet Arkansas's specific requirements. While participation is not mandatory, districts are encouraged to consider implementing PowerSchool Special Programs in Summer 2026. Districts interested in participating for the 2026-2027 school year will need to opt-in by February 27, 2026.

**Nimble-** This is a job board for posting teacher positions only. The state is providing this service free to all Arkansas school districts for the 2026 calendar year.

**Mental Health Series-** Ms. Morris stated the Mental Health Series numbers are up tremendously from last year. She is glad to see that the districts are utilizing this service.

**Professional Learning-** As we plan for summer PD workshops, Ms. Morris is currently reaching out to the district administrators to see what the coop can do to provide better PD opportunities and what other workshops would they like to see offered.

With no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Roy McCoy and seconded by Jon Estes. The meeting was adjourned.