

Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative Board Meeting Minutes March 6, 2023

Schools Present: Texarkana, Nevada, Lafayette, Prescott, Genoa, Spring Hill proxy - Peter Maggio, Hope Proxy - Portia Jones

Schools Not Present: Blevins, Fouke

Co-op Staff Present: Phoebe Bailey, Gina Perkins, Holli Boyett, Eva Wood, **Guests**

Present: Rachel Colon - Boardworks Education, Brandie Benton - Virtual Arkansas The meeting was called to order by President Becky Kesler.

Robert Poole made a motion to approve the minutes from February. Opal Anderson seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

Robert Poole made a motion to approve the financial reports from February, seconded by Roy McCoy. Financial reports were approved.

BoardWorks Presentation, Rachel Colon

Rachel Colon explained the resources that are provided by BoardWorks and how they can assist the districts with a broad range of curriculum. They have materials for 20 different content areas. She showed the board how the content is stored and accessed. She asked that they fill out the interest card at their table so she can follow up with each district.

Brandie Benton provided a Virtual Arkansas Spring Update and announced that there will be a more detailed annual update coming in April. She wanted to remind all superintendents that Virtual Arkansas exists to serve schools where they need it. They provide over 214 courses and want to make sure each district has access to these. She talked about some of the new courses that are available. She asked them to please reach out to her with any questions.

Director Updates, Phoebe Bailey

Ms. Bailey gave the superintendents a form to fill out for the upcoming paper bid, as well as information about their previous years ordering, and asked for the order form for 23-24 school year to be returned by April 10th.

Federal Updates

The FCC announced the commitment of \$240 million in its eighth wave of Emergency Connectivity Fund program support helping to close the homework gap. Soon-to-be reintroduced federal parent rights bills may allow parents to opt out of most EdTech. Ms. Bailey

shared how this might impact educators and classroom instruction.

State Updates

Ms. Bailey gave a brief overview of several House and Senate bills that are being considered in session. She also noted several bills that have recently been passed into law and shared a link showing all education bills and their progress.

TCC Updates -Monica Morris

User Satisfaction Survey has been shared with each district. Ms. Morris asked that everyone please encourage their staff to complete the survey.

She noted that the Summer Professional Development Google Sheet is updated often and asked the board to save the link so they could check periodically for new listings.

College and Career Vendor - Student Success Plans: By May 5th, superintendents must submit the selection of a provider for the 23-24 through 25-26 school years.

Literacy Standards are open for public comment until March 24th.

Science of Reading: Teachers who are renewing their license by December 31, 2023, must have the designation of Awareness or Proficient coded in APSCN in order for the license to automatically renew.

Public School Accountability will be at the Co-op on March 28th. She encouraged all administrators to attend.

OperationsHero will replace SchoolDude on July 1st. SWAEC will host a virtual session on April 18th. It will be recorded for future use.

The ARP ESSER LEA Plan (Ready for Learning) must be updated by April 15th.

Applications to participate in the LEARNS rulemaking process are open and must be submitted by March 31st.

With no further business, Robert Poole made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Peter Maggio. Meeting was adjourned.