

**Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative Board's Minutes  
August 11, 2021**

**Schools Present:** Genoa, Blevins, Fouke, Hope, Spring Hill, Texarkana, Nevada, Prescott, Lafayette (proxy).

**Schools Not Present:** All Present.

**Co-op Staff Present:** Phoebe Bailey, Monica Morris, Eva Wood, Gina Perkins, Tanya Collins, Lynn Foster, Vicki Jewell.

**Guests Present:** Ray Girdler and Don Benton.

The meeting was called to order by President Stephanie Dixon.

Robert Poole made a motion to approve the minutes from June, seconded by Tom Wilson. The minutes were approved.

Robert Poole made a motion to approve the financial and expenditure reports for June and July. The motion was seconded by Tom Wilson. Motion passed.

**MENTORING PLAN UPDATE:** Vicki Jewell shared a presentation outlining the 2021-2022 SWAEC mentoring plan for the districts' novice teachers. She informed the superintendents about her "Talk it Out Tuesdays" workshops she has for the novices every Tuesday from 3:00-4:00. She also passed out a detailed list of expectations for year 1, year 2 and year 3 teachers. Superintendents were reminded of the input sessions held every spring to get feedback from district and building leadership to build a plan to meet the needs of SWAEC teachers.

**PRIVACY AND SECURITY PRESENTATION:** Ray Girdler and Don Benton from DESE talked with the superintendents on the importance of being prepared for a cyber-attack or a security breach in their districts. They informed everyone that they have funds and resources allocated to help the districts prevent these attacks. Mr. Benton and Mr. Girdler encouraged the superintendents to have their tech staff attend regular professional development training. David Henderson attends monthly tech meetings with DESE and is available to the districts to share the information he gets each month. Ms. Bailey will send the superintendents the schedule of these monthly meetings.

**TEACHER CENTER UPDATE:** Monica Morris

**Standards & Assessment:**

- Arkansas is in the final years of its contract with ACT to administer the ACT Aspire Assessment and ACT is no longer going to offer Aspire as a summative option after 2023.
- To receive more information on the Pre-K RISE Initiative, school leaders will need to complete and submit the form at the following <https://forms.gle/bAFHDFxiV7ukkrFY9>.
- SWAEC will host two sessions on September 14<sup>th</sup> over WorkKeys. They will be both in person and virtual. Part two of the training will be on October 20<sup>th</sup>.

**TESS/LEADS:**

- APPEL is currently taking applications for late enrollment.
- All new teachers should be enrolled in the novice teacher registry for the first 3 years of teaching whether they are licensed or not.

- For Praxis support please contact Vicki Jewell, the co-op has many support items available.

**DIRECTOR'S UPDATE:** Phoebe Bailey

Proxy Forms: Ms. Bailey passed out the proxy forms to the superintendents for them to fill out and return.

Student Voice: Ms. Bailey asked the board if there was interest in entering a partnership that would allow member districts access to the Student Voice initiative at an approximate cost of \$6,200. If they are interested, Ms. Bailey requested to notify her by the end of the month so she can report at the September State Directors' Meeting.

Transportation: In February, 2022 it will be required for all new bus drivers to complete a curriculum course before obtaining their CDL. Ms. Bailey shared this information with all superintendents and also told them the co-op could become a training sight if it was needed.

AAEA Legislative Committee: Ms. Bailey informed the board that Dr. Hart was our governance committee person and since he is no longer here, the position needs to be filled. Robert Poole volunteered for this position.

**COVID VACCINE COMPENSATION:** Ms. Bailey informed the board of the governor's approval for all cooperatives to offer employees a \$200 covid vaccine compensation. Any employee who voluntarily wants the \$200 must provide proof of at least one vaccination by September 30<sup>th</sup> and the payment will be given in October. Robert Poole made a motion to approve the payment and Jonathan Crossley seconded and the motion was approved in an eight to one vote with Dr. Buie voting no.

**PERSONNEL:** Ms. Bailey shared with the board of the resignation of Jennifer Fincher as a HIPPIY Home Visitor. She recommended the employment of Kimberly Formby as a HIPPIY Home Visitor. She also recommended Bobette Ray for the position of Program Advisor for Educator Effectiveness and Licensure who will be housed in Little Rock. Tom Wilson made a motion to approve the slate of personnel and Roy McCoy seconded. The motion passed.

**SALARY RESOLUTION:** Ms. Bailey asked the board for approval of the yearly Act 1120 5% salary resolution. Dr. Buie made a motion to approve and was seconded by Roy McCoy. The motion passed.

With no other business, Robert Poole made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Jim Buie.

The meeting was adjourned.