

Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative Board's Minutes

November 14, 2023

Schools Present: Prescott, Fouke, Lafayette, Spring Hill Proxy- Peter Maggio, Blevins, Genoa, Texarkana Proxy- Gwen Adams, Nevada, Hope

Co-op Staff Present: Phoebe Bailey, Monica Morris, Gina Perkins, Jenny Smead, Shannon Puckett, David Hampton

Guest Present: Hope Worsham- DESE, Autumn Reeder- Blevins

The meeting was called to order by Roy McCoy.

Robert Poole made a motion to approve the minutes from October, seconded by Jim Buie. The minutes were approved.

Peter Maggio made a motion to approve the financial and expenditure report from October. Robert Poole seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Phoebe Bailey stated there was a Smart Symposium Lectern that needed to be removed from fixed assets. Peter Maggio made a motion to remove it. Debbie Huff seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Ms. Bailey shared a spreadsheet that showed K-3 Math and Reading scores in comparison to other cooperatives. She stated that we seemed to be consistent with other cooperatives similar in size. She encouraged each district to look at their 4th graders to see where they are now.

DESE Accountability Update- Hope Worsham from DESE came to give a report on the accountability system and the updates they are currently working on. She stated that they are looking for any and all input from schools. There was a lot of discussion between Ms. Worsham and those in attendance. She presented a spreadsheet on the current progress that will be shared with each school.

Director Updates- Phoebe Bailey

- Ms. Bailey presented the bid that was given to her for the 3rd floor renovation project. She stated it would create 10 office spaces. She said this was advertised and she only got 3 responses. One could not start till next fall and one said it was too small of a job for them to bother with. Ms. Bailey presented the board with a bid of \$85,000 from MAC Construction. After discussion, it was decided to table this matter for now. The board asked Ms. Bailey to gather some more information on the project and to see if she could obtain any more bids.
- Ms Bailey presented a handout about state updates.
 - Salary Schedules and Employee Compensation
 - She shared information on what other districts are doing concerning this. AAEA will be hosting a Compensation Webinar with WestEd. The link for registration was shared with each district.

- Superintendent Contracts
 - The Learn Act made changes to the employment contracts of superintendents to contain performance targets at both school and district level. Ms. Bailey is working on getting Dr. Mike Hernandez to come and do a workshop to help assist in this.
- Legislative Updates
 - Fiscal session starts April 10th and is 30 days in length.
 - Governor is looking at another round of tax cuts and how to address Medicaid as federal funds are drying up.
- Ms. Bailey proposed a \$500.00 Christmas bonus for staff. After discussion, Peter Maggio made a motion to accept the proposal. It was seconded by Debbie Huff. The motion passed with seven in favor and Robert Poole and Stephanie Dixon voting opposed.

Teacher Center Updates- Monica Morris

PD Survey- Ms. Morris will email the 2024 PD Needs survey on November 27th. She stated that it is different from years past as it is an open- ended survey. She asked that the principals please fill these out.

ATLAS- Every student in Arkansas has access to 3 Texthelp tools: Read & Write, Equatio, and uPar. Resources can be found at atlasportal.org.

Cognitive Coaching- it is an 8 day certification that will be held at SWAEC. Principals and instructional facilitators are encouraged to attend.

Administrative Support- Vickie Jewell will be hosting a zoom meeting, on November 15th, that is for administrators and how to support novice teachers. There were also future dates for this that were shared with the districts.

Cycle 4 Reporting - cycle 4 report will contain information concerning Special Education Child Count. This cycle is due by December 15, 2023. There will be webinars to help assist with this that will be conducted on November 15 and 16.

Career Coach Application- the deadline for this is December 1, 2023. This is designed to motivate and support Arkansas students to achieve their goals as they relate to college and career planning. The funding period for this will be July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2025.

ACT Prep- On To College is an ACT Prep for students. The next date for this will be November 30 at SWAEC from 9:00-3:00. The following schools are funded for the remainder of the year: Hope, Lafayette County, Nevada, Prescott, Spring Hill, and Texarkana.

EAST Grant - applications will be accepted until December 15th. Startup funding is available for more than 10 new EAST programs for 2024-2025 school year. Funding would cover technology needed and some professional development that is required.

Technology- presentation from David Hampton was shared with the districts concerning cybersecurity and privacy laws.

Tier I- virtual presentation is scheduled for December 13 at 9:00. All superintendents, ESC directors , and business managers are required to have a 2 hour Tier I update each year before December 31.

Public Comment- this is a waiver for early mathematics and science assessment options. The deadline for this is November 15. COM-24-049

There was discussion about moving the December 18th board meeting to another date due to several who would not be able to attend. Ms. Bailey said she would get with everyone soon on a new date.

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

