

**Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative Board's Minutes  
September 14, 2022**

**Schools Present:** Lafayette, Prescott, Spring Hill, Fouke, Texarkana, Nevada, Hope-proxy Carla Narlesky.

**Schools Not Present:** Blevins and Genoa.

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

The meeting was called to order by Becky Kessler.

Robert Poole made a motion to approve the minutes from August and was seconded by Jim Buie. The minutes were approved.

Robert Poole made a motion to approve the financial and expenditure reports for August. The motion was seconded by Roy McCoy. The financial and expenditure reports were approved.

Ms. Bailey presented the board with the 2022-23 Co-op Budget for approval. After a brief discussion, Jim Buie made a motion to approve the budget and was seconded by Robert Poole. The motion passed.

Ms. Bailey recommended Kiara Isom for hire as a para in the ABC Lafayette classroom. Roy McCoy made a motion to approve the hire and Robert Poole seconded. The motion passed.

**RECRUITMENT & RETENTION:** Vicki Jewell

Ms. Jewell gave a summary of how summer PD sessions went for her novice group of teachers. She gave a brief breakdown of novice numbers in SWAEC member districts and what program or pathway the novices are enrolled in order to complete their certifications. Ms. Jewell also informed the board that she was available to assist in any way to help them or their novice teachers get acclimated to the new school year.

**TEACHER CENTER UPDATES:** Monica Morris

- Standards and Assessment:
  - Ms. Morris reminded the board that no interim assessments will be provided by ACT Aspire this year and that the Ready for Learning Assessments for grades 3-8 will be provided by Cambium in the upcoming year.
  - She also reminded the board that all educators in Arkansas are required to be either aware or proficient in the Science of Reading by the beginning of the 23-24 school year.
  - Ms. Morris let the board know that a new SOAR Grant Cycle is beginning October-December.
  - Ms. Morris reminded the board that all ninth grade students are required to complete a full credit of Computer Science in order to graduate.
  - Ms. Morris informed the board that ESSER I funds must be obligated by September 30, 2022.
  - Ms. Morris informed them that any missed school days can be made up in 60 minute increments either at the beginning or end of the day.

- TESS/LEADS: Ms. Morris informed the board that the 2022-23 Beginning Administrator Registry form is available as well as a new Educator Effectiveness Platform document to help troubleshoot issues that may occur in districts.
- Ms. Morris let the board know that all district coordinators and school facilitators are invited to attend a session to share ideas and best practices for family engagement here at the co-op on October 24<sup>th</sup>. She also let them know about a new Liaison Homeless training that will be in October or November. Ms. Morris reminded the board that September is “Take Your Legislator to School Month” and encouraged the superintendents to reach out to their legislators and invite them to their districts.

**DIRECTOR UPDATES:** Phoebe Bailey

- Safety Commission Update: Ms. Bailey told the board not to expect any final guidelines on spending until October. She also let them know that AR Public Safety Solutions presented to the co-op directors and would like to attend a board meeting. They work in partnership with Motorola Solutions and are working with legislators to get funding to support a state rollout. The board members discussed and agreed they would like someone to come and speak at a board meeting.
- DESE Updates: Ms. Bailey reported that Dr. Pfeffer had shared the early response for free and reduced lunch direct service match with the first pull having an 18% match and the next pull will be mid-September. Ms. Bailey informed board members that there is still another year where districts should be on top of Maintenance of Equity. DESE is going to share a monthly report to show districts where they are. Ms. Bailey also let the board know that DCTE is rolling out a toolkit to promote WorkKeys. CTE will be sending out 13 virtual reality headsets to each co-op and provide the training that goes with them. They are intended to be used for middle level grades with a focus on career exploration.
- Site Visits: Ms. Bailey let the board know that she and Ms. Morris will begin scheduling site visits to come out and meet with the superintendents and their leadership teams. The focus is to see how the co-op has been doing in meeting the district needs and where there is room for improvement.
- Co-op Evaluation: Ms. Bailey told the board that all co-ops will be evaluated this year by the state. She informed them that the co-op will have people in from the Department of Ed. as well as members in neighboring districts on the day of the evaluation. SWAEC will be evaluated in the spring.
- Review of Funding Structures: Ms. Bailey gave an overview of the main discretionary funds as well as operating grant funds and co-op miscellaneous funds. Ms. Bailey went over state grants where spending is dictated by terms of the grant with little or no flexibility. She also discussed Consortium Grants where districts can join to support projects or programs. Ms. Bailey gave out a list of DESE grants that SWAEC simply manages and has no input on the spending decisions as well as other funding sources that SWAEC does manage.

With no other business Robert Poole made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Roy McCoy. The meeting was adjourned.