

Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative Board's Minutes

April 23, 2024

Schools Present: Nevada, Fouke, Prescott, Hope, Lafayette Proxy - Harvey Sellers, Spring Hill Proxy - Ronald Smead, Genoa Proxy - Lisa Posey, Texarkana - Dr. Lloyd Jackson, Blevins - Stephanie Dixon & Autumn Reeder

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

Guest Present: Dr. Mike Hernandez - AAEA, Dennis Copeland - Rural Ed Association

The meeting was called to order by President Roy McCoy.

Dr. Jonathan Crossley made a motion to approve the minutes from the March meeting, seconded by Robert Poole. The minutes were approved.

Dr. Jim Buie made a motion to approve the financial and expenditure reports from March. Dr. Jonathan Crossley seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

SWAEC Board President Nomination- Mr. Robert Poole nominated Debbie Huff as the incoming SWAEC Board Secretary, seconded by Jim Buie. Motion approved.

Rural Ed Association- Dennis Copeland gave a brief history of his time with Rural Ed. He commended Robert Poole for representing this Co-op area. Currently, 6 of the 9 districts are members of Rural Ed. He gave a breakdown of the services rural ed offers and the work they are doing toward positive legislative outcomes. The Rural Ed Summer Conference will be held July 8-10 in Hot Springs. He spoke of the scholarships and the teacher/superintendent of the year awards that are given each year. www.arkansasruraled.com is the website where all this information can be found. He shared his contact information and asked that districts reach out with any questions.

Personnel/Employment List for 24/25 - Ms. Bailey presented a list of employees that will continue employment at SWAEC for the 24/25 school year. The list also includes any changes in contracts for these positions. After a brief discussion, Robert Poole made a motion to approve the list of 24/25 employees. Jim Buie seconded the motion. List was approved.

Cooperative Policy Approval - Ms. Bailey presented a list of proposed changes to the cooperative's personnel policy manual. Jonathan Crossley made a motion to approve the policy changes as presented, seconded by Ronald Smead. Policy changes were approved. Opposed: Stephanie Dixon

2024-2025 Salary Schedule Approval - Ms. Bailey shared the proposed salary schedule for the 24/25 school year. Jonathan Crossley made a motion to approve the presented salary schedule for 24/25, seconded by Jim Buie. The salary schedule was approved.

Teacher Center Updates- Monica Morris

User Satisfaction Survey - The survey has been linked in the notes and will be shared electronically. Monica asks that all board members encourage their staff to complete the survey if they have used any services provided by SWAEC.

K-2 Assessments - Vendor Contracts will go through Cambium for the 24/25 school year. Existing vendor contracts will no longer be provided.

Monica asked if any districts would be interested in an assessment audit – digging through data to look at assessments and their effectiveness. After discussion, it was decided that a spring and a fall assessment audit would be helpful. These will be provided by Hope Worsham. Details will be provided once those are scheduled.

Assessment/Accountability - Monica shared the timeline for ATLAS testing.

Standards for Accreditation - The SFA tool will officially close on May 1st, 2024. No further exceptions will be processed, and any ticket submissions beyond that day will not be considered.

Educator Effectiveness and Licensure - The Roster Verification System (RVS) is now available in LEA Insights. This system helps ensure that teachers of tested subject areas and grade levels are linked to the growth scores of students for whom they provided instruction.

Federal Programs - A commissioner's memo was released April 3, 2024 providing districts information on AR APP - a consolidation of 17 different state and federal applications into a single new plan. Plans will be due June 28th, 2024 for the 24/25 school year.

Other Information -

School Site Safety Assessment Training will be held May 6th at South Central Cooperative in Camden.

The Student Data Vendor Security Act (Act 754) was passed during the 2023 legislative session and goes into effect June 1, 2024. This law requires LEAs to maintain a list of vendors providing a school service that includes or makes available student personally identifiable information (PII).

TRIAND Data Pulls - Schools must ensure that student enrollment and demographic information is updated in eSchool by April 12 and May 17 (May 10 for DLM) to ensure the updates will be included in each data pull. All students enrolled on April 15 or May 20 will be expected to test.

Mentoring Updates - Vicki Jewell shared information on Career Continuum and why it matters. She quoted Executive Order 3E, and informed districts how this could affect them. She spoke of the different paths to licensure as each path has different requirements. She defined Experienced Mentor Teacher and spoke about how the LEARNS act will overlap with the Mentoring Program. She will share her presentation electronically. There was a brief discussion on how districts are being proactive in handling these new requirements. There will be workshops coming up to create a specific Mentoring Plan for each district. Those dates will be announced soon.

Director Updates- Phoebe Bailey

ESSER- ADE has issued guidance on how to report federal property interest when using ESSER funds for certain projects..

A new set of FAQs has been released by the Center on Medicaid/Medicare.

As the ESSER deadline approaches, states are taking steps to sustain important pandemic recovery activities and support the continuation of high-impact investments. Phoebe shared a list of ways state agencies are supporting sustainability in their states.

The US Department of Education has compiled a list of resources focusing on cybersecurity.

AAEA Updates - Dr. Mike Hernandez gave some brief updates on things going on at the state level – legislative session, overall budget changes, cooperative purchases, and the state professional development budget. He also touched on teacher non-renewal, policies and procedures, and best practices.

With no further business, Jim Buie made a motion to adjourn. Jonathan Crossley seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.