

## **Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative Board Minutes August 20, 2026**

**Schools Present:** Prescott, Lafayette, Genoa, Fouke, Hope, Nevada, Spring Hill Proxy- Peter Maggio, Texarkana Proxy- DeMarcus Green

**Schools Not Present:** Blevins

**Co-op Staff Present:** Phoebe Bailey, Gina Perkins, Jenny Smead, David Hampton

**Guest Present:** Dr. Megan Duncan, Executive Director for AAEE

The meeting was called to order by Phoebe Bailey

Jonathan Crossley made a motion to approve the minutes from June. Jon Estes seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Peter Maggio made a motion to approve the financial and expenditure reports from June and July. The motion was seconded by Jonathan Crossley. The motion was approved.

**2025 Audit-** Each district was mailed a copy of the SWAEC 2025 audit by The AR Legislative Audit Committee. A motion was made by Jonathan Crossley to approve the audit, and seconded by Peter Maggio. The motion was approved.

**Personal Policy-** Ms. Bailey presented updates that needed to be made to the personal policy. A motion was made by Jon Estes to approve the changes. It was seconded by Peter Maggio. The motion passed.

**Board Calendar-** The 2026-27 proposed board meeting calendar was presented to the board. A motion was made by Larry Smith to approve the calendar. The motion was seconded by Jon Estes. The motion passed.

**Vehicle Bids-** The cooperative has 2 vehicles for sale. Sealed bids for both vehicles were accepted from July 9 through August 15. We had 4 bids submitted for each vehicle. Ms. Bailey recommended that we accept the highest bid for each vehicle. The highest bid for each vehicle was submitted by McCoy Motors, LLC. A motion was made by Jon Estes to accept the highest bid for both vehicles. The motion was seconded by Peter Maggio. The motion was approved to sell both vehicles to McCoy Motors, LLC.

**Business Continuity Plan-** David Hampton briefly reviewed the SWAEC Business Continuity Plan, which had been shared with the districts in their google folder. He asked the districts to please get the MOU's signed and back to him as soon as possible.

### **Teacher Center Updates- Monica Morris**

**Tess Evaluators-** All first time TESS evaluators must register for the TESS Credentialing Course in Canvas. Calibration training dates will be released soon.

**CTE-** DCTE will provide one grant per co-op for a Paxton Patterson Lab. Schools are required to attend this training to be eligible for the grant. The grant deadline is November 1.

**Behavioral and Threat Assessment-** Every district must have a behavioral threat assessment team. There are virtual training dates listed in the notes.

**Federal Waiver Flexibility-** This lets ADE waive certain federal requirements on behalf of districts in exchange for stronger accountability for student performance. It does not change how much federal funding a district receives — only how it may be used and administered. The application deadline is October 1.

**A.C.C.E.S.S-** this is a single statewide universal college application that fulfills the eligibility pillar of Arkansas ACCESS.

**School Directory-** this information must be updated regularly, as it is used by several ADE-DESE Program Offices and other stakeholders to share the latest information from the ADE.

**School Board Training-** SWAEC will be hosting 2 training sessions. They will be held on September 3rd and October 1st.

## **Director Updates- Phoebe Bailey**

**Proxy Forms-** Ms. Bailey handed out proxy forms and asked the districts to get those turned back in soon.

### **State/Federal Updates**

-Secretary Oliva is working on creating a database of superintendents and their administrative assistants. If you have not had a chance to enter your information, please do so through the link listed in the google folder.

-If you have principals that need TESS training, there will be three sessions in Little Rock: September 15-17, October 27-29, and January 12-14

-In June the FCC adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) that raises serious concerns for the future of the E-Rate program. The FCC has yet to formally publish rules to govern the comment period, but advocacy is well under way through groups such as AASA.

-The Department of Health and Human Services has released a proposed rule to amend the Head Start Program Performance Standards. The reforms proposed by HHS are significant. They include removing federal rules for class ratios and sizes, curricula expectations and certain staffing requirements. It also would mandate that instruction be in English only.

**Data Comparison-** Ms. Bailey presented a handout showing achievement gains across our districts. She noted that we had shown improvement in several subject areas within our cooperative districts and hopes that to be reflected in school letter grades in the coming months.

**Personal-** Ms. Bailey presented a personal packet that included 4 new hires: Felicitee Wagner, Tomeki Hayes-Calloway, Jamaya Parker, and Virginia Slayton. It also included one resignation letter from Toni Kelley. A motion was made by Jon Estes to accept the personal packet as presented. It was seconded by Jonathan Crossley. The motion passed.

Dr. Megan Duncan was here to give AAEA updates and things to come. She encouraged the districts to talk to their representatives to make sure they were aware of how they stand on certain issues. There were questions and discussion with the board. Dr. Duncan asked that anyone needing anything to please reach out to her at any time.

With no further business, a motion was made by Jonathan Crossley to adjourn, seconded by Larry Smith. The meeting was adjourned.