

## **Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative Board's Minutes November 11, 2020**

**Schools Present:** Fouke, Hope, Genoa, Prescott

**Schools Present via Zoom:** Nevada, Texarkana, Spring Hill, Lafayette

**Schools Not Present:** Blevins

**Co-op Staff Present:** Phoebe Bailey, Monica Morris, David Henderson, Tanya Collins, Eva Wood, Gina Perkins: via zoom

**Guests Present:** Russell Hill: via zoom

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Buie.

Bobby Hart made a motion to approve the minutes from October, seconded by Gary Jameson. The minutes were approved.

Bobby Hart made a motion to approve the financial and expenditure reports for October and Jay Turley seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **STATE UPDATES:** Phoebe Bailey

- Norman Hill, Southeast Co-op created a spreadsheet for all cooperatives showing projected funding in light of many districts having declining enrollment for 20-21. This data can be used in the legislative discussion concerning the Hold Harmless bill.
- DESE created a Google folder with data for the 20-21 year focusing on enrollment:  
<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1jVwlaJcXeH9fnd1-Skw74iVcBIF-UgHc>
- US Dept. of Education released a Parent and Family Digital Learning Guide. This resource is to help parents and guardians understand how digital tools can provide learning opportunities.
- AAEA Legislative Committee Meeting has a link to the proposed budget:  
<https://www.arkleg.state.ar.us>
- Hold Harmless: Senator Ingram is working on possible legislation and language intent, he is hoping to drop the bill on the first day of session. Each district would have to choose and say if they want to use the Hold Harmless act or the current funding process in place.
- Holocaust Legislation: consensus is it would be best to encourage the group to reach out to individual districts. Also, making the focus on 6-12 rather than K-12.
- Computer Science: Two of the biggest recommendations is a computer science graduation requirement and have a requirement for every district to have a certified on campus computer science teacher. It will be difficult to find certified teachers.
- Voucher Toolkit: The folder for committee members has been updated to be more AR specific.

### **TEACHER CENTER UPDATES:** Monica Morris

#### **Standards and Assessment**

- The governor announced Phase I priorities for Computer Science as follows: Requires one CS credit to graduate. Requires every public high school to have a CS certified teacher. Provides incentives for training and teaching CS. Increase internships and partnerships with private technology companies.

- Special Education Cycle 4 Data: There are a series of webinars to assist in reporting numbers accurately for child count. Cycle 4 closes on December 15.

#### **TESS/LEADS/Licensure/Mentoring**

- TESS summative Evaluations Waiver: The waiver remains in place for the 2020-21 school year and is optional for districts.

#### **Other Information**

- Data Quest zoom sessions have been scheduled for the year. Principals will share information regarding the use of data in their schools. The next session is December 9<sup>th</sup> from 9-10 a.m.
- Vaccination and Immunization reports are due December 1.

#### **ADDITIONAL ITEMS: Russell Hill**

- Mr. Hill briefed the board on ongoing litigation in Pulaski County where Wal Mart is trying to decrease the property taxes using the Dark Store theory. Mr. Hill provided documentation showing the potential revenue loss each district could experience if this happens. Ms. Bailey created a video with talking points for each district for the superintendents to share with their community to help bring awareness to the situation.