**Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative Board’s Minutes
March 20, 2025**

**Schools Present**: Texarkana, Spring Hill Proxy- Peter Maggio, Lafayette Proxy - Harvey Sellers, Genoa - Debbie Huff and Bradley Wright, Prescott, Nevada, Blevins Proxy - Kris Woodruff

**School Not Present**: Fouke

**Co-op Staff Present:**  Monica Morris, Gina Perkins, David Hampton

The meeting was called to order by Phoebe Bailey.

The board welcomed Bradley Wright, incoming superintendent at Genoa Central School District.

Lloyd Jackson made a motion to approve the minutes from February, seconded by Peter Maggio.
The minutes were approved.

Peter Maggio made a motion to approve the financial and expenditure reports from February.
Debbie Huff seconded the motion. Motion passed.

There was a discussion regarding the board secretary for the upcoming year, since previous nominee, Robert Poole has been named new superintendent at Ashdown. Debbie Huff nominated Roy McCoy to serve as Board Secretary for the 25-26 school year. Robert Poole seconded the motion.

**DATA REPORT** - Phoebe Bailey

**ATLAS INTERIM REPORT -** Ms. Bailey handed out Atlas Assessment guidance, specific to each district. She gave a brief overview of how the data is presented on the charts. She will also send all this information electronically.

**DISTRICT EMAIL DOMAIN SECURITY -** David Hampton
There is an issue across the state with a high number of scam and phishing emails being opened. Mr. Hampton and Matt Pipkin have suggested turning up security on email domains. Matt has developed a program to grade email security, David shared the “grades” for our local districts. He has already shared this information with the technology coordinators in each district.

David also spoke briefly about the new Cyber Security Policy and a spreadsheet that he has developed to help districts stay in compliance with Legislative Audit. He has shared that spreadsheet with local technology coordinators as well. He said this spreadsheet is not mandatory, but will help with audit.

**PERSONNEL SLATE FOR APPROVAL** – Ms. Bailey recommends the hire of Hannah Ward as Early Childhood Coordinator, effective July 1, 2025. She also recommends approval of retirement for Monica Holston, as of June 30, 2025. Roy McCoy made a motion to accept the personnel slate as presented. Peter Maggio seconded the motion.

**TEACHER CENTER UPDATES** – Monica Morris

**Professional Development 2025** – Ms. Morris spoke about the upcoming summer PD and the timelines for offerings, the Professional Learning Spreadsheet, DESE offerings, and The Teach Southwest Conference.

**Letter Grades**  – HB1598 has passed the House and is now in the Senate. Letter Grades for 23-24 are expected to be released April 15th. Letter Grades for 24-25 will be issued in October of 2025.

**Standards for Accreditation** – On April 1st, districts will be notified of violations and will have 15 calendar days to correct any. On April 15th, districts will receive notification of Accreditation status. If a district disagrees with the status, they must submit a written appeal to the Monitoring Unit by May 1st.
3-year Teacher Growth Data will be released April 3 (this data will be used for merit pay).
April 10th will be the launch date for roster verification. There will be webinars to follow.
There will be a webinar with Dr. Saunders – Planning and Managing the Budget.

**DIRECTOR UPDATE** – Phoebe Bailey

**Paper Bids** - Ms. Bailey handed out copy paper bid information, including a list of previous year orders by district. Please return your order forms by April 14th.

**SWAEC Calendar Approval** - Ms. Bailey shared the proposed calendar for the 25-26 school year. Peter Maggio made a motion to approve the calendar as presented, seconded by Roy McCoy. Ms. Bailey also shared a calendar of SWAEC board meetings for the next school year, sticking with the 3rd Thursday of each month.

**Program MOUs for 2024-25 School Year** - Ms. Bailey shared a selection sheet for services offered for the 25-26 school year. She asked that Superintendents get those signed and returned to her and will have the official MOUs ready by the May board meeting.

**Legislative Updates** - Ms. Bailey shared a number of bills that are currently in process. The superintendents discussed several of these bills including those that impact the school weekly calendars, and curriculum. They spoke about possible impacts to their districts and which legislators they may need to reach out and speak with concerning local viewpoints.

**OTHER INFORMATION**

**FY24 Audit Approval** - The SWAEC FY24 Audit has been completed, and all superintendents have received a copy of the audit in the mail. Ms. Bailey also passed around the Co-op’s copy of the audit report. After a brief discussion, Peter Maggio made a motion to approve the audit from 23-24, seconded by Roy McCoy. Audit was approved.

With no further business, Robert Poole made a motion to adjourn. Debbie Huff seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.