

Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative Board Meeting Minutes February 13, 2022

Schools Present: Texarkana, Genoa proxy- Bradley Wright, Lafayette, Spring Hill proxy - Peter Maggio, Hope, Nevada

Schools Not Present: Blevins, Fouke, Prescott

Co-op Staff Present: Phoebe Bailey, Gina Perkins, Holli Boyett, Eva Wood, Vicki Jewell

Guests Present: Tammy Glass, ADE Computer Science

The meeting was called to order by President Becky Kesler.

Jonathan Crossley made a motion to approve the minutes from January. Peter Maggio seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

Jonathan Crossley made a motion to approve the financial reports from January, seconded by Opal Anderson. Financial reports were approved.

Dr. Crossley spoke about the passing of Dr. Roy Turner, and the upcoming services that will be held this weekend. He urged everyone to reach out to Hope School staff and students during this difficult time.

Bank Update, Phoebe Bailey

The Co-op sent out bank bid requests in January. After reviewing all received bids, Ms. Bailey recommends accepting the bank bid from Farmer's Bank. This includes opening a checking account, a CD account, and a sweep investment account. Phoebe Bailey and Gina Perkins will continue to be check signers on the new account. Peter Maggio made a motion to approve the opening of the new accounts with Farmers Bank. Jonathan Crossley seconded the motion.

Personnel, Phoebe Bailey

Eva Wood, Early Childhood Coordinator, has submitted her letter of resignation, effective June 30, 2023. Although she will be greatly missed, Jonathan Crossley made a motion to accept her resignation. Peter Maggio seconded the motion.

Director Updates, Phoebe Bailey

The Co-op staff has been diligently working on the Mission and Vision Statement for SWAEC. Ms. Bailey shared the new mission statement, vision, and logo for the Co-op.

Federal Updates

The FCC announced the commitment of \$240 million in its eighth wave of Emergency Connectivity Fund program support helping to close the homework gap. Soon-to-be reintroduced federal parent rights bills may allow parents to opt out of most EdTech. Ms. Bailey shared this might impact educators and classroom instruction.

State Updates

Legislative Update - Ms. Bailey shared several House and Senate bills that are being considered in session. She also noted 3 bills that have recently been passed into law: Act 20, Act 21, and Act 26. She also shared a link showing all education bills and their progress.

TCC Updates - Phoebe Bailey for Monica Morris

Ms. Bailey spoke about the recent PD Needs Assessment Survey. She pointed out several specific needs that were mentioned in the survey and how the Co-op is building a summer PD calendar to help meet those specific needs.

Career Coach Grant Applications for FY24 are due March 31 by 4:00 p.m. Assistance will be available on Feb 15 at 9:00 a.m.

The Criminal Justice Unit will provide Planning, Conducting, and Analyzing Emergency Operation Plans at SWAEC on Feb 23rd.

Arkansas Teacher Residency Apprenticeship scheduled for February 24 at SWAEC.

Ms. Bailey noted a few recent Commissioner's Memos. The links are shared in the notes.

Tammy Glass, Computer Science Specialist, shared about her position with ADE. She held a recent training and has brought materials for each district to distribute to their staff that attended the training.

Vicki Jewell - Retention and Recruitment Update

College of the Ozarks wants to bring education students to our local districts and asked if any schools would be interested in hosting them.

Bradley Wright asked about having an educator job fair this spring.

Vicki facilitated an activity called "Setting the Stage" with the board members. This activity was shared with those attending PLD District Leadership training. She asked them to review an article and share their five big takeaways based on leadership.

Vicki Jewell gave an overview of the mentoring program and the participation level of novice teachers in the Co-op member districts.

There was discussion on how changes might be made to increase novice teacher retention and the efficacy of the novice teacher mentoring program.

Director Contract

The board went into executive session from 12:23 pm to 12:29 pm.

Roy McCoy made a motion to extend Phoebe Bailey's contract through June 30, 2026.

Jonathan Crossley seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Jonathan Crossley made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Opal Anderson.

Meeting was adjourned.