**Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative Board’s Minutes**

**January 14, 2025**

**Schools Present**: Texarkana proxy- Gwen Adams, Hope, Spring HIll proxy- Ronald Smead, Lafayette County, Prescott, Nevada, Genoa, Blevins Guest- Kris Woodruff

**Schools Not Present**: Fouke

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

**Guest Present:** Robyn Eaves

The meeting was called to order by Jonathan Crossley.

Robert Poole made a motion to approve the minutes from December. Debbie Huff seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Debbie Huff made a motion to approve the financial and expenditure reports from December. The motion was seconded by Robert Poole. The motion was approved.

**ECH Data Report-**  Angie Gentry gave updates on our current child count. She stated that we are currently serving 253 kids. This is up 8 from last year. These are kids ages 3-5. She said that she had received more referrals after December 1 that they are still working through.

**AR App-** Monica Morris is on the state committee for this. She said there has been a timeline put together she shared in the google folder with each district. She stated that each district will need to get their own team together. Each month a different component of the AR App will be the focus. The process is intended to provide support around the comprehensive needs assessment, data collection, forming the team, and developing SMART goals that align with district data and LEARNS.

**Teacher Center Updates- Monica Morris**

**Act 1082-** notification letters were sent out last week. This only concerned 25 schools.

**Formula for Letter Grades-** Elementary and High school both have their own bucket of items that factor into this. Mrs. Morris provided more detailed information in a chart that she shared in the google folder.

**High School Focus-** This is the time to ensure that you are working toward ensuring students have access to Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate/Cambridge AICE Diploma courses. Schools should be working with higher education to provide concurrent credit options. Another focus should be ensuring that there is alignment of career-focused credits available to allow students to complete a H2 success-ready pathway. Accountability around the Success Ready pathway will

be phased in.

**Merit Pay**- April 30 is the deadline for entering evaluation data. Data will be pulled on May 1. Superintendents should run a monthly report to see that evaluations are being entered. Mrs Morris also listed several important reminders concerning Merit Pay that she linked in the google folder.

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**Commissioner’s Memos–** Mrs. Morris also linked several memos in the google folder. She noted that if anyone is interested in a school based health clinic next year, there is a mandatory meeting on January 21. The information to this is linked in her notes.

**Director Updates- Phoebe Bailey**

**School Choice Ad-** Ms. Bailey presented a draft of the school choice ad for the 25-26 school year. She said we can advertise this on radio but would advise when placing this on your school website please include a contact person and phone number.

**State Updates-** Karli Saracini presented at Superintendent Symposium and shared that DESE is working on moving merit pay over to human capital in LEA insight. DESE has to have the shortage area list into the Feds by February so be on the lookout for the list to go before the state board soon. Hope Worsham shared the indicators for the new accountability systems. Ms. Bailey shared all this information in the google folder.

**Statement of Financial Interest**- Ms. Bailey attached the Statement of Financial Interest in the google folder. She stated that once filled out that it needs to be taken to their local county courthouse by the end of January. She asked that we be sent a copy also.

**Technology Update- David Hampton**

**Act 846-** This is the Insured Cyber Response Program. This provides you with coverage up to

$100,000 in the case of a cyber security attack. This is mandatory. There are certain requirements

that must be met in order to be eligible for this money. These are all listed in a handout that he presented to the districts. The board also had to approve our cyber security policy for Act 846. The motion was made by Roy McCoy to accept the policy. The motion was seconded by Robert Poole. The motion was approved.

**Act 504-**  The policies define the authorized use of technology resources and cybersecurity policies for those technology resources based on the standards and guidelines set by the State Cyber Security Office. This also includes developing training programs to implement those policies. Superintendents are the only ones who have access to this. This policy can not be shared publicly but it does need to have school board approval. This policy has 20 parts to it but we rolled out in phases in groups of 6.

**COM-25-041-** there will be a zoom January 15 concerning this. The link to the zoom is in the commissioner's memo.

**Director Evaluation Process**

Jonathan Crossley requested an executive session. A motion was made by Roy McCoy to go into executive session. The motion was seconded by Opal Anderson. The board entered into executive session at 11:36 a.m. At 11:45 a.m., a motion was made by Roy McCoy to end the executive session. The motion was seconded by Robert Poole. The motion passed and we entered back into the regular session. The board explained that they were taking no action at this time. Each district was given an evaluation form for Ms. Bailey. Jonathan Crossley asked that the districts have their evaluations to him by February 7. They will discuss them at the next meeting.

With no further business, Robert Poole made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Opal Anderson. The meeting was adjourned. 2