

Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative Board Meeting Minutes January 17, 2022

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

Schools Not Present: Hope, Prescott, Blevins, Fouke

Co-op Staff Present: Phoebe Bailey, Monica Morris, Gina Perkins, Shannon Puckett, Holli Boyett, Eva Wood

Guests Present: Ross White, Director of CTE

The meeting was called to order by President Becky Kesler.

Director Updates, Phoebe Bailey

AR Rural Ed Association is seeking nominations for Superintendent of the Year and Teacher of the Year. Schools must be a member of Rural Ed. Ms. Bailey will share the list of member districts. She asked the board to please send nominations to her to start the process.

SWAEC staff has been working to establish a new vision and mission statement. The final document will be shared at the February meeting.

Legislative session has started. Committees will meet every Wednesday, starting this week. A bill tracker has been linked in the notes, and Ms. Bailey shared a Google doc that is sorted by strand.

Ms. Bailey reminded all districts to turn in their Financial Disclosure Statements to the local County Courthouse and provide a copy to the co-op to file. The deadline is January 31, 2023.

The superintendents were asked to review the drafted school choice ad in the Google folder for any changes. The information has been updated to fit the current law. It will be aired on local stations.

The Director evaluation forms for Ms. Bailey must be submitted to Dr. Kesler by February 6th for review at the February board meeting.

Personnel, Phoebe Bailey

Since the resignation of the co-op assistant bookkeeper in December, the Co-op has advertised, accepted applications, and held interviews. Ms. Bailey recommends to split the duties of that position between Robin Applegate and Callie Fore with a prorated stipend for the remainder of the year. Debbie Huff made a motion to approve the stipend for both employees, seconded by Roy McCoy.

Roy McCoy made a motion to approve the minutes from December. Debbie Huff seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

Debbie Huff made a motion to approve the financial reports from December, seconded by Opal Anderson. Financial reports were approved.

Teacher Center Updates, Monica Morris

The Co-op is hosting a Summer Assessment session on July 20. A link with more information is included in the notes.

Ms. Morris spoke about the Executive Orders recently signed by the Governor.

The School Choice Act is linked in the notes, districts should update their websites accordingly. School Board training hours for 2022 are due by February 15th.

Ms. Bailey announced to the board that SWAEC has been awarded approximately \$4 million for a mental health grant. The purpose of the grant is to increase the number of credentialed mental health service professionals providing school-based mental health services to students. She shared a flowchart showing activities and objectives of the grant process.

ACT WorkKeys - Ross White, Director of CTE

Mr. White made a presentation to the board showing the importance of career readiness and the ACT WorkKeys assessment. The goal of CTE is to emphasize the importance of CRC and to make this assessment available to all students.

He spoke about how this certification can positively impact economic development.

He briefly shared the duties and responsibilities of the CTE department for clarification.

Ms. Bailey noted that the next meeting will be held February 13.

Roy McCoy made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Peter Maggio. Meeting was adjourned.