

Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative Board's Minutes

June 12, 2025

Schools Present: Hope, Nevada, Prescott, Genoa, Texarkana, Spring Hill Proxy-Ronald Smead, Lafayette County Proxy-Harvey Sellers

Schools Not Present: Fouke, Blevins

Co-op Staff Present: Phoebe Bailey, Gina Perkins, Jenny Smead, David Hampton

The meeting was called to order by Jonathan Crossley.

Roy McCoy made a motion to approve the minutes from May. Harvey Sellers seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Roy McCoy made a motion to approve the financial and expenditure reports from May. The motion was seconded by Angie Bryant. The motion was approved.

Personnel- Ms. Bailey asked that we accept the resignation of Vicki Jewell as Mentor Program Coordinator and Lisa Tyler as Special Education Specialist. She also asked that we approve the hire of Kristy White as ECH Teacher. The motion was made by Lloyd Jackson to approve the personal slate as presented. The motion was seconded by Roy McCoy. The motion was approved.

Annual Report- Ms. Bailey handed out copies of our 2024-25 SWAEC annual report. She said the only change that would be made will be the board report. A new report will be entered at the end of the fiscal year before submitting it to DESE. Roy McCoy made a motion to accept the report as presented. The motion was seconded by Angie Bryant. The motion was approved.

Contract Amendments- Ms. Bailey presented a handout with end of the year contract amendments that need to be approved. A motion was made by Lloyd Jackson to approve the list as presented. The motion was seconded by Roy McCoy. The motion passed.

Director Updates- Phoebe Bailey

- The Trump Administration released additional budget materials to Congress for Fiscal Year 2026. Title I, Part A would receive level funding and IDEA would receive a \$677 million increase. The Administration also proposes an increase of \$677 million for IDEA, Part B. Most notably, Title II, REAP, Title IV, Parts A & B, and McKinney-Vento are all proposed to be a part of the consolidating block grant— and did not receive any specified funding for FY26. The House included significant changes to SNAP. Decreased eligibility will directly impact schools through direct certification, which allows students who are enrolled in SNAP (and other programs) to be automatically enrolled for free school meals.

There was a brief discussion among the districts about facilities insurance and what information everyone is receiving on it.

Dr. Crossley mentioned that he would like to have the 25-26 SWAEC board meetings at a different district each month. He will be reaching out to all the superintendents to get a schedule set up. The August meeting will take place at SWAEC.

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Roy McCoy wanted to make the districts aware of money that can be claimed on the Arkansas unclaimed properties website.

With no further business, a motion was made by Lloyd Jackson to adjourn. Angie Bryant seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

