

**Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative Board's Minutes
November 10, 2022**

Schools Present: Lafayette, Prescott, Genoa, Texarkana, Nevada, Hope, Fouke, and Spring Hill (proxy-Peter. Maggio).

Schools Not Present: Blevins

Co-op Staff Present: Phoebe Bailey, Monica Morris, Eva Wood, David Hampton, Gina Perkins, Tanya Collins, Vicki Jewell, Shannon Puckett, and Holli Boyett.

The meeting was called to order by Board President Becky Kessler.

Robert Poole made a motion to approve the minutes from October seconded by Peter. Maggio. The minutes were approved.

Robert Poole made a motion to approve the financial and expenditure reports for October. The motion was seconded by Opal Anderson. The financial and expenditure reports were approved.

TEACHER CENTER UPDATES: Monica Morris

STANDARDS & ASSESSMENT:

- Ms. Morris let the board know that the SOAR Grant application is open and due mid-January 2023. She also mentioned that districts who have not received grants in the other cycles will be given priority.
- Applications for the Act 56 Award for outstanding educational programs for GT students are now being accepted through December 16th.
- Ms. Morris told the board that the applications for Project Lead the Way is set to open mid-November and due mid-January 2023.

FISCAL & GOVERNANCE:

- ESSA School Index and School Rating is open for public viewing until November 14th.

TESS & LEADS:

- Ms. Morris let the board know that SWAEC will host a New Educator Platform training on November 16th from 9:00-12:00.
- DESE is now accepting applications for THRIVE AR Cohorts 2 and 3. The goal being to equip building leaders to support behavior and mental health.
- Ms. Morris gave a link to the Maintenance of Equity results for 21-22.
- The deadline for submitting the district's FNS-742 Verification Collection Report to DESE is December 15th.
- Ms. Morris let the board know that CFAM training will be at SWAEC on November 14th from 1:00-3:30.

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION: Vicki Jewell

Ms. Jewell addressed the board with second quarter updates in Recruitment & Retention. Ms. Jewell gave a breakdown of novice numbers that SWAEC is supporting this year. Ms. Jewell also gave the board the responses from novices on a beginning of the year self-assessment. Ms. Jewell informed the board that 35% of the novices still need to pass the PRAXIS and she described what she is doing to help them accomplish this. Ms. Jewell closed her address by giving the board dates for upcoming events and training that will further help their novices in becoming fully licensed.

CTE UPDATES: Shannon Puckett

Ms. Puckett addressed the board to inform them of some CTE updates such as an increase in Perkins funding for our region. Over \$250,000 of additional funding for CTE programs in Southwest Arkansas was awarded from DCTE. Ms. Puckett asked David Hampton to give a brief demonstration of the new VR Headsets that all districts will be getting for their 8th grade students. These headsets will help give the students vocational training for jobs in our area.

DIRECTOR UPDATES: Phoebe Bailey

State Updates:

- Director Bailey informed the board that the Senate plan for merit funding will be modeled after what Louisiana has implemented.
- There is a consensus that the proposed \$4,000 raise is based on all certified staff, not just teachers. There was some discussion on whether you must give the raise if you already met the \$40,000 minimum salary proposed. There is a worry the session could go to April and cause issues getting salary schedules created in a timely manner.
- Ms. Bailey also informed the board of some possible health insurance changes coming.
- Ms. Bailey let the board know that the DESE budget should be approved by November 9th.
- There will be discussions about the school start date being changed in legislation again this year.
- Ms. Bailey let the board know to expect a survey from AAEA concerning things they no longer want as requirements from DESE.

Board Meeting Dates:

- Ms. Bailey let the board know that due to legislative sessions, the board meeting dates for January-April needed to be moved. After a brief discussion the January meeting was changed to the 17th and the February, March, and April dates were all moved to the 13th of the month.

Personnel:

- Ms. Bailey recommended to the board to hire Jennifer Griffith as a floating para. Peter. Maggio made a motion to approve and was seconded by Robert Poole. The motion to hire was approved.

Health Grant Update:

- A handout was given to the board from Ms. Bailey letting them know how much they have spent from their health care grant as well as their remaining balance.

Bonus:

- Ms. Bailey asked the board for approval for an across-the-board bonus for all employees to be paid out over two installments of \$1000 each. The first is to be paid in November and the second to be paid in March. Roy. McCoy made a motion to approve the bonus and Peter. Maggio seconded the motion, the motion passed with seven in favor and Robert Poole voting opposed.

With no other business Jonathan Crossley made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Roy McCoy. The meeting was adjourned.