

**Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative Board's Minutes  
October 12, 2022**

**Schools Present:** Lafayette, Prescott, Genoa, Texarkana, Nevada, Hope (Proxy-Jocelyn Wiley).

**Schools Not Present:** Blevins, Spring Hill, and Fouke.

**Co-op Staff Present:** Phoebe Bailey, Monica Morris, Eva Wood, David Hampton, Gina Perkins, Tanya Collins.

**Guests Present:** Tina Moore- DESE, Mike Mertens-AAEA, Steven Greathouse and Joe Marphone –Motorola Solutions.

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

Robert Poole made a motion to approve the minutes from September seconded by Mr. McCoy. The minutes were approved.

Roy McCoy made a motion to approve the financial and expenditure reports for September. The motion was seconded by Robert Poole. The financial and expenditure reports were approved.

**Continuity of Operations Plan 2022-2023**

Director Bailey let the board know that the SWAEC Continuity of Operations Plan for 2022-23 was in the shared folder drive for their review and that a hard copy was available for them if they so needed. After a brief discussion Roy McCoy made a motion to approve the presented plan and it was seconded by Robert Poole. The motion passed.

**DIRECTOR UPDATES:** Phoebe Bailey

Personnel:

- Ms. Bailey informed the board of the resignation of Latarice Haynie, a para in the ABC Prescott classroom. Robert Poole made a motion to accept the resignation and was seconded by Debbie Huff. The motion passed.

Grant Opportunity:

- Ms. Bailey informed the board of a possible new School-Based Mental Health Services Grant the co-op is writing. The purpose of the proposed grant is to increase the number of credentialed mental health service providers in a school based setting by having the mental and behavioral health service teams headquartered at co-op service agencies. Ms. Bailey told the board that these services would be meant to supplement the behavior and mental health services they already have in their districts. Ms. Bailey asked the interested superintendents to please submit letters of support for this grant by October 30<sup>th</sup> to go with the application which is due on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Drug and Alcohol Testing:

- Director Bailey let the board know that a few co-ops offer bus driver drug/alcohol testing. They offer this service at the request of smaller districts based on having to test a small group of the same people each time. Ms. Bailey went over the specifics of the program and asked if any superintendents were interested in our co-op providing such a service to let her know. While on the topic of bus driver's, Ms. Bailey let the board know the Bus Driver Consortium is up for renewal in January. Ms. Bailey provided a handout with the point person for each district.

#### AESA Federal Legislative Session Updates:

- The Disability Discipline guidance for 504 was issued in July. This will be the first time regulations have been updated in 45 years.
- Only 17 states have been approved to expand the Medicaid program due to the administrative load it causes for billing departments.
- According to recent polls the vast majority of voters in 2022 will be people that do not have children in school. For voters who do have school aged children, mental health and learning loss support are big factors in voting decisions.

#### Co-op Fall Conference Updates:

- There were two vendors at the conference, one for food service management and one for janitorial services. Both have a presence in Arkansas and if anyone was in need of those services Ms. Bailey will have them come to a board meeting for a presentation.

#### DESE Updates:

- Cycle 7 reporting is showing some schools have never been awarded service learning credit. Ms. Bailey reminded superintendents to check to see if Cycle 7 is pulling this information and to correct it before submitting if not. Also, Ms. Bailey let them know that their ESchool settings should be checked to be sure attendance records are pulled correctly.

#### Secretary Key Adequacy Updates:

- Funding has been added to Professional Development programs.
- DESE has given a proposal on how funds will be distributed for school safety, but at this time there are no timelines on when it will happen.

#### **TEACHER CENTER UPDATES:** Monica Morris

##### Standards & Assessment:

- Ms. Morris reminded the superintendents that all educators in Arkansas are required to be either aware or proficient in the Science of Reading by the beginning of the 23-24 school year.
- Ms. Morris gave information on coding in EFinance for Cycle 2 reporting.
- A link was given to the schedule for Phase II of Inclusive Practices training.
- Information for a web conference workshop was given by Ms. Morris about Cycle 4 data requirements in eSchool and MySped.

##### Fiscal & Governance:

- ESSA School Index was released for private viewing and will be available for public view on October 31<sup>st</sup>. This one page document provides an overview of the ESSA School Index Indicators. Ms. Morris let the superintendents know that if they needed assistance with their data to please let her know.
- The ESSER I funds obligation deadline must be expended by January 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Morris reminded the superintendents that salary increases should be reviewed and approved by the board no later than the October board meeting.
- Ms. Morris gave a link for the board to update their Continuity of Services Plan and let them know it should be done by October 15<sup>th</sup>.

TESS & LEADS:

- A link was given by Ms. Morris to the new Educator Effectiveness Platform.

Ms. Morris let the board know that a DESE zoom with Mike Mattos will be on November 29<sup>th</sup> about foundations and building structures for systematic interventions in a master schedule.

Ms. Morris also discussed Power School Enrollment, which is an online registration tool that allows parents to register their students by completing an online form that has upload abilities for documents.

Ms. Morris reminded the board that CFAM training will be held at the co-op on November 14<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-3:30 as well as School Board training on October 24<sup>th</sup> and November 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Dr. Tina Moore from DESE**

Dr. Moore gave a presentation on the importance of STEM preparedness for students to further their success in college as well as their career pathway. Dr. Moore's presentation stressed the importance of STEM for students to ensure a highly skilled workforce, acknowledging the fact that almost all jobs have some form of IT component. She gave all the superintendents her contact information if they should need her help in bringing more emphasis to their STEM programs.

**Motorola Solutions, AR Public Safety Solutions**

Mr. Steven Greathouse and Mr. Joe Marphone from Motorola Solutions gave a brief presentation about Arkansas Public Safety and how they could help the superintendents create a safer learning environment. They provide safety features that use AWIN, the Arkansas Wireless Information Network. These features could help districts have direct contact with police, fire, SRO as well as specific staff members, in the event of an emergency situation. They informed everyone that they are available to come to any district for an on sight presentation and evaluation of their facilities to help improve their safety protocols.

With no other business Robert Poole made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Opal Anderson. The meeting was adjourned.