

Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative Board's Minutes
May 15, 2025

Schools Present: Hope, Lafayette County, Texarkana, Nevada, Spring Hill Proxy via zoom- Peter Maggio

Schools Not Present: Blevins, Fouke, Genoa Central, Prescott

Co-op Staff Present: Phoebe Bailey, Monica Morris, Gina Perkins, Jenny Smead, David Hampton, Shannon Puckett, Vicki Jewell

The meeting was called to order by Jonathan Crossley.

Lloyd Jackson made a motion to approve the minutes from April. Roy McCoy seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Mike Mertens was here to present the AACTE Administrator of the Year award to Shannon Puckett.

Roy McCoy made a motion to approve the financial and expenditure reports from April. The motion was seconded by Lloyd Jackson. The motion was approved.

Paper Bid- Ms. Bailey presented the bids that we received from four different vendors. The lowest bid was from Contract Paper at \$31.56 per case. A motion was made by Lloyd Jackson to go with Contract Paper. The motion was seconded by Roy McCoy. The motion was approved.

ACT 802 Resolution- Ms. Bailey wanted to remind the districts about having this in their board minutes. This must be done annually.

Fixed Assets- Ms. Bailey requested that an old Dell Server be removed from the fixed assets list. Opal Anderson made a motion to remove it, seconded by Roy McCoy. The motion was approved.

Personnel Policy- Ms. Bailey presented a handout with personal policy updates. She noted the changes that were made. A motion was made by Lloyd Jackson to approve the changes. It was seconded by Opal Anderson. The motion was approved.

CTE Updates- Shannon Puckett briefly talked about the importance of CTE data meetings, particularly when linked with Student Success Plans. These meetings utilize data to identify areas where students are struggling, inform targeted interventions, and ensure students are on track to meet their career goals.

Salary Schedule- Ms. Bailey presented a handout with her recommendation for the 2025-26 salary schedule. After some discussion, Roy McCoy made a motion to approve the salary schedule as presented. The motion was seconded by Lloyd Jackson

Teacher Center Updates- Monica Morris-

Professional Development- Mrs. Morris spoke about the upcoming summer PD and the timelines for offerings, the Professional Learning Spreadsheet, DESE Offerings, and the Teach Southwest Conference. Tier 1 training will be on June 12.

Course Codes- Ms. Morris shared a list of course code updates. LS-25-031

National Board Funds- These funds will go away in 2027 and transfer to the merit incentive fund.

Educator Effectiveness System- Everyone will now be required to have a rating every year. Summative rating will be pulled on June 16.

Teacher Licensure Plans- These will replace the waivers and permits. Teachers will have 3 years to obtain a provisional license and then 2 years to obtain a standard license. Mrs. Morris shared a list of eligibility requirements for this.

AR App- Mrs. Morris asked the district to give both she and Ms. Bailey commenting rights so they can provide feedback on this.

Mrs. Morris asked the districts to make note of COM-25-067. This provides information concerning upcoming deadlines for public comment.

Mentoring Updates- Vicki Jewell asked the districts to make sure she has their point of contact for mentoring correctly listed. SWAEC will be hosting an NIET Coaching Model workshop on July 17.

Director Updates- Phoebe Bailey

- On May 8th, the Senate passed S.J. Res 7, a proposal that would overturn the Federal Communications Commission's E-Rate hotspot program through the Congressional Review
- The application for the FY25 Small Rural School Achievement (SRSA) program – part of the Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP) that is administered directly from the Department of Education to small, rural school districts – should be available on May 14 and open until June 13.
- USED sent a letter to state chiefs this week, highlighting an existing provision in ESSA that allows states a process for affording students impacted by school safety a different school choice.
- Mental Health Update: SWAEC received an email from the USDOE regarding funding going away past the current year 3. Ms. Bailey has filed an appeal and has reached out to our legislators for guidance. She is exploring other avenues to sustain the program through the next school year.

Ms. Bailey stated that we will have Tier 1 training offered on June 12 at 9:00 a.m. during the administrators institute. She recommended the June board meeting be held during that time. .

Mr. Kyle Hercules from K-12 Tutoring was on hand to briefly go over the services that they offer and how this can benefit the school districts.

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