

**Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative Board's Minutes  
January 15, 2026 held at Hope School District Administrative Building**

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

**Schools Not Present:** Fouke, Blevins

**Co-op Staff Present:** Phoebe Bailey, Monica Morris, Gina Perkins, Jenny Smead, Hannah Ward

The meeting was called to order by Jonathan Crossley.

Lloyd Jackson made a motion to approve the minutes from December. Bradley Wright seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Bradley Wright made a motion to approve the financial and expenditure reports from December. The motion was seconded by Larry Smith. The motion was approved.

**Hope School District Presentation-** The board heard presentations from the robotics team, Hope Collegiate Academy students, and a few of the communication program interns. These presentations highlighted the role these programs play within the Hope School District and how they are raising the bar for student achievement. Several students also shared personal reflections on how their involvement in these programs are positively impacting their lives.

**ECH Data Report-** Hannah Ward had a presentation on ECH numbers. She said we are down from 256 to 224 this year. She also had a breakdown of the numbers in each district.

**Teacher Center Updates- Monica Morris**

**LEA Insights-** teachers will be able to see their growth score, 3 year weighted average, and role on the dashboard.

**Formula for Letter Grades-** Elementary and High school both have their own bucket of items that factor into this. Mrs. Morris provided more detailed information in a chart that she shared in the google folder.

**ArAPP-** districts will be able to make a copy of last year's spreadsheet. This document can be used to make changes for the upcoming school year. DESE plans to have the portal ready in March.

**Master Schedule Session-** This training will be January 21. Ms. Morris has shared the registration link in her notes.

**Education Walkthrough-** SWAEC will be using this tool when in district buildings. After a classroom visit, the principal will receive an email with the information from the visit. SWAEC is working to get all of our teachers/emails uploaded to the platform and hope to begin using this tool by the end of January.

**Professional Learning-** As we plan for summer PD workshops, Ms. Morris is asking districts to share input. One idea being considered is hosting some workshops on individual campuses for district staff only, with the aim of increasing engagement and attendance.

**Atlas Interim Comparison-** Ms. Bailey presented a handout of each district's ATLAS scores from 2024 and 2025.

**Director Updates- Phoebe Bailey**

**Statement of Financial Interest-** Ms. Bailey passed out these forms and asked the districts to have their board members complete this document by the end of the month and submit it to the county courthouse. She also asked that each superintendent send a copy to her.

**School Choice Ad-** Ms. Bailey presented the school choice ad for the 2026-27 school year that would be run on local radio stations for all districts. All districts stated they wanted to be included.

**Mental Health-** SWAEC was not awarded the federal mental health grant that was applied for. At the last board meeting some of the districts had expressed interest in continuing with the mental health team in their schools. They asked Ms. Bailey to run the numbers on how much it would cost each district to keep this going for those who are interested.

**Personnel-** Ms. Bailey asked the board to accept the resignation of Megan Buck effective Jan 1, 2026 and Trent Saracini effective Feb 1, 2026. Lloyd Jackson made a motion to accept the personal packet as presented. The motion was seconded by Larry Smith. The motion passed.

**Datamax-** Datamax briefly discussed the services that they offer. They asked the districts to reach out for any assistance needed.

At 11:47 am, Jonathan Crossley requested an executive session. The board returned from executive session at 12:04 pm. No action was taken during this time.

Lloyd Jackson made a motion to extend Ms. Bailey's contract for an additional year. This was seconded by Bradley Wright. Motion carried. At the next board meeting, additional details of the contract will be discussed.

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

