

Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative Board's Minutes

March 26, 2024

Schools Present: Fouke, Genoa, Nevada, Hope, Texarkana Proxy- Gwen Adams, Spring Hill Proxy- Peter Maggio, Lafayette County Proxy- Harvey Sellers, Blevins Proxy- Autumn Reader.

Schools Not Present: Prescott

Co-op Staff Present: Phoebe Bailey, Monica Morris, Gina Perkins, Jenny Smead, David Hampton, Shannon Puckett, Angie Gentry.

Guest Present: Jeff Killingsworth- ADE Coordinator of K12 Cyber Policy and Strategy

The meeting was called to order by Roy McCoy

Gwen Adams made a motion to approve the minutes from February. Peter Maggio seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Peter Maggio made a motion to approve the financial and expenditure report from February. Gwen Adams seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

State Technology Updates- Jeff Killingsworth discussed technology updates with the superintendents. He began with ACT 504. This law directs schools to create technology resource policies that define the authorized use of technology resources and cybersecurity based on the guidelines set by the State. This was effective August 1, 2023. He went on to talk about ACT 804 which works like insurance if you get hit with a cyber attack. All schools are required to participate in this. Mr. Killingsworth continued with ACT 754 which will be effective June 1, 2024. This states that all districts must maintain a list of contract providers that include or make available student PII. These lists should be updated at the beginning and midpoint of the year and should be available upon parent request. These providers can be split into 2 groups: On Contract and On Demand. On contract providers, must include clear information explaining elements of student PII collected, propose of that information, and how it is used and shared. For On Demand providers, districts must maintain a list of these providers used by the district or an employee that includes student PII. These should also be updated at the beginning and midpoint of each year and be made available upon request to parents. Also, districts must assist parents in obtaining the provider's data privacy policy. The state will be responsible for keeping up with this information on state funded vendors.

ECH Service Contract Bids- Angie Gentry presented therapy bids for the upcoming year. Her recommendation was to contract with Little River Health System for physical and occupational therapy. Callie Gilbey and Shawn Rayburn were recommended for speech therapy. Ms. Gentry also requested that these be done on a two year contract. After much discussion, there was a motion made by Jim Buie to go with the providers that were recommended but that it be done on a one year contract. The motion was seconded by Peter Maggio. The motion was approved.

Teacher Center Updates- Monica Morris

K-2 Assessments- Existing vendor contracts will no longer be provided in the 24-25 school year. Cambium has won the contract for the new K-3 system. This system will include a literacy screener, diagnostic tests, and interim and summative assessments for both literacy and mathematics.

K-2 Assessments 2024-25- ATLAS K-3 Screener Announcement and Pilot Opportunity - Those schools or districts interested in participating in this pilot opportunity, please complete the form in your TCC Updates. To participate in this pilot, please complete and submit by Monday, April 1, 2024. For additional information see COM-24-074. Training will be available to help disaggregate the data after the assessment is given.

Standards of Accreditation- the deadline for exception corrections is May 1, 2024.

Executive Order: Streamlined Budgets- Combining Federal Funds: Title I, IDEA, all title funds combined into one document with only one GEPA document required rather than one for each fund. SWAEC will be hosting a workshop for this on April 26. The application deadline is June 1.

ArPEP- applications opened on March 1. Applicants must have a passing Praxis and a minimum 2.5 GPA. Please have them contact Monica Morris if they have any questions.

Inclusive Education Projects- Novak Education leads the Effective Practices for Inclusive Education (EPIE) for Students with Disabilities Project (MTSS/UDL). This project will have two in-person days and monthly webinars. The Inclusive Education for Students with Disabilities Support Specialist Training of Trainers is designed to equip district educators to support other educators in their district around inclusive practices. The project will have two days in late Summer 2024, two days in Fall 2024, and two days in Spring 2025.

School Safety- A public school shall conduct a comprehensive school safety assessment every three (3) years to assess the safety, security, accessibility, and emergency preparedness of district buildings and grounds in collaboration with local law enforcement, fire, and emergency management officials. The first safety assessment is due by August 1, 2024. COM-24-045. Site Assess training at South Central in Camden on May 6.

Literacy Tutoring Grant- information can be found on the Literacy Tutoring Grant Program Website. This is for qualifying students only.

#Teachsouthwest- this will only be for one day this year instead of two. It will be at Hempstead Hall on August 1.

Director Updates- Phoebe Bailey

Paper Bids- Ms. Bailey handed out information concerning past paper bids. She handed out a form for the districts to fill out and turn back in by April 15th if they wanted paper purchased for their school.

SWAEC Calendar- Ms. Bailey handed out a copy of the SWAEC calendar that she is proposing for the 2024-2025 year. A motion was made by Peter Maggio to accept the calendar. The motion was seconded by Jonathan Crossley. The motion was approved.

Program MOUs- districts were given a 2024-25 Consortium Agreement Form to fill out. They need to be turned in by April 15.

Superintendent Goals- Ms. Bailey presented a handout about the DESE Draft Rules for Educator performance and how to work as a team to help in achieving goals that are set.

Superintendent of the Year- Ms. Bailey stated that a superintendent needed to be nominated from our cooperative for superintendent of the year. Debbie Huff made a motion to nominate Jonathan Crossley. The motion was seconded by Peter Maggio. The motion was approved.

With no further business, a motion was made by Peter Maggio to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Jim Buie. The meeting was adjourned.