

**Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative Board's Minutes
January 12, 2020**

Schools Present via Zoom: Texarkana, Spring Hill, Hope, Lafayette, Fouke, Blevins, Nevada

Schools Not Present: Genoa, Prescott

Co-op Staff Present: Phoebe Bailey, Gina Perkins, Tanya Collins, Eva Wood, Lynn Foster

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Buie.

Tom Wilson made a motion to approve the minutes from December, seconded by Bobby Hart. The minutes were approved.

Bobby Hart made a motion to approve the financial and expenditure reports for December. Tom Wilson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

SWAEC UPDATES: Phoebe Bailey

- **Financial Disclosure Statement:** Ms. Bailey reminded all districts to turn in their Financial Disclosure Statements to the local County Courthouse and provide the co-op to file. The deadline is January 31, 2021.
- **School Choice Ad:** Ms. Bailey asked the superintendents to review the school choice ad for in the Google folder for any changes. No changes were made and the ad will go out as is. It will be aired on local stations.
- **Director Evaluation Process:** The evaluations for Ms. Bailey must be submitted to Dr. Buie by February 1st for review at the February board meeting.
- **Legislative Updates:** Ms. Bailey shared the following priorities from the DESE legislative package.

Right to Read Act demonstrating proficiency will be pushed back to 23-24.

Teacher Recruitment and Retention- all districts will have to complete a plan that changes the language from minority and African American to "ethnic diversity".

Succeed Scholarship- will no longer require schools to develop an IEP or ISP for students to attend private school.

School Choice- cleaned up to make sure all dates align and to clarify that if the application is not in by May 1 there is no right to appeal to the State Board.

Higher Ed- If students are going to use ADHE scholarships, they have to submit a FAFSA.

Waiver- will eliminate the requirement that public school districts submit a copy of waiver from a charter and allow them the ability to link to a listing of waivers found in My School Info.

Facilities and Transportation- districts would not have to meet with the Division and submit preliminary master plans.

Background Checks- non-violent or non-sexual offenders with convictions older than 10 years would no longer prevent someone from obtaining a license.

ESA- will add four broad categories where funds may be expended; would set a maximum for the amount of ESA funds that can be transferred.

Career Coaches- technical site visits would move to every other year rather than every 5 years.

Computer Science- AAEEA met with the Governor and ADE and shared some thoughts and questions from superintendents regarding computer science including moving to 0.5 credit, and not requiring it as

a graduation requirement. It was also suggested to add language to the teacher requirement that states "if funding available", and add language that makes it clear that staff can be shared between districts.

Teacher Salary-21-22 funding shall be \$185 multiplied by district or charter school ADM for previous year; monies will come from COLA.

With no other business, Bobby Hart made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Tom Wilson. The meeting was adjourned.