

**Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative Board's Minutes  
April 15, 2021**

**Schools Present:** Hope, Spring Hill, Fouke, Genoa, Blevins, Lafayette, Prescott (proxy)

**Schools Not Present:** Texarkana and Nevada

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

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Buie.

Gary Jameson made a motion to approve the minutes from March, seconded by Bobby Hart. The minutes were approved.

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

Ms. Bailey asked the board for SWAEC Board Secretary nominations. Bobby Hart nominated Robert Edwards and Mr. Wilson seconded. The motion was approved.

Ms. Bailey announced her recommendation for accepting the resignation letters for Samantha McClane, Traci Smith, and Connie Thomason. Mr. Wilson made a motion to accept, which was seconded by Mr. Edwards and the motion carried.

Ms. Bailey stated that Samantha McClane, the Prescott ABC lead teacher, would be replaced by Tina Cole and that we are taking applications for the para position. Ms. Bailey also made a recommendation to hire Rebecca Hughes for the literacy position held by Traci Smith. Mr. Hart made a motion to hire and was seconded by Mr. Jameson, and the motion was approved.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATES:** Phoebe Bailey

Ms. Bailey gave a handout of the new education bills that have been signed by the Governor. Without an emergency clause or specified effective date, acts take effect the 91<sup>st</sup> day after Regular Session which should be July 29, 2021.

**TEACHER CENTER UPDATES:** Monica Morris

**Standards and Assessment**

- ACT Aspire Interim and classroom assessments will not be available during the 2021-22 school year, but summative assessments will continue.
- Formative assessments through NWEA, iReady, iStation and Renaissance will be provided to districts for the 2021-22 school year.
- DESE is planning roll out phases of specific training and purchased curriculum to licensed PreK programs. Launch Pad webinars will be available next week for program directors and coordinators and LETRS will be available in January 2022.
- To assist LEAs in reporting data accurately the IDEA office in Little Rock will conduct a series of ZOOM conferences April 27-29, 2021.
- Inclusive Practices training opportunities will be available at SWAEC on July 14, 2021.
- The state will pay for a licensed teacher's college hours to add SPED Resource endorsement.

## **Other Information**

- Beginning with the entering ninth grade class of 2022-23, a public high school student will be required to earn one credit in computer science before they graduate.
- The CCLC grant applications must be submitted by May 1, 2021.
- Arkansas Teacher of the Year nomination applications are due by June 11, 2021.
- The ESOL Institute is encouraging as many staff as possible to earn their ESL Endorsement by offering to pay full tuition scholarships if an ESL endorsement is added to your Arkansas teaching license.
- ACOOP will only be accessible for the next 16 months. It is recommended that districts download and/or print all information from that site if that is where the district has been housing the plan.

## **ADDITIONAL ITEMS:**

The 2021-22 SWAEC Salary Schedule was presented by Ms. Bailey. Jay Turley made a motion to accept the proposed schedule and was seconded by Tom Wilson. The motion passed and new schedule was approved.

A list of the 2021-22 suggested contract renewals was presented by Ms. Bailey. Mr. Wilson made a motion to accept the contract renewal list and was seconded by Robert Edwards. The motion passed.

Ms. Bailey asked the board for approval of the 2020 Legislative Audit that was recently completed. Tom Wilson made a motion to approve the audit which was seconded by Jay Turley and the motion passed.

Ms. Bailey had been contacted by a representative from Home Energy RX about a possible presentation to the board about HVAC energy and costs. Ms. Bailey asked for anyone interested to please let her know and she would set up the presentation.

May 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for schools to submit their virtual plan for the 2021-22 school year. Ms. Bailey asked the board members to have a representative reach out to Ms. Morris for any help they may need with their plans before submitting.

With no other business, Robert Edwards made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Jay Turley.

The meeting was adjourned.