

**Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative Board's Minutes  
October 14, 2020**

**Schools Present:** Lafayette, Prescott, Spring Hill, Texarkana, Fouke, Hope

**Schools Present via Zoom:** Genoa, Blevins, Nevada

**Schools Not Present:** None

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

**Guests Present:** Jay Bequette, Eric Marks, Barbara Stuckey, Lionel Stuckey, Cherie Thomas.

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Buie.

Robert Edwards made a motion to approve the minutes from September, seconded by Robert Poole. The minutes were approved.

Bobby Hart made a motion to approve the financial and expenditure reports for September and Robert Edwards seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**PERSONNEL HEARING:** A personnel hearing was held for Barbara Stuckey. It began at 1:01 and at 1:51 the meeting went into executive session. At 2:06 the hearing was called back into session where Becky Kessler made a motion to reject the recommendation of Ms. Bailey to terminate Barbara Stuckey's employment. The motion was seconded by Bobby Hart. Motion passed.

**STATE UPDATES:** Phoebe Bailey

**Covid & Curriculum Support:** Ms. Bailey informed the districts that DESE and Coordinated School Health are offering co-ops funding to purchase Fit & Fun Playscape stencils. The reusable stencils offered for check out will include the following: Yoga Poses, Nature Motor Sensory Path, Spot & Arrow and Fitness Activity Circuit.

Co-ops will be receiving surgical gowns and N95 masks for the school nurses. These items will be distributed when they come in.

Spanish COVID booklets were passed out with the ESOL contact person's name for each district.

The Arkansas Division of Higher Education is shipping "starter kits" to support AR College Application Month. These will come to SWAEC and be delivered out to the schools.

**Summary from AAEA Legislative Committee Meeting:** The discussion of the \$15 million Adequacy Committee was approved for teacher salary. The committee did not address ESA Funds so it will have to be taken care of in legislative session.

There was discussion of a "hold harmless" bill related to funding based on the decreased student enrollment, many groups are working on this.

Discussion and resources were given on Dark Store Impact on funding. Russell Hill, assessor from Washington County, has created talking points and sample documents that can be used. Dr. Hart expressed interest in a zoom meeting in November with Mr. Hill and Ms. Bailey said she will get started on that.

**Federal Updates:** On October 9, 2020 the USDA announced that it would extend flexibilities to allow free meals to continue to be available to all children throughout the entire 2020-21 school year.

The U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services will be providing up to 125 million cloth masks to states for distribution to schools. It is expected these will be available by early November.

**General Updates:** October 16<sup>th</sup> is the hard deadline for hot spots for T Mobile. If schools have not submitted by then, they will not be considered.

**TEACHER CENTER UPDATES:** Monica Morris

**Ready for Learning:** Districts that revise the District Support Plan, including changes such as early release or planned virtual days, need to post the revised plan to the district website under "State Required Information." The URL to the revised District Support Plan should be emailed to [ade.rfi@arkansas.gov](mailto:ade.rfi@arkansas.gov) with a highlight on the revision.

**Standards and Assessment:** The SR01 code is the only code required for Cycle 2: Employee table.

All new CTE Program Start-up Applications for 2021-22 are due on November 2, 2020. Please contact Shannon Puckett if you want more information or have questions.

The Gifted and Talented approvals are due October 15, 2020.

**TESS/LEADS/Licensure/Mentoring:** Praxis support through 240 Tutoring subscriptions is available for free for novice teachers needing to pass the Praxis. Contact Vicki Jewell for more information.

**Other Information:** SWAEC has portable fingerprinting machines that can be brought to the districts for fingerprinting employees.

T-Mobile project has 18,000 hotspots for free for qualifying students. The deadline is October 16, 2020.

The National Board does not have funds to disperse for National Board Sites this year but SWAEC has decided to continue the support with local funds in order to assist teachers.

Ms. Morris informed all the superintendents that she has more of the Spanish Covid information booklets and to let her know if they need any more.

With no other business a motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Robert Poole and seconded by Tom Wilson. The meeting was adjourned.