

**Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative Board's Minutes  
May 12, 2021**

**Schools Present:** Hope, Genoa, Fouke, Spring Hill, Lafayette (proxy), Texarkana via ZOOM

**Schools Not Present:** Nevada, Blevins, Prescott

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

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Buie.

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

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

**DIRECTOR'S UPDATE:** Phoebe Bailey

Paper Bid: Ms. Bailey presented the three vendors who submitted a paper bid quote. A motion was made by Tom Wilson to accept the quote of Contract Paper Group of \$29.77 per case. The motion was seconded by Bobby Hart and the motion carried.

Personnel Slate: Sarah Allen was recommended to the Board for hire by Ms. Bailey for the position of Ed. Examiner. Ms. Bailey also recommended the RIF action for the Texarkana early childhood staff consisting of Teri Avery, Denise Davis, Amy Leslie, Kristin Parker, Barbara Stuckey, Hazel Smith, and Sharon Wickless. A motion was made by Tom Wilson to accept Ms. Bailey's recommendations and was seconded by Gary Jameson and the motion passed.

Annual Report: Ms. Bailey informed the Board that the Southwest Co-op 2021 Annual Report was complete. She let them know that a copy was available on in the superintendent Google Drive board folder and that upon their approval a copy would be submitted to the state. Gary Jameson made a motion to approve the report and was seconded by Bobby Hart.

Early Childhood Update: Ms. Bailey gave the superintendents a handout which contained the ECH Program Update for 2021-22. Based on current balances, there will be an anticipated carryover which will enable the co-op to continue billing the districts at the current year rate of \$800.00 per student. Without the carryover, the student cost would increase to \$1100.00 per student.

Legislative Update: Ms. Bailey gave everyone a handout of the education bills that have recently been signed by the Governor. She also gave the superintendents a link to the ESSER Fact Sheet from DESE.

Ms. Bailey let the superintendents know that ESSER expenditure requests requiring pre approval is slowing down allowing DESE to make sure districts are meeting the intent of the funding. The plans are not about having a budget, but having priorities and actions on what you are going to do. DESE has stated their role is not to approve the plan, but to make sure plans meet the requirements.

**TEACHER CENTER UPDATES:** Monica Morris

Ms. Morris told the Board that the cooperative's user satisfaction survey is open. She asked the superintendents to encourage all staff members who interact with the co-op to please complete the

survey. She also informed them that the Administrator Institute conference will be held virtually on July 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **Standards and Assessment**

- 2021-22 Preliminary Testing Calendar can be found in Commissioner's Memo LS-21-055
- Pre-K Rise will be available throughout the state.

### **TESS/LEADS/Licensure/Mentoring**

- Mrs. Morris shared that Kelly McLaughlin has provided a training webinar on end of the year processes for EdReflect for Organizational Administrators (district level) and administrators (building level).
- Beginning Administrator Registry can be found in Commissioner's Memo: LIC-21-019

### **Other Information**

- Online Teacher Academy will provide an in-depth understanding of digital instruction to their students, knowledge and tools to be a teacher leader for online teaching and knowledge to pass the Online Teaching Performance Assessment and earn an Online Teaching Endorsement.
- A training for how to report educational neglect by Dan Mack, the administrator of the Arkansas Child Abuse Hotline, is on May 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00
- ESOL Institute is encouraging staff to earn their ESL Endorsement. All participants will receive full tuition scholarships by agreeing to add the ESL endorsement to their teaching license.

### **ADDITIONAL ITEMS:**

David Henderson addressed the Board with technology updates. Mr. Henderson let the superintendents know that continuity of operations for schools and co-ops will no longer have access to ACOOP and does not have a plan for a replacement program. DESE said a Word or Google Document is acceptable for this as long as the platform is secure and only accessible by people who can edit it. After the plan is finalized, a PDF format may be used so others can view it but not be able to edit it. Dr. Buie asked who would be scoring this type of format and Mr. Henderson said he will look into this. Mr. Henderson also informed the board that guidelines on ESSER funding for E-rate programs are becoming more relaxed.

Shannon Puckett gave a presentation to the Board about a curriculum piece that can be added to CTE classes called Career Readiness Certification. After completion of the program, students will gain basic, work ready skills. Ms. Puckett asked the districts to add their schools to a list of employers in this region that recognize this certification. Ms. Puckett will send the superintendents a link to add their school.

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