

**Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative Board's Minutes  
February 6, 2020**

**Schools Present:** Hope, Lafayette, Genoa, Nevada Proxy – Tonda Pennington, Prescott, Texarkana, Blevins

**Schools Not Present:** Fouke, Spring Hill

**Co-op Staff Present:** Monica Morris, Gina Perkins, Eva Wood, Elsie Roach

**Guests Present:** John Coleman and Jacob Estes, Entegrity Partners

The meeting was called to order by President Angie Bryant.

Robert Poole made a motion to approve the minutes from January, seconded by Bobby Hart.  
The minutes were approved.

Robert Edwards made a motion to approve the financial and expenditure reports from January.  
Bobby Hart seconded the motion. Motion Passed.

**DIRECTOR CONTRACT**

The board went into executive session at 10:30 A.M. and returned to regular session at 10:39 A.M.

Robert Poole made a motion to extend Ms. Bailey's contract by an additional year. Robert Edwards seconded the motion. Motion Passed.

**ENERGY COST SAVINGS PRESENTATION** – John Coleman, Entegrity Partners

John Coleman and Jacob Estes spoke to the board about how their company can help schools save money on energy costs, with energy efficient updates. They explained how the process works and all the ways a school can benefit from their services. The superintendents should reach out to Mr. Coleman for more information.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATES FROM AESA** – Phoebe Bailey

Dr. Hernandez will coordinate a program between DESE, DHS and ADH to test for lead in the water at school districts.

The Federal Government ruled that the Free Care Rule was no longer in effect and that Medicaid reimbursement was available for services as long as all other Medicaid requirements are met.

There was a discussion about E-rate and how the law is written. The discussion included how to claim funding for buses as classrooms, for wifi on buses, and, how to be able to claim cybersecurity costs.

Ms. Bailey handed out a summary of academic standards that shows how expectations have increased, but the funding hasn't.

All board members were reminded to ensure that bullying documentation is being kept correctly.

DESE is changing how National Board stipends are being sent to teachers, due to an IRS issue. The stipend will now go through district payroll. More information on how the payment process is going to change is forthcoming.

The Commissioner wanted each Co-op to remind their districts that AMI days should be used as a last resort after their built in bad weather days are used. There was also a discussion on extra-curricular activities and sporting events taking place while districts are using an AMI day.

### **ECH FUNDING UPDATE**

Ms. Bailey explained to the board that the state has released funding to help with the influx of EIDT students. They are working on trying to send more funds for 2020-2021 to help offset the cost. Ms. Bailey shared the current cost per student and the projected increase in next year's cost.

### **TEACHER CENTER UPDATES** – Monica Morris

PD Reports – Mrs. Morris shared the PD Report from the survey that was sent to administrators in the Southwest Co-op area.

**PERSONNEL** – Ms. Bailey announced the retirement of two SWAEC employees, Elsie Roach and Donna Carozza, effective June 30, 2020. She recommended to accept both notices. Robert Edwards made a motion to accept the recommendation, seconded by Bobby Hart. Motion Passed.

### **OTHER ITEMS**

With no further business, Robert Edwards made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tonda Pennington seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.