Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative Board’s Minutes
August 12, 2020

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

Schools Not Present: Prescott, Nevada

Co-op Staff Present via Zoom: Monica Morris, Gina Perkins, Eva Wood, Tanya Collins, Lynn Foster, Shannon Puckett

Guests Present: Integrity Health: David Preston, Cliff Preston, Shawn Bernard, Dustin Barton.

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Buie.

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

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

PERKINS V UPDATE: Shannon Puckett gave an update on Perkins procedures and reimbursements. She will be sending this out to the school districts, as well as the link to the Google site where she is sharing handouts. Ms. Puckett discussed the procedure to become qualified as a completer in CTE. She also discussed blended learning and technical assistance visits. Start up applications for a CTE program are being accepted beginning September 1, 2020 and must be completed by November 2, 2020. Ms. Puckett advised that she is available to all school districts to meet and collaborate.

PERSONNEL: Vanessa Shelburne and Gail McClenton submitted resignation letters. Tom Wilson made a motion to accept the resignations and Bobby Hart seconded the motion. Motion passed.

SALARY RESOLUTION: Ms. Bailey presented a salary resolution for board approval. It includes employees who incurred a 5% or more salary increase between the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 fiscal years. Bobby Hart made a motion to approve. Tom Wilson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

PROXY FORMS: Ms. Bailey reminded all school districts to submit their proxy forms to us.

INTEGRITY HEALTH: David Preston with Integrity Health presented to school districts options for on-line mental health services. All services comply with privacy regulations. They are offering KIOSK’s to rent to provide these services. Robert Edwards asked about multiple campuses and Cliff Preston said they will install and maintain 1 KIOSK a month for $575.00, 2 machines for $450.00 and 3 or more for $350.00. He also said schools can get 1 machine for free for the first year.

OTHER ITEMS: Monica Morris spoke about a zoom meeting she had with Blue and You. Blue and You will be giving the co-op grant monies to be filtered down to the schools for covid related issues. Schools will have a year to spend the money. The money each district gets is based on last school year attendance. The amount is not yet known. In September’s board meeting it can be discussed on how to allocate and spend the funds. After the money is used a report to Blue and You will be due to tell how the money was spent.

Ms. Morris also spoke about the professional development offered over the summer. Mrs. Morris stated that 1400 teachers received PD through the co-op which is down about 400 from a normal summer.

Ms. Bailey informed the superintendent’s that the co-op will be writing a grant for all the districts for their SPED teachers to buy software for virtual equipment.
Ms. Bailey said an email was sent to inform schools that coding is different in eschool for virtual students and to let their eschool personnel know.

Ms. Bailey said portable foggers and mist will be going out to all districts from the co-op as soon as all supplies are in. Also, nurses will be getting thermometers and N-95 masks. Ms. Bailey said if districts are in need of any PPE equipment and the co-op has it we will share what we have. Tom Wilson also advised that the National Guard will also donate equipment to schools.

Ms. Bailey mentioned that the legislative committee nominations are due by September 15th. After a brief discussion it was decided that Bobby Hart would do the Finance/Facilities, Becky Kessler will do Curriculum and Tom Wilson will do Governance.

September 9th was set for the next board meeting.

With no other business a motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Robert Edwards and seconded by Bobby Hart.