

**Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative Board's Minutes
October 12, 2016**

Schools Present: Nevada, Texarkana, Genoa, Fouke, Hope, Spring Hill

Schools Not Present: Blevins, Prescott, Lafayette

Co-op Staff Present: Monica Morris, Elsie Roach, Gina Perkins, Karen Massey, David Henderson

The meeting was called to order by President Bobby Hart.

Angie Raney made a motion to approve the minutes from September, seconded by Rick McAfee. The minutes were approved.

Angie Raney made a motion to approve the financial and expenditure reports from September. Rick McAfee seconded the motion. Motion Passed.

STATE AND FEDERAL MEETING UPDATES – Ms. Bailey

The House and Senate Education Committees met to continue their review of Adequacy. Transportation was a major item of discussion. The other discussion was in regards to taking line items in the budget and applying a COLA to each item. Committees voted to recommend an increase in special education catastrophic funding.

The COLA percentage will be lower than the amounts that Global Insights and Moody's Analytics predict over the next two years.

Teacher Retirement Updates – It was noted that we “have a leakage of contributions”, due to outsourcing and early retirement. Four possible solutions are being discussed to fix the outsourcing problem. ATRS will probably look at doing one or two things: Choice of letting embedded employees participate in the system or adding a 7% surcharge. There is also a chance that meaningful legislation to do damage to the system will be introduced.

AESA Call to Action Legislative Conference – Ms. Bailey attended the conference and gave the following updates: The Perkins bill passed the House with only 5 opposed; the Senate is looking at a bipartisan House bill, but, is also considering their own bill.

The main ESSA discussion revolved around USED's effort to achieve statutory changes not in law, such as, changes to comparability provision through supplement not supplant.

In regards to funding, the current proposal has a \$200 million shortfall, even with the SIG money in Title 1. IDEA is funded at the 2009 level. The low amounts have been put into Title IV and SSAEG. There are two nutrition bills proposed. AESA is opposed to the Senate bill and support the House version. Both have large changes in verification of Free and Reduced Eligibility.

STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM YEAR 2 ROLL OUT – Ms. Bailey shared the results from the Student Loan Forgiveness Program that was implemented last year. The program has been very successful for those who qualified. The Co-op will participate in the program and open up enrollment again in November, 2016.

ECH PERSONNEL – Karen Massey recommended the employment of Morgan Pierce as a Paraprofessional in the Lafayette 3-5 classroom. Angie Raney made a motion to accept the recommendation, seconded by Rick McAfee. Motion Passed.

Ms. Massey also recommended advertising for the position of a Paraprofessional in the Hope 3-5 classroom. Forrest Mulkey made a motion to accept the recommendation. Rick McAfee seconded the motion. Motion Passed.

CODE.ORG ROLL OUT – David Henderson spoke about the Co-op becoming a professional learning partner with Code.org. He will be the program manager. The program is in need of Code.org facilitators and classroom teachers to implement the curriculum in the Co-op’s area.

Computer Science Week will occur in December with the hour of code program. David Henderson will be helping schools that are participating.

Ms. Bailey spoke briefly about the possibility of a Computer Science position at the Co-op to assist with these projects. The ADE is placing three to four specialists in cooperatives around the state and will announce soon which co-ops get the specialists.

TEACHER CENTER UPDATES – Monica Morris

STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENT – Writing times for the ACT Aspire have been extended for the 2016-2017 school year. ACT Aspire has added scored writing samples at each grade level to the Exemplar Test Question Booklets.

Mrs. Morris pointed out several “must avoids” for the Periodic Assessments.

An All Region-All State Coding Competition will be held on November 7, 2016 at the Co-op.

TESS/LEADS/LICENSURE – Three Leadership Quest sessions will be held at the Co-op in September, November, and February.

Online license renewal is now available through the ADE.

BloomBoard Training will be held October 26, 2016.

IMPACT ARKANSAS FELLOWSHIP – Christopher Johnson was unable to make the meeting, but, sent information on IMPACT Arkansas. The program’s purpose is to prepare future administrators in low-income schools throughout Arkansas.

NOVEMBER MEETING DATE – The board decided to discuss Legislative Committee Members at the next meeting in November.

OTHER ITEMS:

Ms. Bailey spoke about the upcoming meeting with the Legislative Audit Committee that she and Mr. Hart will attend on Oct 13, 2016.

The Co-op will host the Become a Teacher Event on October 25, 2016.

With no further business, Rick McAfee made a motion to adjourn. Angie Raney seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.