

**Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative Board's Minutes
November 11, 2020**

Schools Present: Fouke, Hope, Genoa, Prescott

Schools Present via Zoom: Nevada, Texarkana, Spring Hill, Lafayette

Schools Not Present: Blevins

Co-op Staff Present: Phoebe Bailey, Monica Morris, David Henderson, Tanya Collins, Eva Wood, Gina Perkins: via zoom

Guests Present: Russell Hill: via zoom

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Buie.

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

Bobby Hart made a motion to approve the financial and expenditure reports for October and Jay Turley seconded the motion. Motion passed.

STATE UPDATES: Phoebe Bailey

- Ms. Bailey handed out a handout from Norman Hill, a consultant from Southeast Co-op, created a spreadsheet for all cooperatives showing projected funding in light of many districts having declining enrollment in the 2020-21 school year. This data can be used in the legislative discussion concerning a potential Hold Harmless bill.
- DESE created a Google folder with data for the 2020-21 school year focusing on enrollment:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1jVwlaJcXeH9fnd1-Skw74iVcBIF-UgHc>

- US Dept. of Education released a Parent and Family Digital Learning Guide. This resource is to help parents and guardians understand how digital tools can provide learning opportunities.
- AAEA Legislative Committee shared a link to the proposed state budget:

<https://www.arkleg.state.ar.us>

- Senator Ingram is working on possible legislation for a Hold Harmless bill. He is hoping to drop the bill on the first day of session. Each district would possibly have to choose if they want to use the Hold Harmless act or the current funding process in place.

TEACHER CENTER UPDATES: Monica Morris

Standards and Assessment

- The governor announced Phase I priorities for Computer Science as follows: Requires one CS credit to graduate. Requires every public high school to have a CS certified teacher. Provides incentives for training and teaching CS. Increase internships and partnerships with private technology companies.
- Special Education Cycle 4 Data: There are a series of webinars to assist in reporting numbers accurately for child count. Cycle 4 closes on December 15, 2020.

TESS/LEADS/Licensure/Mentoring

- TESS summative Evaluations Waiver: The waiver remains in place for the 2020-21 school year and is optional for districts.

Other Information

- Data Quest zoom sessions have been scheduled for the year. Principals will share information regarding the use of data in their schools. The next session is December 9th from 9-10 a.m.
- Vaccination and Immunization reports are due December 1, 2020.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS: Russell Hill, Washington County Assessor

Mr. Hill briefed the board on ongoing litigation in Pulaski County where Wal Mart is trying to decrease the property taxes using the Dark Store theory. Mr. Hill provided documentation showing the potential revenue loss each district could experience if this happens. Ms. Bailey shared a video with talking points for the superintendents to share with their community to help bring awareness to the situation.

With no other business, Bobby Hart made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Garry Jameson. The meeting was adjourned.