

**Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative Board's Minutes
October 17, 2018**

Schools Present: Lafayette, Spring Hill, Fouke, Genoa Proxy – Debbie Huff, Texarkana Proxy – Lea Metcalf, Prescott Proxy – Jay Turley , Nevada, Hope

School Not Present: Blevins

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

The meeting was called to order by President Robert Edwards.

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

Bobby Hart made a motion to approve the financial and expenditure reports from September. Carroll Purtle seconded the motion. Motion Passed.

STATE AND FEDERAL MEETING UPDATE – Phoebe Bailey

State – A committee, representing cooperatives around the state, presented to legislatures at the Education Caucus on October 8, 2018 to discuss Early Childhood funding. Funding per child has decreased each year since 2014-2015.

Federal – Ms. Bailey shared information on two proposed legislative bills. The first concerning mental health services for students and the other focusing on improving access to mental health services. Other items discussed were teacher shortage, ESSA fiscal reporting, Wi-Fi on buses, and nutrition.

TEACHER CENTER UPDATES – Monica Morris was unable to attend the meeting. Updates will be sent to all board members electronically.

EXPLORE SUCCESS REVIEW (CTE) – The Explore Success event was very successful. There were over 1,000 students present, along with several industries and colleges. The students heard presentations and were able to ask questions of the industry representatives. A follow up discussion with stakeholders was held at the conclusion of the day to review and make suggestions.

FIDUCIUS LOAN FORGIVENESS ROLLOUT – Ms. Bailey reminded the board of the Loan Forgiveness Program that SWAEC supports through AESA. Over half of the applicants, in the cooperative's area, have been approved and have experienced savings between \$101 and \$811 per month.

PERSONNEL – Ms. Bailey notified the board of the following resignations:

Darlene Estes, Professional Development Clerk, effective September 28, 2018.

Deborah Propps, Math Specialist, effective June 30, 2019

Bobby Hart made a motion to accept the resignations, seconded by Rick McAfee. Motion Passed.

OTHER ITEM – The next meeting will be held November 14, 2018.

With no further business, Bobby Hart made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jim Buie. The meeting was adjourned.