

Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative Board's Minutes

February 8, 2018

Schools Present: Spring Hill, Hope, Fouke, Prescott, Texarkana, Nevada Proxy – Michael Odom, Genoa, Lafayette, Blevins

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

Guests Present: Jennifer Block – Vice President of Children Services, Rainbow of Challenges

The meeting was called to order by President Becky Kesler.

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. Angie Raney seconded the motion. Motion Passed.

PROPOSED REVISION TO ABC & DHS RULES – Jennifer Block

Ms. Block updated the board on the proposed changes to children's services in the state. DHS is considering restricting service eligibility to only children who require speech, occupational, or physical therapy. This would leave a large number of children in the state ineligible for developmental preschool services. DHS plans to move these children to state-funded programs, such as, Co-op ECH 3-5 Programs and district-based ABC sites. This move would cause an influx of approximately 10,000 children into these programs within the first few years. Ms. Block has suggested that the superintendents contact their local representatives and DHS to voice their opinion on the proposed changes.

UPDATE ON SCHOOL NURSES – Mrs. Morris handed out copies of an update from Edie Greenwood, CHN. Edie Greenwood wants to spread the word about the School Nurse Academy on April 4, 2018, at Hempstead Hall. There is no charge for the training, but, it is limited to 40 nurses. The handout also covered the Stop the Bleed Program that provides training and tourniquet kits to Arkansas schools.

REMINDER OF SCHOOL CALENDARS – Ms. Bailey asked the superintendents to please send a copy of their 2018-2019 calendar to her, as they are approved.

TEACHER CENTER UPDATES – Monica Morris

STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENT – Beginning in the 2018-2019 school year, the state will move to a new alternative assessment. This assessment is for students with the most cognitive disabilities.

The ADE is planning 2018 summer training sessions for ACT Aspire. Mrs. Morris shared an attachment with dates and links to register. This will be held Friday, July 13, 2018, at Hempstead Hall.

The ADE has announced a No Limits Campaign. The campaign is to increase awareness of the importance of taking the ACT. All schools will be receiving posters and flyers to use in their districts. Districts are also asked to show the video to all juniors.

Beginning in the 2018-2019 school year, a graduation requirement will be to pass the Naturalization Test. The questions are the exact questions from the US Citizenship exam. Any student that has completed Civics may go ahead and take the assessment.

The entering freshman class of 2017-2018 will be required to have specific instruction in personal finance standards in grades 10, 11, or 12, prior to graduation.

A statewide webinar, A Leader's Role in Enhancing Teachers' Collaborative Data Use to Improve Student Learning, will be held February 14, 2018, at 9:00 A.M. Mrs. Morris shared the link to register.

Research & Technology Ambassador Academy will be held February 27-28, 2018, at Maumelle High School.

The Science of Reading Conference will be held March 5-6, 2018, at the Hot Springs Convention Center. This conference is free for Arkansas Public and Charter School Educators.

The superintendents should contact Mary Berry, Kelly Cornelius, or Karen Harris if they have teachers that they would like to participate in RISE.

The K-8 Computer Science Lead Teacher Stipend and Training Program is a 5-day professional development session, where teachers can gain a 528 Computer Science Endorsement on their Arkansas Educator's License.

TESS/LEADS/LICENSURE/MENTORING

Novice Teacher – Upcoming dates are February 21-22, 2018.

SWAEC Leadership Quest Training has been rescheduled for March 7, 2018, after the Administrator PD Preview Session.

The ESSA website has informational summaries for each component of the ESSA School Index. Updated Draft school reports were posted Monday, January 29, 2018.

OTHER INFORMATION – A session for the Federal Grants Management System has been scheduled for March 16, 2018. Federal Coordinators are encouraged to attend.

Parental Involvement is required for the 2018-2019 school year.

The ADE is seeking applications for a pilot program to extend the amount of daily recess time for students in Kindergarten through Grade 6.

Applications are still open for the Arkansas Declaration of Learning (ADOL) Program. Applications close at 11:59 P.M. February 25, 2018.

NOMINATIONS FOR SUPERINTENDENT/TEACHER OF THE YEAR: RURAL ED – Nominations are being accepted for Superintendent of the Year and Teacher of the Year. Ms. Bailey will send a reminder and the application packet electronically.

The board went into executive session.

DIRECTOR'S CONTRACT – Upon returning from executive session, Bobby Hart made a motion to renew Ms. Bailey's contract for 2018-2019 and to extend her contract 1 year. Robert Poole seconded the motion. Motion Passed. The evaluation of the director will be shared by Dr. Kesler once the information is compiled.

BOARD STRATEGIC PLANNING: AR LEADERSHIP ACADEMY – The AR Leadership Academy began work with the board on strategic planning. This is the first of a series of four meetings to develop a common mission for the SWAEC Board of Directors.

OTHER ITEMS:

Ms. Bailey informed the board that the Co-op is considering placing a community library box on campus, to encourage literacy and the love of reading in the community. She also noted that it might be a good project for one of the district's agriculture programs, if any are interested.

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