

Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative Board's Minutes

March 10, 2021

Schools Present: Lafayette (proxy-Opal Anderson), Prescott (proxy-Jay Turley), Fouke, Genoa, and Spring Hill.

Schools Present via Zoom: Hope (proxy-Joselyn Wiley), Texarkana, and Nevada.

Schools Not Present: Blevins

Co-op Staff Present: Phoebe Bailey, Monica Morris, Gina Perkins, Tanya Collins, Lynn Foster and Eva Wood.

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Buie.

Garry Jameson made a motion to approve the minutes from February, seconded by Tom Wilson. The minutes were approved.

Garry Jameson made a motion to approve the financial and expenditure reports for February and Tom Wilson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

DIRECTOR UPDATES: Phoebe Bailey

Paper Bid - Ms. Bailey handed out forms to the superintendents asking for the number of cases of paper they want for the 2021-22 school year. The forms are due to SWAEC by Monday, April 5, 2021.

Calendar Proposal- The SWAEC calendar for the 2021-22 school year was proposed. Tom Wilson made a motion to accept the calendar and was seconded by Jay Turley. The motion passed and the calendar was accepted.

Personnel Policy - Due to new guidance from ASBA Model Policy, Ms. Bailey shared proposed changes to personnel policy. Tom Wilson made a motion to accept the new policy changes and was seconded by Garry Jameson. The motion passed.

Program MOUs - Ms. Bailey shared initial agreements for SWAEC Consortiums. The forms were passed out and were asked to be turned back to the co-op by Thursday, April 1st.

PERSONNEL

Ms. Bailey presented a personnel packet to the Board recommending the hiring of Vanessa Shelburne as Science Specialist on a 240 day contract beginning July 1, 2021. She also recommended accepting the retirement notice of Letha Duke as Educational Examiner and the resignation of Patricia Jameson as LEA Supervisor. Garry Jameson made a motion to accept the slate as recommended. Tom Wilson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

TEACHER CENTER UPDATES: Monica Morris

Ms. Morris announced the dates for upcoming summer professional development. The virtual LARK conference (Lower Arkansas Technology Fest) will be June 15-17, 2021. She also gave dates for the Administrator Institute virtual conference which will be July 12-13, 2021. The Teach Southwest Conference with keynotes Gerry Brooks and Tyler Tarver will be at Hempstead Hall on July 28-29, 2021.

Standards and Assessment

Cycle 6 will be April 1-15 2021. Populating proficiency codes in eFinance for the Science of Reading should only happen as proficiency or awareness is achieved by the educator.

A new support course option for students in Algebra I, called Critical Algebra I, will be available beginning 2021-22 and will count toward the Smart Core requirements.

Inclusive practices training opportunities will be available this summer at SWAEC on July 14, 2021.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

Ms. Bailey shared updates from the current legislative session. She explained that House Bill 1371 is scheduled to run in the House Ed. on Tuesday the 16th. This bill, if approved, would provide a tax credit to designated donations to a scholarship program that provides payments to individuals for private school tuition.

House Bill 1610 was also discussed. It focuses on training and seclusion in that it would be law to train all staff not just special education teachers.

House Bill 1614 would set a statewide target for average teacher salary at \$51,822.

DIGITAL PLAN:

Ms. Bailey shared more information concerning the K-6 digital offering that co-ops around the state are providing for member districts. She provided an information sheet covering anticipated costs, student teacher ratio, provider information and curriculum ideas. It was also mentioned that if there are not enough student numbers to house this program at SWAEC, Ms. Bailey will broker seats from other participating cooperatives if districts need the service. .

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

Ms. Morris announced ESC training will be available virtually on March 12th through the co-op. Dr. Buie asked for help with eSchool training and Ms. Morris said she will speak with Bonita Flint for help with that.

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

