

Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative Board's Minutes
March 10, 2015

Schools Present: Spring Hill, Blevins, Prescott, Fouke, Texarkana, Hope, Nevada, Genoa, Lafayette

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

The meeting was called to order by the president, Billy Lee.

Robert Poole made a motion to approve the minutes for February, seconded by Angie Raney. The minutes were approved.

Robert Poole made a motion to approve the financial and expenditure reports for February. Angie Raney seconded the motion. Motion passed.

VIRTUAL ARKANSAS REGISTRATION PROCESS – Cathi Swan, State Coordinator of Digital Learning, spoke to the Board in a Zoom meeting. Ms. Swan explained that registration for online classes opens this week. Schools will have three opportunities to attend training at the Co-op, where they will learn how to register students. Counselors from each school can register and drop students once they have attended training. The 2015-2016 catalog of class offerings has been released online. Virtual Arkansas will offer three different classes that will meet the new law requirement on coding, including a computer science course. In the past, schools have been allowed to enroll students during the first week of school. The deadline for the 2015-2016 school year is August 1, 2015. Having students registered by August 1, 2015 will ensure having a teacher for those classes on the first day of school.

PERSONNEL POLICY APPROVAL – SWAEC Personnel Policy Committee met on March 6, 2015. Ms. Bailey presented the proposed changes suggested by the committee. Forrest Mulkey made a motion to approve the policy changes. Angie Raney seconded the motion. Motion passed.

TEACHER CENTER UPDATES – Monica Morris

PARCC/CCSS – HB1241 to discontinue the use of PARCC testing was passed by the House and sent to the Senate on March 6, 2015.

If this bill becomes law, other testing options are being explored, including ACT Aspire. This series of assessments offer exams for grades 3-8, early high school for grade 9 or 10, and ACT for grade 11. It has a science component that could be accessed. It does not have a writing component, or a social studies component.

TESS/LEADS – The next TEAC meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2015.

If the districts have a new administrator that needs to take the Focus Assessment, they will need to email Ivy Pfeffer in order to get a Teachscape account.

TESS/LEADS trainings will be available during the AAEA summer conference, August 4-5, 2015. This training has been combined into a half-day training. Three sessions of this training will be offered during the conference.

SWAEC will be providing training on TESS law and process, as well as, training on the four domains of TESS to new teachers during the summer.

DYSLEXIA – Senator Elliott has filed Senate Bill 788. This bill will revise the requirements for Act 1294 of 2013.

OTHER INFORMATION:

Educator Career Fair is scheduled for April 18, 2015. Deborah Coffman sent an email to all superintendents with details.

Computer Science now has a Praxis and a licensure area. Cut scores are going before the State Board of Education next month. A licensed teacher can “test out” in order to add computer science to their license.

New rules for Provisional Professional Teaching License (PPTL) are out for public comment. To see the changes, look at chapter 5, page 50.

LDC/MDC training includes six days of professional development (three during the summer and three during the school year), a minimum of six on-site technical assistance visits, and four administrator webinars. ADE is also planning to provide free resources to those schools that have already completed the Year 1 training, such as, Understanding by Design, LDC Jurying, and workbook materials to expand instructional capacity. All trainings for LDC/MDC are free to school districts. The only cost incurred by the district would be district employee travel to the training locations.

March 6, 2015 and March 10, 2015 – LDC/MDC Rollout Plan Released

March 12, 2015 – LDC/MDC Administrator Webinar

April 1, 2015 – 2015-2016 Cohort Application Deadline

April 10, 2015 – 2015-2016 Cohort Applicants Notified

Dates for those who will participate during 2015-2016

Agreement must be signed with ADE stating that the building principal will attend all training sessions.

SWAEC Dates:

July 14-16, 2015 – MDC

August 4-6, 2015 – LDC

Registration for SWAEC 2015 Summer Professional Development will open Friday, March 13, 2015.

UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

March 11, 2015 – The Genius of Virtual Arkansas
March 18, 2015 – GT Coordinator Meeting
April 16, 2015 – The Genius of Virtual Arkansas
May 28, 2015 – The Genius of Virtual Arkansas
June 1-4, 2015 – CGI 1
June 8, 2015 – Triand for System Administrators (AM)
June 8, 2015 – Triand for Counselors (PM)
June 10-11, 2015 – Student Voice
June 15, 2015 – BloomBoard for Teachers (AM and PM Sessions)
June 29-30, 2015 – Administrators’ Institute
July 14, 2015 – TESS with Diann Gathright
July 15, 2015 – TESS with Diann Gathright
July 22, 2015 – Jim Johnson (Topic TBA)
July 24, 2015 – Education Law
July 27, 2015 – EAST
July 31, 2015 – Special Education Law

2015-2016 SCHOOL CALENDAR DISCUSSION – Ms. Bailey asked the superintendents to send a copy of their board approved 2015-2016 school calendars. These calendars will be used as the Co-op works on its calendar for the upcoming year.

Most districts have decided to start the school year on August 17, 2015 to coincide with Virtual Arkansas.

TECHNOLOGY UPDATES – David Henderson

The Co-op hosted successful PARCC Workdays in January, February, and March. Teacher trainings conducted at district sites were also done. These sessions were geared to meet the specific needs of the teachers.

Mr. Henderson stated that overall testing has gone as expected, based on what schools saw from the field tests. Pearson should be notified of any difficulties that arise.

ECH UPDATES – Karen Massey

The Early Childhood Program is preparing to transition students from the 3-5 program to Kindergarten in March and April. The Co-op is still looking for a teacher to support the Texarkana and Hope sites.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES – Ms. Bailey spoke to the board about legislative bills that have been recently passed into law and new bills that may be of interest.

With no further business, Robert Poole made a motion to adjourn. Forrest Mulkey seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.