

Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative Board's Minutes
August 22, 2016

Schools Present: Hope, Nevada, Genoa, Prescott, Texarkana, Spring Hill, Blevins, Lafayette Proxy –Janet Walker

School Not Present: Fouke

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

The meeting was called to order by President Bobby Hart.

Billy Lee made a motion to approve the minutes from June, seconded by Robert Poole. The minutes were approved.

Robert Poole made a motion to approve the financial and expenditure reports from June and July. Rick McAfee seconded the motion. Motion Passed.

SALARY RESOLUTION – Ms. Bailey presented a salary resolution to be approved by the board. It includes employees who incurred a 5% increase in salary in the 2015-2016 fiscal year. It was also noted that there are no 5% or more increases for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. Billy Lee made a motion to approve the salary resolution. Angie Raney seconded the motion. Motion Passed.

CONTRACT RESOLUTION FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT – Ms. Bailey presented a two-year contract resolution for Chad Morris and Mandy Drews to present professional development. The resolution limits earnings to \$2,000 per fiscal year. Angie Raney made a motion to approve the contract resolution. Robert Poole seconded the motion. Motion Passed. The resolution was submitted to the AR Department of Education and Commissioner Key for approval.

ECH SUBTEACH DISCUSSION – There was a brief discussion about which schools contract with SubTeach or WillSub to obtain substitute teachers. Ms. Massey brought up the issue of the Co-op using substitutes as a purchased service is no longer allowed, per audit. The board unanimously agreed that the districts would be willing to pay the early childhood substitutes through existing district contracts and the Co-op will reimburse the schools for payment of the substitutes.

Personnel – Ms. Massey informed the board that Belinda Clark, ECH Paraprofessional at Lewisville, has submitted her resignation. Ms. Bailey recommended accepting the resignation. Rick McAfee made a motion to accept the recommendation, followed by a second from Robert Poole. Motion Passed. Ms. Massey also informed the board that she is currently advertising for paraprofessionals for the Fouke and Lafayette locations.

STATE REPORT – Ms. Bailey gave a report from the July and August State Board of Education meetings. Six School Choice cases were heard in July and August. All, but one, were approved. Key decisions during the two-day meeting revolved around requests from several school districts for Act 1240 waivers. The majority of the waivers were approved. Mineral Springs' petition to change their Academic Distress classification was denied.

Special Education Task Force – Final recommendations were given at this meeting. Legislators serving on the task force commented that many of the goals are not doable, in terms of money available. It is expected that some of the recommendations may result in bills being passed. Ms. Bailey provided a draft copy of the recommendations from the task force report.

TEACHER CENTER COORDINATOR UPDATES – Mrs. Morris

STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENT – Hope Allen provided a 3-hour session to SWAEC Administrators on July 25, 2016. She discussed the ACT Aspire Reports. Mrs. Morris shared the presentation materials from that meeting. ACT Aspire Reports Training will be held at the Co-op on September 16, 2016. Hope Allen is the contact for questions about the training.

SWAEC is sending two specialists to a TOT for an ACT Aspire Periodic Assessment TOT.

A link was shared to access the AIP Webinar held on August 9, 2016 and the QELI Administrator Webinar that was held on August 3, 2016.

Governor Hutchinson and the ADE announced this week the #ARKidsCanCode Computer Science Enrollment Contest for the 2016-2017 school year.

The SBE has voted to approve the following opportunities as part of the computer science implementation grid:

- Computer Science Independent Study

- Computer Science Internship

The SBE approved these new computer science courses for the 2017-2018 school year:

- Computer Science HS Courses Levels 1-4

- Advanced Programming

- Advanced Networking

- Advanced Information Security

The ADE has limited AP Equipment and Material Grant Funds available.

TESS/LEADS/LICENSURE – Leadership Quest will focus on “Creating a Great Place to Work and Learn” this year. The following sessions will be offered at SWAEC:

- Establishing a Culture of High Expectations Promoting Professionalism –

 - September 21-22, 2016

- Schools of the 22nd Century – Leveraging Innovations & Opportunities to Create Your Future – November 15-16, 2016

- Fostering Collaborative Relationships – February 22-23, 2017

There are several trainings for beginning administrators who missed mentor training.

Mrs. Morris sent links to information about these trainings. Novice Teacher Mentor Training is scheduled for August 25, 2016.

ESSA – SAU, South Central and Southwest Co-ops will host Commissioner Key’s Listening Forum on Monday, September 19, 2016, from 5:30 P.M.– 7:00 P.M., at SAU, D.W. Reynolds Campus and Community Center, Grand Hall C, Magnolia, AR.

OTHER INFORMATION – September is the annual Take Your Legislator to School Month.

Learning Blade is a statewide initiative to increase access for computer science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) careers in every middle school.

Mrs. Morris has worked with Jeff Dyer from the ADE on creating an event to promote teacher recruitment in our area. SWAEC will host “Become an AR Teacher” on October 25th from 5:00-7:00. She invited the superintendents to set up tables to promote their districts and give information on possibly becoming a teacher for them.

SWAEC EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK – Ms. Bailey presented the board with the 2016-2017 SWAEC Employee Handbook for approval. Rick McAfee motioned to approve the handbook. Billy Lee seconded the motion. The handbook was approved.

2014-2015 SWAEC AUDIT REPORT – Ms. Bailey presented the completed 2014-2015 Audit Report. Rick McAfee made a motion to approve the audit. Robert Poole seconded the motion. Motion Passed.

OTHER ITEM:

The next SWAEC board meeting was scheduled for September 23, 2016.

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