

**Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative Board's Minutes
August 24, 2017**

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

School Not Present: Prescott

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

The meeting was called to order by President Becky Kesler.

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

Bobby Hart made a motion to approve the financial and expenditure reports from June and July.
Billy Lee 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% or more salary increase between the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 fiscal years. Bobby Hart made a motion to approve the salary resolution. Angie Raney seconded the motion. Motion Passed.

PERSONNEL – Ms. Bailey informed the board that they had conducted interviews for the CTE Coordinator position, but did not have a recommendation for the position. The position will remain open and be advertised again in the spring. Mrs. Morris and Ms. Bailey will attend trainings on the maintenance and disbursement of these funds. Angie Raney will help with this process.

Early Childhood Clerk, Valarie Harvel, is transferring to fill the Texarkana paraprofessional position. Ms. Bailey would like to recommend the employment of Tanya Collins for Early Childhood Clerk. Angie Raney made a motion to approve the recommendation, seconded by Billy Lee. Motion Passed.

Ms. Bailey spoke about the staff members who had been recognized during the back to school meeting for years of service and for the Crystal Apple Awards. She also announced the new "One in a Melon" Award, which recognizes exceptional employees on a monthly basis.

STATE REPORT – Ms. Bailey gave updates from the following committees:

Facilities Advisory Committee – Act 801 of 2017 revised the composition of the committee. It also created a more equitable distribution of school officials and professional design members. The Governor met with the committee and discussed the possible need to revise funding cycles and review the facilities requirements, as education is different than it was ten years ago.

The State and Public-School Life and Health Insurance Task Force – Participating membership in the insurance plan is up with the increase spread across all three categories of active, retired, and Medicare members. Revenues for 2017 are up and expenditures for 2017 are down.

Digital Learning Providers Task Force – The overall goal of the group is to provide quality and equality, as well as, looking at ways to overcome barriers to use.

The Senate and House Education Committees – Julie Holt, Legislative Analyst, Bureau of Legislative Research, noted three big changes in the state system as a result of Act 930:

- 1) State support will be provided to school districts, not schools.
- 2) Labels for levels of support will be used in place of academic distress.
- 3) Student focused educational model will drive education delivery.

TEACHER CENTER UPDATES – Monica Morris

STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENT – ACT 480 states that the 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.

ACT Aspire dynamic reports should be accessed prior to August 28, 2017, as they will not be available once the rollover begins.

Training will be available at SWAEC for two of the K-2 Assessments: Renaissance and NWEA.

TESS/LEADS/MENTORING – Experienced administrators from out-of-state and administrators returning to the profession are not included in the BA induction and mentoring. They can attend training that will include topics for Arkansas Administrators on September 12, 2017 at the ADE Arch Ford Building.

Novice Teacher Mentoring – Day 1 will be offered October 2, 2017, with a repeat day October 3, 2017. All teachers required to be mentored must attend one of these sessions.

It is critical that districts update the information by completing the survey as soon as possible, after hiring a first-year novice teacher or a first-year administrator.

Special Education teachers must be mentored separately.

Any teacher that missed TESS Training in August can attend a makeup session September 7, 2017.

Leadership Quest – Day 1 will be held September 12, 2017 and September 13, 2017.

OTHER INFORMATION – Public School of Accountability will be at SWAEC October 12, 2017 for a training. The goal is to prepare Cycle 2 Submission that is void of validation edits that will report on the Initial Accreditation Report.

The fall School Board training will be held October 30, 2017.

The third draft of the ESSA plan has been sent to the Governor's office. Comments can be submitted through August 31, 2017.

The ADE has been working with AETN to create a 30-minute segment on Human Trafficking to meet the new state mandate.

Child Abuse Hotline postings are required per Act 379.

SWAEC EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK – Ms. Bailey presented the 2017-2018 SWAEC Employee Handbook. Robert Edwards made a motion to approve the handbook for use. Rick McAfee seconded the motion. Motion Passed.

PROXY FORMS – Ms. Bailey handed out board proxy designation forms for the superintendents to fill out and return to her.

OTHER ITEMS:

The September meeting will be held September 21, 2017 at 10:30 A.M.

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