

**Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative Board's Minutes
March 14, 2017**

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

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

The meeting was called to order by President Bobby Hart.

Angie Raney made a motion to approve the minutes from February, seconded by Michael Odom. The minutes were approved.

Robert Poole made a motion to approve the financial and expenditure reports from February. Billy Lee seconded the motion. Motion Passed.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – Phoebe Bailey

Two bills introduced at a federal level were shared by Ms. Bailey. One would impact change in the structure of Medicaid and impact the ability of students with disabilities and students in poverty to receive many critical health services in schools. The other would repeal the Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965.

Ms. Bailey also reviewed the details of several other bills at a state level with the superintendents.

PERSONNEL POLICY REVISION BASED ON IRS DISCUSSION – There are personnel policies that the Co-op is working to address after meeting with a CPA regarding IRS regulations. The personnel policy committee will gather policy proposals to present to the board in compliance with these suggestions.

Ms. Bailey also noted the need for a “Square” machine to enable the Co-op to accept credit card payments for professional development and for teacher center purchases.

SALARY SCHEDULE DISCUSSION – Due to change in legislation, Ms. Bailey will be updating the salary schedule to meet the new state minimum salary requirements. Bobby Hart recommended that the Co-op devise a salary schedule based on the average salary of its nine member districts. Ms. Bailey will send the superintendents two to three proposals to review. A salary schedule will be determined at the next board meeting.

TEACHER CENTER UPDATES – Monica Morris

TESS/LEADS – The mentoring program is being given to the Co-ops from the ADE. Mrs. Morris asked for help in forming a committee to design a mentoring program to provide ongoing support to novice teachers.

Building and district leaders should read Act 295 closely as there are several changes in the TESS law.

OTHER INFORMATION - Summer professional development registration will open March 14, 2017. Child maltreatment is the 2017-2018 required PD for all certified staff. The training will be available online through AR IDEAS or districts can schedule Edie Greenwood to provide on-site training at their districts.

UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MEETINGS

March 27-28, 2017 – Behavior Tools

March 29, 2017 – ESL Coordinator Meeting

SUMMER DATES

June 7-8, 2017 – Administrator Institute

June 12, 2017 – ASBA Custodial Maintenance Workshop

July 13, 2017 – Tier 1 and Legislative Updates

CALENDAR PROPOSAL FOR 2017-2018 – Ms. Bailey handed out the proposed Co-op calendar for the 2017/2018 School Year. Billy Lee made a motion to approve the calendar. Angie Raney seconded the motion. Motion passed.

DELIVERY VAN DISCUSSION – Mrs. Morris shared delivery route data that was collected over the past month. Due to the small amount of pickups and deliveries, the board agreed to stop the scheduled van route. The schools will be able to call the Co-op to schedule pickups on an as needed basis.

PERSONNEL – Ms. Bailey stated that the ADE has made a recommendation to hire Jeff Killingsworth for the position of Grants and Projects Coordinator in Little Rock, effective June 5, 2017. Robert Poole made a motion to accept the recommendation. Forrest Mulkey seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Bobby Hart noted that he has collected all the data for director’s evaluation and asked the board if there was any need for further discussion. There was no further discussion.

The board went into executive session at 11:26 and resumed general session at 11:34.

Bobby Hart made a motion to change the title for Monica Morris from Teacher Center Coordinator to Assistant Director. Mrs. Morris is currently obtaining her Superintendent Certification. This change of title will take effect once that certification is complete.

OTHER ITEMS:

Will Harris spoke to the board about the remaining funds in the Perkins budget and how they may be spent. He asked the superintendents reach out to him to make a purchase for their district.

Ms. Bailey asked the superintendents to let her know which districts may be participating in the Education Examiner Consortium for the 2017-2018 school year. She noted that this was not a commitment, but just an estimate to help work on next year’s budget.

The next meeting will be held April 13th, 2017.

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