

**Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative Board's Minutes
February 16, 2017**

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

Co-op Staff Present: Monica Morris, Gina Perkins, Leslie Savell, Elsie Roach, David Henderson, Will Harris

The meeting was called to order by Vice-president, Becky Kessler.

Angie Raney made a motion to approve the minutes from January, seconded by Forrest Mulkey. The minutes were approved.

Robert Poole made a motion to approve the financial and expenditure reports from January. Angie Raney seconded the motion. Motion Passed.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – Phoebe Bailey

The House passed a CRA that nullified rules covering federal standards for teacher training and ESSA. The Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos, wants states to continue work on their ESSA plans. She's keeping in place the timeline for submitting the plans.

There is a movement to reduce federal Medicaid spending by 25 percent. In this proposal, schools would be forced to compete with hospitals, doctors, urgent-care clinics, and other health-care centers to ensure continued reimbursements.

Ms. Bailey also shared a declining enrollment data spreadsheet and asked the board members to notify Richard Abernathy of any corrections that need to be made to their data.

TEACHER CENTER COORDINATOR UPDATES – Monica Morris

STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENT – SWAEC will host a Curriculum Science Tour on March 1, 2017.

K-12 Assessment - Testing window is April 3-14, 2017.

The ADE will release the 2017-2018 testing information in a Commissioner's Memo.

SWAEC has confirmed dates for Empowering Writing Sessions- July 18-20, 2017.

Virtual Arkansas will present their 2017 Annual Update on April 5, 2017.

TESS/LEADS/LICENSURE/MENTORING – Understanding Juvenile Law will be held March 8, 2017 to give an overview of the Juvenile Justice System and related laws.

The Teach Again Campaign timeline is November 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017.

OTHER INFORMATION – A webinar is being offered every second Wednesday, by the ADE's Research and Technology Unit, with different topics being addressed monthly.

Professional Development Administrators' Preview Day will be held March 8, 2017. SWAEC specialists will share an overview of sessions that will be held this summer.

Upcoming Professional Development and Meetings

- February 22, 2017 – Leadership Quest Day 3
- February 23, 2017 – Leadership Quest Day 3
- March 1, 2017 – Arkansas Curriculum Services Association Science Tour
- March 4, 2017 – National Board Support Session
- March 8, 2017 – Understanding Juvenile Law
- March 8, 2017 – Professional Development Preview Day for Administrators
- March 14, 2017 – SWAEC Teacher Center Advisory Committee
- March 27-28, 2017 – Behavior Tools
- March 29, 2017 – ESL Coordinators’ Meeting

CTE UPDATE – Will Harris shared information on a College and Career Fair to be held on March 9, 2017, from 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M., at Hempstead Hall, hosted by SWAEC.

SWAEC, in partnership with SAU, is hosting a free event for girls in agriculture grades 7-12 on April 25, 2017.

Will Harris spoke to the board about the CTE Program, the funds that are available, and how they may be used.

SWAEC MOUs – David Henderson shared the MOUs for Continuity of Operations between SWAEC and each district. These should be submitted back to SWAEC, once they are signed.

Leslie Savell reminded the board that she is still collecting MOUs for Computer Science.

2017-2018 SCHOOL CALENDAR DISCUSSION – Ms. Bailey asked the superintendents to please send a copy of their 2017-2018 calendar to her, as they are approved.

PERSONNEL ECH – Ms. Bailey presented a letter of resignation from Karen Massey, effective June 30, 2017, and recommended that the board accept the resignation. Robert Poole made a motion to accept the resignation, seconded by Forrest Mulkey. Motion Passed. Robert Poole made a motion to open and advertise for the position of ECH Coordinator. Forrest Mulkey seconded the motion. Motion Passed.

DIRECTOR'S CONTRACT – Billy Lee made a motion to renew Ms. Bailey’s contract for 2017-2018 and to extend her contract 1 year. Angie Raney seconded the motion. Motion Passed. The evaluation of the director will be discussed at the next board meeting, when Mr. Hart is present with the forms.

OTHER ITEMS:

Ms. Bailey shared data from recent Co-op cost saving research. The data shows total savings in areas such as professional development, specialist visits, direct student services, and more.

The next SWAEC board meeting will be held March 14, 2017 at 10:30 A.M.

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