

**Arkansas Head Start Association
Directors/Staff/Parents/Friends Class Meetings
November 16, 2022
Minutes**

Sara Wilhite called the meeting to order at 11:00 am. The following members were present via zoom: Barbie Baxter, Belinda Clark, Jackie Burton, Dorothy Jenkins, Cyndi Musick, Susan Templeton, Jamie Barnett, Kisha Miller, Jennifer Thomas, Michelle Furlow, Sara Wilhite, Teona Ford, Teresa Goings, Lonnie Waller, Michaela Manning, Janee Lankford. Guests were Jackie Govan, Deana Howell, and Aaron Neunschwan,

Sara Wilhite asked the committee to review the minutes. ***Jackie Burton made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Barbie Baxter seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion carried.***

Jackie Govan introduced the guest speaker Aaron Neunschwan from Readeo. Aaron shared information about the interactive reading platform which is like the Netflix of kids books combined with a zoom in a virtual format. The platform is free for Head Start programs but there are paid subscriptions available. The setup process takes about 10 minutes. Readeo handles scheduling and the program is available on multiple platforms. You have the ability to filter books by age ranges and languages. Teachers are able to setup a bookshelf that can be shared with book chat buddies. There is a calendar for setting up scheduling and to keep track of volunteers. There are templates for sending reminders to volunteers. Programs can contact aaron@readeo.com for more information.

Old Business:

Dollar per Child Report-Deana gave the Dollar per Child report. 2023 Dollar per Child Campaign funds were reported as of 11/10/2022 as \$539.00. Deana is waiting on materials to kick off 2023 campaign. A link was added to the chat box for board members to donate during the meeting.

AHSA Membership Dues Report- Deana provided the AHSA Membership Dues report. \$46,445.00 has been paid with \$10,370.00 owed for 2022-23. Waiting on one agency to make its quarterly payment for 2022.

Arkansas Head Start Association Strategic Plan-Jackie Govan shared that chairpersons of each committee will begin reporting in 2023.

New Business:

Institute Dates-Jackie Govan shared that the committee had recommended June 5-9, 2023. Location is to be determined. ***Jennifer Thomas made a motion to recommend June 5-9, 2023 as the dates for the 2023 Arkansas Head Start Association Institute. Barbie Baxter seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion carried.***

Arkansas Head Start Association Bylaws-Shirley Pulliam was unavailable to report.

Head Start State Collaboration Office Grant-Jackie Govan shared that the grant is due on December 1, 2022. She is finalizing the application and will email to the board of directors for approval prior to submitting to the Regional Office.

Reports:

Arkansas Early Childhood Commission-Jackie Govan shared that Ryan Clayborn is no longer the representative for Head Start. She shared an overview of the responsibilities of the AECC. It is an eleven member commission that looks at what is happening in early childhood education in Arkansas as well as nationally. They meet quarterly on the second Tuesday. The last meeting was in October. Susan Templeton, Janae Lankford, and Barbie Baxter expressed interest in serving on the commission. A vote was held through zoom chat box and sent directly to Jackie Govan.

Arkansas Head Start State Collaboration Office-Jackie Govan shared that a survey has been sent to programs pertaining to the Arkansas Imagination Library. The Arkansas Imagination Library Board will be working with hospitals to reach families with newborns to increase enrollment. Jackie received an email from the Dallas Regional Office to identify services in place in the state that are available to Head Start focusing on safe environments, positive guidance, mental wellbeing, and staff morale. Arkansas Early Childhood Association is developing an apprentice program. Jackie has been asked to serve on the committee. It will be tied to TEACH. Jackie will implement some of the new options from the submitted Professional Development Grant in the collab grant including expanding infant/toddler, trauma, and family engagement.

Region VI Head Start Association-Jackie Govan shared that the institute was just completed in September. The next meeting is scheduled for January in collaboration with the Dallas Regional Office. The Dallas Regional Office staff are still working from home. One focus will be addressing issues with Region VI Scholarships.

Arkansas Head Start Association Institute-Jackie shared that we had a greet meeting this morning. We are looking at June 5-9, 2023 for the institute. We will be looking at different locations and adding three new committees: Prior Set Up Committee, Silent Auction, and Pre Institute.

National Updates-Jackie Govan shared that the National Head Start Association Board will meet this afternoon. There is currently no news for reauthorization. NHSA is advocating for new funds for Head Start and Early Head Start.

Announcements:

Dates to Remember-Jackie shared that a racial equity website for parents, teachers, and administrators will be rolled out in 2023 with many online resources as well as webinars.

Jackie Govan shared that the vote was to recommend Barbie Baxter to the Arkansas Early Childhood Commission. ***Cyndi Musick made a motion to approve Barbie Baxter as our representative to the Arkansas Early Childhood Commission. Jennifer Thomas seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion carried.***

Sara Wilhite adjourned the meeting at 12:13 pm.

Submitted by,

Deana Howell