

## **Southeast Arkansas AECA Affiliation Meeting**

### **July 8, 2024 Minutes**

The July affiliate meeting was held on Monday, July 8, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the University of Arkansas at Monticello – College of Technology McGehee campus.

There were 71 individuals present at the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by acting President Elaine Hargraves.

#### Meeting Business:

- Elaine Hargraves welcomed all attendees and introduced our speaker, Mrs. Karan Burnette, and additional guest, Mrs. Dee Cox. The affiliate presented both individuals with a hostess gift as a token of our appreciation for their attendance and support.
- The minutes from the April meeting were shared with the members present at the previous meeting. Elizabeth Coakley moved the motion to approve the minutes with Ezell Minniefield seconding the motion.
- Mrs. Karan Burnette, Director for Partners for Inclusive Communities with the University of Arkansas, was the guest speaker for the evening. Mrs. Burnette shared what autism spectrum disorders are, what is required for a diagnosis in the state of Arkansas, at what age the diagnosis can occur, and the prevalence of autism in Arkansas. In addition, she provided insight into how individuals with ASD process information from speech to language and social skills. A variety of methods were shared with the participants for how to best support children with ASD including multiple sensory tools and visual aids.
- The attendees and Mrs. Elaine Hargraves thanked Mrs. Burnette for her attendance and for sharing her knowledge and expertise. Those present expressed a desire for additional information from her in our future meetings.
- Before concluding the meeting, Mrs. Hargraves shared how to join the SEAECA affiliate, the affiliate website as well as the AECA website.
- The next meeting for the affiliate is slated for Monday, September 9, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Before adjourning the meeting, multiple drawings were held for door prizes.

Mrs. Hargraves thanked the members for their attendance and reminded them of the next meeting on September 9<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.