

Southeast Arkansas AECA Affiliation Meeting

June 15, 2026 Minutes

The June affiliate meeting of 2026 was held on Monday, June 15, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the University of Arkansas at Monticello – College of Technology McGehee campus.

There were 41 individuals present at the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by President Elaine Hargraves.

Meeting Business:

- Elaine Hargraves welcomed all attendees and provided a copy of the minutes from the April meeting. Ezell Minniefield moved the motion to approve the minutes with Ms. Vayronda Page seconding the motion.
- After the approval of the minutes, Kim Burgess informed attendees/members of a 2026-2027 SEAECA Affiliate Needs Survey and provided time for those present to complete the short survey. This survey gathered information to more effectively plan upcoming meetings.
- The meeting continued with a reminder of previous business/plans for member centers to host free yard sales. The affiliate will market and design flyers and assist in helping with these events if the local centers choose to host one.
- A reminder was given to all attendees regarding the AECA Conference in Little Rock on October 7th-9th. Members were encouraged to attend the conference for valuable information, training, and networking.
- Kim Burgess then introduced the guest speaker, Geania Dickey, and turned the meeting over to her. Geania Dickey discussed three types of advocacy (personal, private sector, and public policy) and how we as early childhood educators could best advocate for our children in each of those spaces. She spent a great deal of time discussing the public policy advocacy and how we can be effective in informing those in office about early childhood needs. She concluded the discussion by sharing AECA's draft Public Policy Agenda for 2026-2027 and asking the participants for their feedback

Before adjourning the meeting, the affiliate and UAM provided Mrs. Dickey with an appreciation gift basket filled with multiple items. Multiple drawings were then held for door prizes, including children's books and donated UAM-branded items. Mrs. Hargraves informed the attendees that the next meeting is tentatively set for Monday, September 14th, but confirmation of the date and details would be forthcoming closer to time.

Mrs. Hargraves and Mrs. Burgess thanked the members for their attendance. The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.