Arkansas Head Start Association
Board of Directors Meeting
June 9, 2026
Minutes

Welcome: Sara Wilhite called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm. The following Board Members were present: Sara Wilhite, Shirley Pulliam, Jackie Burton, Sandy Aguirre, Angela Blankenship, Sandy Borreson, Shelby Chaplin, Belinda Henderson, Brandi Watson, Whitley Bryant, Jackie Govan, Priscilla Johnson, Derek Krogh, and Phyllis Hammonds. Guests present were: Mark Herbert, Don Carter, Deana Howell, Tara Arnold, Charlotte Berry, Jacqueline Baker, Rosa Martinez, Lilly Jackson, Rose Nichols, Sherry Toney, Runree Aldridge, Mark Davis, and Michelle Shivers.

Guest Presentation: Mark Herbert and Don Carter with AE Touch Technologies shared information showcasing the motorized rolling stand that can tilt the display completely flat. This turns the touch screen into an interactive activity table that multiple children can gather around safely. The hardware comes loaded with specialized early learning material focused on play and early skills development.

Agenda Approval: Sara Wilhite called for consideration of the agenda. ***Shirley Pulliam moved to approve the agenda. Jackie Burton seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion carried.***

Minutes and Treasurer's Report: Sara Wilhite called for approval of the minutes. ***Jackie Govan made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Belinda Henderson seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion carried.***

Shirley Pulliam presented the Treasurer's Report. The organization's May 2026 balance shows total income of $24,743, expenses of $8,732, and a final balance of $111,812.84. Income sources include donations, dues, grants, and reimbursements. Liabilities and asset changes impacted income by $11,272.65, with restricted funds and investments, while expenses covered salaries, travel, audit, and insurance. Based on the Treasurer's Report for May 31, 2026, the balances on hand are:

- Bank of America (operating): $111,812.84
- Certificate of Deposit (Bank of America): $13,690.48
- Cheddar: $0.00

For context, the summary section also lists petty cash of $110.00 and shows an "AHSA Balance" (after restricted/reserved adjustments) of $36,996.60. ***Jackie Burton made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Sandy Borreson seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion carried.***

Dollar per Child and Membership Report: Deana Howell reported that $6,951.84 which equals $1.11 has been submitted to the National Head Start Association for the Dollar per Child Campaign. For the Membership Report she shared that the total dues owed by all

member agencies for the 2026-2027 fiscal year is $43,672.00. This figure is calculated after accounting for dues already paid ($18,358.00) out of the total dues assessed ($62,030.00). Outstanding Dues from Previous Year: There are still some outstanding dues from the 2025-2026 fiscal year, totaling $2,260.00

Birthday Celebrations: The group recognized June and July birthdays.

AHSA Institute Update: The 2026 Arkansas Head Start Institute generated about $41,000 in income, with expenses around $31,500, resulting in a net profit of nearly $10,000. Revenue mainly came from registrations, sponsorships, and exhibits. Expenses included meals, speaker fees, lodging, and supplies. There were about 185 in attendance including participants, exhibitors, speakers, and presenters.

New Vision Update: Sara Wilhite shared an update on the work with the consultants on the strategic planning grant to craft a new vision for the Arkansas Head Start Association. Several board members have participated in one-on-one discussions with the consultants that focused on their private and personal perspectives on the new direction.

Announcements: Jackie Govan reminded everyone that we will be recognizing the Best of the Best and Degreed Staff the next day. She shared that she had received 15 forms for the scavenger hunt for the exhibitors. The winner will receive the contents of Lakeshore's booth. She also has a $250 Lakeshore gift card for the agency with the highest attendance.

Critical Issues to Discuss: Sara Wilhite announced that Angela Blankenship has been named the Arkansas Head Start Collaboration Office Director. There was discussion as to how her new role fits with relation to the Arkansas Head Start Association Board. ***Shirley Pulliam made a motion for Angela Blankenship to serve in an ex officio position with non-voting powers. Derek Krogh seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion carried.***

Sara Wilhite opened a discussion regarding the Arkansas Early Childhood Commission. At the previous meeting, it had been announced that Susan Templeton accepted a position on the commission. Prior to submitting her application, Ms. Templeton was made aware that the Arkansas Head Start Association Board had formally recommended another board member to serve in that position. When questioned at the meeting in March regarding who had recommended her to serve on the commission, Ms. Templeton falsely claimed that the recommendation came from another board member of the Arkansas Head Start Association. Documentation was requested from Ms. Templeton regarding the recommendation, and she agreed to comply with the request, but documentation was never submitted. Because Ms. Templeton disregarded the explicit recommendation of the board, Sara Wilhite opened the floor to discuss her potential removal from the Board of Directors. ***Jackie Govan made a motion to remove Susan Templeton from the Arkansas Head Start Association Board of Directors due to disregard of the board's official recommendation and failure to follow proper protocol. Brandi Watson seconded the***

motion. One member in favor, one opposed. All other members abstained. The motion was not carried.
Sara Wilhite shared a concern about board attendance. She wanted it to note that as we move forward, we will be enforcing the bylaws as it pertains to board attendance.

Announcements:
Jackie Burton shared that the Region VI Head Start Association Board will meet on August 10, 2026.

Shirley Pulliam asked that we add Family Services Credentials to the Staff Degree Ceremony. The board was in concurrence.

Sara Wilhite called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. ***Sandy Borreson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 pm. Jackie Burton seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion carried.***

Arkansas Head Start Association
Board of Directors Reconvened Meeting
June 10, 2026
Minutes

Sara Wilhite reconvened the board meeting on June 10, 2026, to correct a procedural error from a previous vote regarding Susan Templeton. The original vote to remove her was declared invalid because a non-voting member had improperly participated in the vote. The board discussed the issue. ***Sandy Aguirre made a motion to remove Susan Templeton from the Arkansas Board of Directors because she acted in opposition to the recommendation made by the board regarding representation on the Arkansas Early Childhood Commission. Jackie Burton seconded the motion. Six voted in favor, one was opposed. Motion carried.***

Sara Wilhite called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. ***Belinda Henderson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jackie Burton seconded the motion. All were in favor. motion carried.***

Submitted by,
Deana Howell, Administrative Service Manager