**Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative Board’s Minutes  
November 9, 2021**

**Schools Present:** Texarkana, Blevins, Genoa, Hope, Lafayette, Prescott, Nevada, Spring Hill

**Schools Not Present**: Fouke

**Co-op Staff Present:** Phoebe Bailey, Monica Morris, Eva Wood, Lynn Foster, Gina Perkins, Tanya Collins, Vicki Jewell.

**Guests Present:** Karli Saracini, Edie Stewart, Portia Jones, Ashlea Stewart, Autumn Reeder, Laura Clark, Carla Narlesky, Robin Hickerson, Mike Rudebaugh, Roy Turner, Cleytus Coulter, Donald Patton.

The meeting was called to order by Phoebe Bailey.

Roy McCoy made a motion to approve the minutes from October, seconded by Robert Poole. The minutes were approved.

Robert Edwards made a motion to approve the financial and expenditure reports for October. The motion was seconded by Roy McCoy. Motion passed.

**DIRECTOR’S UPDATE:**  Phoebe Bailey

Homeless II ARP Funding: Ms. Bailey informed the board of the Commissioner’s Memo recently released concerning Homeless II ARP. She shared details of a webinar that will be held November 9th at 1:30 and encouraged the districts to have their homeless liaisons and federal coordinators watch. Ms. Bailey also advised that the funding amounts will vary depending on the data each district provides to the state. Any district with an amount less than $,5000 will have to join a consortium. Ms. Bailey also invited the districts who have amounts over the $5,000 threshold, to join the consortium as well. A link was provided with information on how the consortium funds could be spent. Ms. Bailey will follow up with the districts next week concerning who will join the SWAEC consortium.

ARP Screening Grant: Ms. Bailey informed the board of the ARP Screening Grant purposes. The first is to allow districts to contract with a vendor for screening for COVID and the second is focused on POC expenditures and the funding reimbursement will run through the co-op. The amounts will be based on district size and must be spent by June 30, 2022.

General Information: Ms. Bailey reminded the board of the timeline for School Choice. She advised that SWAEC will offer member districts the opportunity to be included in radio ads for our area. Ms. Bailey asked for participation intent by the January 2022 board meeting. Upcoming board meeting dates have been changed to Thursday, December 9, 2021 and Wednesday, January 19, 2022.

**REMOVAL OF FIXED ASSETS:** Ms. Bailey asked for a smart board, a scanner, and a poster maker to be removed from the Fixed Assets list. Robert Poole made a motion to approve the removal and was seconded by Robert Edwards. The motion was approved.

**TEACHER CENTER UPDATE:**  Monica Morris

Standards & Assessment: RISE Arkansas Science of Reading released a resource site with available resources for teachers and students. There is also a Spanish version available. Ms. Morris reminded the board of Act 1084 concerning behavior and behavior support and let them know that the co-op offers many training workshops, tools, and support as needed.

TESS/LEADS: Ms. Morris informed the board of the TESS overview for Administrators on November 18th. She also reminded them the CCLC grant funds application will close on December 3rd.

**DESE- Arkansas Teacher Residency Model:**  Karli Saracini and Edie Stewart.

Ms. Saracini and Ms. Stewart gave a presentation to all who attended over DESE’s AR Teacher Residency Model. The new program is intended for districts to be able to “grow their own” qualified certified teachers by implementing a CTA (certified teaching assistant) certification for high school students. This program would begin for students in the 10th grade and when they graduated, they would be able to work for a district in a paraprofessional position. While they worked as a paraprofessional, they could also be working to obtain their associate’s degree and then bachelor’s degree from an Educator Rising participating higher education program at no cost and completely on line.

With no other business Robert Edwards made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Roy McCoy. The meeting was adjourned.