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

**Schools Present:** Texarkana (proxy), Lafayette, Nevada, Fouke, Genoa, Prescott (proxy), and Hope.

**Schools Not Present**: Spring Hill and Blevins.

**Co-op Staff Present:** Phoebe Bailey, Eva Wood, Lynn Foster, Gina Perkins, and Tanya Collins.

**Guests Present:** Amanda Britt via Zoom.

The meeting was called to order by Robert Edwards

Dr. Buie made a motion to approve the minutes from November, seconded by Jay Turley. The minutes were approved.

Roy McCoy made a motion to approve the financial and expenditure reports for November. The motion was seconded by Gary Jameson. Motion passed.

**HEALTH GRANT:** Amanda Britt (via Zoom)

Ms. Britt addressed the board and all who attended about the purpose and scope of the Health Grant. She informed everyone the objectives and goals of this funding are primarily focused on providing needed resources to implement screening testing programs in schools aligned with CDC recommendations for K-12. Ms. Britt advised all the superintendents they could sign an MOU with SWAEC and be reimbursed for any expenditures incurred for the purpose of the grant, however all receipts must be kept by the district. The grant will be available on January 1, 2022.

**Personnel:**  Ms. Bailey recommended for board approval the resignation of Lafayette ECH Para, LaCheryl Smith and the hiring of Kisha Smith as her replacement. Dr. Buie made a motion to approve this personnel change and it was seconded by Dr. Crossley. The motion passed.

**DIRECTOR’S UPDATE:**  Phoebe Bailey

Ms. Bailey informed the board members and other staff in attendance of the federal updates from the AESA conference recently held. The timeline for obligated ARP monies is September 2024 and lobbyist are trying to get this timeline extended to better include school construction projects. Also, she informed the board of possible amendments to the MOEquity requirements for LEA’s.

The new Covid vaccine mandate for federally funded Head Start programs was also addressed by Ms. Bailey. She informed the board of possible work arounds since Arkansas is a state that stands against mandates.

**BONUS:** Ms. Bailey asked the board for approval of a onetime bonus for all current full time employees in the amount of $750. Roy McCoy made a motion to approve the recommendation and Dr. Crossley seconded. The motion was approved.

**SRO TRANING:** Ms. Bailey gave the board information about School Resource Officer training, that will satisfy the requirements for Acts 551 and 622 directing school superintendents, principals, and immediate supervisors of SRO’s to complete a 1-hour course.

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