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

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

**Schools Not Present**: Blevins

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

**Guests Present:** Connie Thomason, Opal Anderson

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Becky Kessler.

Roy McCoy made a motion to approve the minutes from August, seconded by Tom Wilson. The minutes were approved.

Robert Edwards made a motion to approve the financial and expenditure reports for August. The motion was seconded by Dr. Buie. Motion passed.

**2020-21 CO-OP BUDGET APPROVAL:** Ms. Bailey presented the board with the proposed co-op budget for 2021-22. Robert Edwards made a motion to accept the proposed budget and was seconded by Mr. McCoy. The motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS**: The Continuity of Operations Plan for 2021-2022 was shared with the board members in google drive for approval. After looking over the material Mr. Wilson made a motion to approve and was seconded by Jay Turley.

**ACT 1084 PRESENTATION:** Connie Thomason presented to the board updates and procedures for Act 1084. She reminded the superintendents that all districts must have a Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) as well as a Positive Support Plan. Ms. Thomason advised that she is available to help districts work on and develop these plans. Ms. Thomason gave recommendations on resources that districts can use to support their behavior students as well as sites for additional resources for their teachers and ALE classrooms. Ms. Thomason let the superintendents know that she and her team were available to them to do autism assessments for their schools at no charge.

**DIRECTOR’S UPDATE:**  Phoebe Bailey

Bus Driver Testing: In February 2022, there will be a federal requirement for all new bus drivers to complete a curriculum course before obtaining their CDL. This will be in addition to the current written test that drivers have to take with State Police. Ms. Bailey informed the board of a possible vendor for the course, School Bus Safety Company. She will also be looking into more options.

ECH MOU: Ms. Bailey handed out the revised MOU for the Early Childhood program. The amount per district was able to be reduced from $800 per student to $400 due to increased funding from DESE. The revised MOU shows revenue and projected expenditure cost and has the additional funds added.

DESE UPDATES: Ms. Bailey informed the board that districts who are using food service companies still need to go through the procurement process. At the end of the week there should be a Commissioner’s Memo coming out with information for child nutrition directors containing checklist for cycle 2 reporting.

**TEACHER CENTER UPDATE:**  Monica Morris

Ms. Morris informed the board of about a tool used by DESE in regards to their new School Personnel Director located on the DESE website. She let them know how imperative it is that the information is up to date on a regular basis as it is used by several ADE and DESE program offices. The information will need to be updated by a districts’ APSCN-SIS Cycle Coordinator using the SIS system. Ms. Morris stated the update process is now cycle independent and can be updated any time of the year as needed. She gave them the link to check their information as it stands today.

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS:**

With no other business, Robert Edwards made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Tom Wilson.

The meeting was adjourned.