

Board of Directors Board Meeting Minutes



April 7, 2020

REGULAR BOARD MEETING*

Ms. Sheri Benson, president, called the board meeting of the Heartland AEA Board of Directors to order at 5:07 p.m.

Board Members Present: Ms. Sheri Benson, Ms. Margaret Borgen, Dr. Earl Bridgewater, Ms. Liz Brennan, Mr. Pete Evans, Mr. John Kinley, Dr. Steve Rose and Ms. Margie Schwenk.

Mr. Bruce Christensen joined the meeting after roll call.

Administrative Staff Present: Ms. Nia Chiaramonte, Ms. Sheila King, Mr. Kevin Fangman, Dr. Jon Sheldahl, Mr. Kurt Subra, Ms. Jenny Ugolini and Dr. Kristi Upah.

Approval of Agenda

A MOTION was made by Dr. Rose and seconded by Dr. Bridgewater to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Forum and Correspondence

No one from the public asked to speak.

Discussion Items

Update on Heartland AEA's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Dr. Jon Sheldahl, Heartland AEA Chief Administrator, provided an update on the COVID-19 pandemic.

- School districts will determine by April 10 if they'll move forward with voluntary or required learning opportunities or a hybrid of each for various grade levels. Dr. Sheldahl shared a template that was created by the Iowa Department of Education to help districts make a decision.
- Iowa's AEAs continue to provide special education support for districts. Instead of each AEA developing their own supports, there is a special education lead group that meets to review and develop guidance.
- The Agency's Pandemic Task Force continues to meet daily. Since the closure has been extended to April 30, arrangements are being made to allow staff back in the Agency's offices to collect additional essential items needed to work remotely.
- Dr. Sheldahl discussed pandemic pay for staff. He wants to reassure staff that it's the Agency's intent to pay them through the current school year and that next year's contracts and employment notices will be honored. Furloughing staff would be considered double-dipping, as the AEAs are considered public organizations funded by federal and state dollars, as are unemployment benefits. It creates anxiety when decisions are made incrementally, and the Agency wants to assure staff that they will be paid.

Action Items

Pandemic Pay Resolution for All Heartland AEA Employees

A MOTION was made by Mr. Kinley and seconded by Dr. Rose to approve the Pandemic Pay Resolution for All Heartland AEA Employees. The motion passed unanimously.

(The Resolution read as follows: *Be it Resolved, the Chief Administrator is hereby authorized to pay all*

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honor all contracts and employment notices to all Heartland AEA employees through the 2020-21 contract year.)

Chief Administrator Comments

The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 14 at 5:30 p.m.

Adjournment

A MOTION was made by Dr. Rose and seconded by Mr. Christensen to adjourn the board meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Reports and documents and the full text of motions, resolutions or policies considered by the Board at this meeting are on file in the Board Secretary's office, 515/270-9030 ext. 14441, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Ms. Sheri Benson
Board President

Ms. Jenny Ugolini
Board Secretary

*Iowa Code 21.8 - Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and current directives from the state and federal government restricting the size of public gatherings, the emergency meeting of the Heartland AEA Board will be held electronically. Heartland AEA facilities have been closed starting March 17-April 12 to mitigate the spread of the virus.

Iowa Code 21.4 (2a.) - Under Iowa Code 21.4 (2a) "good cause," it was impossible to post the agenda at our regional offices due to facility closures. The agenda was posted on the front doors of Heartland AEA's main office located at 6500 Corporate Drive, Johnston and on the