

Board of Directors Board Meeting Minutes



February 11, 2020

BOARD WORK SESSION

Ms. Sheri Benson, president, called the work session of the Heartland AEA Board of Directors to order at 3:30 p.m.

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

Dr. Steve Rose arrived at 3:33 p.m.

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

Social, Emotional, Behavior and Mental Health (SEBMH)

Dr. Jadie Boens, Heartland AEA Director of Special Programs; Ms. Amy Hanken, Heartland AEA Special Education Supervisor; Dr. Rebecca Carver, Heartland AEA School Psychologist and Dr. Andrea Matheson, Heartland AEA School Psychologist, provided an update on the SEBMH services and supports that the Agency provides to staff and districts. They reviewed the six priority areas from the SEBMH strategic plan that will enhance current supports and collaboration. Board members asked questions about scale, work teams, district impact and additional funding for mental health services.

Dyslexia

Dr. Kristin Orton, Heartland AEA Regional Director, shared the results of the Iowa Dyslexia Task Force Report that was presented to Iowa legislators in November 2019. She was a member of the task force that was tasked to study best practices, share expertise, conduct a survey across the state and craft recommendations to the Legislature on the characteristics of dyslexia. She highlighted key findings from the report and the recommendations made to the Legislature.

Recess

The Board recessed for dinner from 4:43 until 5:30 p.m.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Ms. Sheri Benson, president, called the meeting of the Heartland AEA Board of Directors to order at 5:30 p.m.

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

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

Approval of Agenda

A MOTION was made by Mr. Kinley and seconded by Mr. Evans to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes from January 14 & 28, 2020

A MOTION was made by Dr. Rose and seconded by Mr. Evans to approve the minutes from January 14 & 28, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

Board of Directors Board Meeting Minutes



February 11, 2020

Public Forum and Correspondence

There was no one from the public present to speak to the Board.

Public Hearing on Budget

A public hearing on the 2019-20 amended budget and the 2020-21 proposed budget was held beginning at 5:32 p.m. There was no one from the public present to speak. A MOTION was made by Ms. Brennan and seconded by Dr. Bridgewater to close the hearing. The motion passed unanimously. The hearing closed at 5:32 p.m.

Discussion Items

Amended 2019-20 Budget and Proposed 2020-21 Budget

Mr. Kurt Subra, Heartland AEA Chief Financial Officer, reviewed the 2019-20 amended budget and the proposed 2020-21 budget.

Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) and Medical Insurance Plans

Mr. Subra discussed recommended changes for the HRA and medical insurance plans. The Insurance Committee and agency representatives met and discussed the ongoing increases in health care and what steps could be taken to minimize the financial impact on staff. Board members discussed the recommendations.

Mr. Subra reviewed the recommended changes to the HRA plan that would eliminate disparity among the non-union and union groups. The Agency will continue to communicate with staff so they can make informed decisions.

Chief Administrators Report

Legislative Update – Dr. Jon Sheldahl, Heartland AEA Chief Administrator, attended the Feb. 11 AEA Education Advocacy event at the state capitol.

- School Supplemental Aid – There is still hope it will pass with approximately a 2.3-2.5% increase.
- Future Ready Act – This bill changes the Future Ready Iowa Act. It will likely pass.
- TeleHealth School Behavioral Services – This bill would authorize schools and AEAs to use telehealth for behavioral health screenings.
- Voluntary Diversity Plans – This bill would eliminate implementation of a voluntary diversity plan as a reason to deny open enrollment.
- Classroom Behavior/Room Clears – The bill is intended to give schools more tools to reduce classroom disruptions.

Information Systems Process Improvement and Project Management

Ms. Sheila King, Heartland AEA Chief Information Officer, provided a work update on the Agency's information systems process improvement and project management efforts. The Agency contracted Data Analysis and Results, Inc. (DA & R) to work with the Information Systems department to deliver professional learning, coaching and support to staff.

Exempt Session – Negotiations

The Board of Directors entered the exempt session at 6:35 p.m. in accordance with Iowa Code 20.17(3) to discuss negotiations for 2020-21. Board members returned to regular session at 6:53 p.m. An exempt session is not subject to open meeting requirements and can be held without a vote or motion.

Board of Directors Board Meeting Minutes



February 11, 2020

Action Items

Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) and Medical Insurance Plans

A MOTION was made by Mr. Kinley and seconded by Mr. Evans to approve the medical insurance plan and HRA recommendations. Motion passed unanimously.

Amended 2019-20 Budget and Proposed 2020-21 Budget

A MOTION was made by Dr. Bridgewater and seconded by Mr. Rose to approve the amended 2019-20 budget and proposed 2020-21 budget. Motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Borgen reviewed the board financial statements and indicated the financials were stable. A MOTION was made by Dr. Rose and seconded by Mr. Kinley to approve the consent agenda including payment of warrant numbers 409405 through 409664 and electronic warrant numbers 28599 through 29102. The motion passed unanimously.

- Personnel Report and Addendum
- Purchase Orders:
 - Apple Computer, Inc. - \$58,344.00
 - DA & R, Inc. - \$99,900.00
 - Prairie Meadows - \$28,445.00
 - IA Events Center - \$350,000.00
 - IA Events Center - \$30,000.00
- Independent Contract Agreement between Heartland AEA and Jim Verlengia
- Newton Lease Renewal Agreement – *The agreement was tabled until the March board meeting.*

Chief Administrator Comments

- Board members were reminded to register for the AEA Boards' Conference on March 26-27.
- The Board Retreat will be held on June 9.

Board Comments

- Dr. Rose thanked Dr. Sheldahl for keeping board members well informed on what's happening at the capitol with current legislation.
- Dr. Bridgewater thanked board members for the flowers he received while he was hospitalized.

Adjournment

A MOTION was made by Dr. Rose and seconded by Ms. Brennan to adjourn the regular board meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:05 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sheri Benson", written over a horizontal line.

Ms. Sheri Benson
Board President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenny Ugolini", written over a horizontal line.

Ms. Jenny Ugolini
Board Secretary