

# Board of Directors Board Meeting Minutes



**January 14, 2020**

## **REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

Ms. Sheri Benson, president, called the meeting of the Heartland AEA Board of Directors to order at 3:31 p.m.

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

Mr. Pete Evans arrived at 3:32 p.m. and 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.

## **Approval of Agenda**

A MOTION was made by Ms. Schwenk and seconded by Mr. Christensen to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Approval of Minutes from December 10, 2019**

A MOTION was made by Mr. Kinley and seconded by Ms. Schwenk to approve the minutes from December 10, 2019. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Public Forum and Correspondence**

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

## **Discussion Items**

### **FY 2021 Budget Conversation**

Mr. Kurt Subra, Heartland AEA Chief Financial Officer, was present to review AEA funding streams and budget considerations for FY 2021. The Governor will recommend a 2.25% increase in state supplement aid; however, it's not known at this time if that will be supported by legislation. Mr. Subra discussed the Agency's solvency ratio, which will be impacted by final staffing numbers. More budget information will be shared at the February meeting, including an amended budget for FY 2020.

### **Staffing Plan**

Mr. Kevin Fangman, Heartland AEA Chief Academic Officer, shared that conversations started last October about staffing needs for the next school year. The Agency hopes to add 12.5 new full-time employees next year. Discussions were held with regional directors, along with a review of staffing patterns, enrollment changes and other data before determining which positions would be added. Mr. Fangman also shared a regional change, that Interstate 35 CSD would move from being part of Region 1 to Region 3 starting in July 2020. This will improve district and student support and provide more teaming opportunities for staff.

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## Closed (Exempt) Session

A MOTION was made by Mr. Kinley and seconded by Dr. Rose to enter into closed (exempt) session as provided in Section 21 of the Iowa Code to discuss the 2020-21 negotiations process. Motion carried unanimously. A roll call vote was taken.

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|-------------------------|--------|
| • Ms. Sheri Benson      | Aye    |
| • Ms. Margaret Borgen   | Absent |
| • Ms. Liz Brennan       | Aye    |
| • Dr. Earl Bridgewater  | Absent |
| • Mr. Bruce Christensen | Aye    |
| • Mr. Pete Evans        | Aye    |
| • Mr. John Kinley       | Aye    |
| • Dr. Steve Rose        | Aye    |
| • Ms. Margie Schwenk    | Aye    |

The Board of Directors entered into closed session at 4:20 p.m.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Kinley and seconded by Mr. Evans to return to public session. The Board returned to public session at 4:44 p.m.

The Board recessed from 4:45 to 5:30 p.m.

## Discussion Items Continued

### Legislative Update

Dr. Jon Sheldahl, Heartland AEA Chief Administrator, and Mr. Subra, discussed a bill that will be proposed this year to recalibrate AEA funding. There are four challenges with AEA funding: 1) varying costs per pupil, 2) static reduction calibration, 3) non-inclusive special education formula and 4) sparsity. The proposal will be to recalibrate each of the areas over a five-year period at a cost of \$8 million to make things fair. The AEAs are working with legislators to get the bill passed.

### Chief Administrator Professional Development Goals

Dr. Sheldahl provided a quarterly update on his professional development plan. He reviewed each of his four goals and progress in each of the strategy areas.

### Chief Administrator's Report and Recent Activities

- **IAAEA Executive Board Minutes from November 2019** – Dr. Bridgewater represents the Heartland AEA board on the IAAEA Executive Council that meets quarterly. Minutes and budget information from the November meeting were shared.
- **Board Retreat** – The Board Retreat has been scheduled for June 9 from noon – 4 p.m. Mr. Harry Heiligenthal, Iowa Association of School Boards Associate Executive Director, will help facilitate a discussion on the Board's self-evaluation tool.

### Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) and Medical Insurance Plan Timeline Update

A formal recommendation on the HRA and medical insurance plan will be brought to the February meeting.

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## Consent Agenda

Mr. Kinley reviewed the board financial statements and indicated everything was in order. The Agency's financials are tracking month to month, similar to previous years. A MOTION was made by Dr. Rose and seconded by Mr. Evans to approve the consent agenda including payment of warrant numbers 409233 through 409404 and electronic warrant numbers 28223 through 28598. The motion passed unanimously.

- Personnel Report - *Board members approved the personnel report and noted that appropriate documentation should be kept for the resignation of W. Walker.*
- Purchase Order: Iowa Events Center - \$30,000.00
- Newton Lease Renewal Agreement – *Deferred. Approval of this item was deferred to the February board meeting.*

## Chief Administrator Comments

- **Board Holiday Dinner** – Ms. Ugolini noted the December 8, 2020 board meeting will be held at Wesley Acres and include a holiday meal.


## Board Comments

There were no comments.

## Adjournment

A MOTION was made by Dr. Rose and seconded by Mr. Kinley to adjourn the regular board meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:37 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