

# Board of Directors Board Meeting Minutes



March 10, 2020

## BOARD WORK SESSION

Ms. Sheri Benson, president, called the work session of the Heartland AEA Board of Directors to order at 3:32 p.m.

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

Ms. Margaret Borgen arrived at 3:39 p.m.

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

## Legislative Update

Dr. Tom Lane and Ms. Kate Walton, IAAEA Lobbyists, provided Board members with an update on recent legislative activities in Iowa. Highlights included:

- Supplemental State Aid (SSA) was set at 2.3%.
- There is a large number of child care bills being introduced. This is a genuine interest for businesses as they realize this is a workforce issue. Four child care bills have moved forward and may become a point of negotiation between the House and Governor.
- Invest in Iowa Act – This is one of the Governor’s top priorities. It would raise the state sales tax, provide income tax reduction as well as funding for mental health resources and water quality.
- Children with Dyslexia – Some of the recommendations submitted by the task force may be implemented. Each AEA may be asked to provide a dyslexia expert with some possible appropriation.
- Iowa Learning Online – There is a bill in place, that if it passes, would make the AEA’s the marketplace to match providers with users. The AEA’s would act as the broker between the two.

## Child Find

Dr. Kristi Upah, Heartland AEA Chief Student Services and Ms. Sara Mercer, Heartland AEA Special Education Supervisor, discussed the Child Find process. The Agency has more than 436 certified staff members who support Child Find activities for preschool and school age children. The process is grounded in state and federal law to identify and evaluate children who may need special education services and supports.

## Recess

The Board recessed for dinner from 4:56 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 5:33 p.m.

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

Administrative Staff Present: Ms. Nia Chiaramonte, Mr. Kevin Fangman, Ms. Sheila King, 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 Mr. Kinley to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

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## Approval of Minutes from February 11 & 25, 2020

A MOTION was made by Dr. Bridgewater and seconded by Mr. Christensen to approve the minutes from February 11 & 25, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

## Public Forum and Correspondence

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

## Discussion Items

### Board Policy Review – First Reading

Board members had a first reading of updated board policies within the 400 and 500 series, policies 204, 805 and 816, and minor updates to the Board Procedures Manual. The policies will be brought back for a second reading and final approval in April.

### Adel Regional Office Pavement Resurfacing and Pavement Removal and Replacement Project

Mr. Kurt Subra, Heartland AEA Chief Financial Officer, discussed repairs to the Adel Regional Office parking lot. Areas of the parking lot are damaged and in need of repair or to be replaced with an asphalt overlay. The Agency has already set aside money for this improvement project.

## Chief Administrator's Report

- **Board Advisory Council** – The Board Advisory Council met in February and will meet again in late April. Dr. Sheldahl discussed the format of the meetings and ways to increase participation.
- **IAAEA Updates** – IAAEA Executive Director David Ludwig has resigned. The AEA chief administrators will review his job description and determine when and how the position will be refilled. They'll take a recommendation to the IAAEA Executive Board this spring for approval. Dr. Sheldahl shared updates from each of the IAAEA goal areas: Future Ready, Synergy and Well Being.
- **AEA Boards Conference** – The AEA Boards' Conference is currently scheduled for March 26-27. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, board members were asked about a contingency plan should it be cancelled. They preferred to cancel the conference instead of a virtual option.

## Action Items

### Negotiations

Ms. Nia Chiamonte, Heartland AEA Director of Human Resources and Mr. Subra shared the tentative agreements for the Teamsters (classified union) and the Heartland Education Association (certified union).

- Teamsters - \$.531 hourly rate increase for all classified union staff, resulting in a 2.4% average wage increase for 2020-21.
- Heartland Education Association (HEA) – 2.98% average base salary increase for 2020-21; which includes a step increase and a 1.51% base salary increase.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Kinley and seconded by Mr. Evans to approve the HEA and Teamsters contracts and comprehensive agreements. Motion passed unanimously.

### Adel Regional Office Pavement Resurfacing and Pavement Removal and Replacement Project

A MOTION was made by Dr. Rose and seconded by Dr. Bridgewater to approve the public hearing date of April 14, 2020, for the Adel Regional Office Pavement Resurfacing and Pavement Removal and Replacement Project. Motion passed unanimously.

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## Consent Agenda

Mr. Evans reviewed the board financial statements and stated that there is strong consistency from year to year, and everything is in good shape. A MOTION was made by Dr. Bridgewater and seconded by Mr. Kinley to approve the consent agenda including payment of warrant numbers 409665 through 409885 and electronic warrant numbers 29103 through 29568. The motion passed unanimously.

- Personnel Report and Addendum
- Purchase Orders:
  - *Iowa Events Center* - \$30,000.00
  - *Profound Knowledge* - \$30,000.00
- Madison National LTD Renewal Agreement
  - Master Agreement for Administrative Services
  - Business Associate Agreement
  - Cafeteria Plan Services Agreement Addendum
  - Health Reimbursement Arrangement Addendum
- Madison National LTD Renewal Agreement
- Newton Lease Renewal Agreement
- Termination of Alliance Select Insurance Plan Due to Lack of Participation

## Chief Administrator Comments

- Any information shared with staff regarding the COVID-19 pandemic will also be shared with Board members.
- Heartland AEA hosted guest speaker, Mr. Hamish Brewer, on March 3. He is a motivational speaker who presented to over 75 educators. It was a good turnout and a good presentation.

## 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 6:47 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.

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Ms. Sheri Benson  
Board President

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Ms. Jenny Ugolini  
Board Secretary