

Board of Directors Board Meeting Minutes



March 19, 2020

EMERGENCY BOARD MEETING*

Ms. Sheri Benson, president, called the emergency meeting of the Heartland AEA Board of Directors to order at 3:01 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, and Dr. Steve Rose. Ms. Margie Schwenk joined the meeting at 3:06 p.m.

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 Mr. Christensen to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Forum and Correspondence

Dr. Sheldahl, Heartland AEA Chief Administration read a letter to the Board written by Heartland AEA School Psychologist, Tyler Higgs. The letter thanked the Agency's leadership and Board for their work in providing stability during this challenging time.

Discussion Items

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

Dr. Sheldahl provided an update on the Agency's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. He shared the link to the Agency's website that is updated daily as information is known. The Agency's special COVID-19 task force and leadership team is holding daily meetings to help keep staff informed. Even though facilities are closed, Heartland AEA will continue to operate as much as possible through remote work and virtual options. No direct services are being provided at this time.

Pandemic Pay Resolution for Hourly and/or Non-Exempt Employees

Dr. Sheldahl discussed the resolution that would allow hourly and/or non-exempt employees to be compensated through April 12, 2020. The resolution is similar to what most AEAs and districts are using, and the funds are already part of the Agency's approved budget for 2019-20. Board members discussed if there was currently a proxy or an assistant chief administrator put in place? This will be added to the next Board agenda.

Pandemic Pay Resolution for Contracted, Salaried and Management Employees

Dr. Sheldahl also discussed the resolution for contracted, salaried and management employees. If the Governor says districts will continue to be closed through the spring, then certified union staff may need to do a calendar spread so they are working while schools are in session. There are a lot of things being discussed and more information will be known in the next couple of weeks. The resolution will go through April 12, 2020, and if the closures go beyond this date, staff will be advised and a recommendation brought to the Board

Action Items

Approve Resolutions for Pandemic Pay

A MOTION was made by Ms. Brennan and seconded by Dr. Rose to approve the resolution of pandemic pay for hourly and/or non-exempt employees. A roll call vote was taken, all ayes. Motion passed unanimously.

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A MOTION was made by Dr. Rose and seconded by Mr. Kinley to approve the resolutions of pandemic pay for contracted, salaried and management employees. A roll call vote was taken, all ayes. Motion passed unanimously.

Board Comments

Board members thanked staff for their work during this challenging time.

Adjournment

A MOTION was made by Mr. Evans and seconded by Mr. Christensen to adjourn the emergency board meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 3:31 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's main office, located at 6500 Corporate Drive, Johnston and on the Agency's website.