

Board of Directors Board Meeting Minutes



July 28, 2020

BOARD RETREAT

Ms. Sheri Benson, president, called the meeting of the Heartland AEA Board of Directors to order at 12:06 p.m.

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

Ms. Margaret Borgen and Mr. Pete Evans joined the meeting following roll call.

Administrative Staff Present: Dr. Jon Sheldahl and Ms. Jenny Ugolini.

Approval of Agenda

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

Discussion Items

Current Board Self-Assessment Instrument

Mr. Harry Heiligenthal, Associate Executive Director of Board Development at the Iowa Association of School Boards, was present to facilitate the retreat and guide board members through a study of their self-evaluation tool. Board members discussed the roles and responsibilities of the Board, reviewed the current evaluation tool to identify gaps and identified indicators of what makes a successful board. The feedback will be used to improve the current self-evaluation tool and process. A draft will be available for review and implementation this fall.

Equity/Social Justice

Mr. Heiligenthal, and Dr. Sheldahl, Heartland AEA Chief Administrator, discussed the Board's learning around equity and social justice. They discussed what types of learning are needed before the Board considers specific goals and actions. Dr. Sheldahl shared that the Agency's leadership team would be having a two-day retreat this week around the topics of equity and social justice. The topic will be a major strand of learning throughout the year. Board members agreed this was important work and needs to be specific to schools. The Board's August 11 work session will focus more on the subject.

August 4 and 11 Board Agenda Review

Board members reviewed the August 4 and 11 board agendas. A special meeting will be held on August 4 to focus on the Agency's *COVID-19 Return-to-Workplace Guide*. The Guide has protocols, office procedures and other safety and mitigation measures for staff returning to the workplace, school buildings and/or client homes. It discusses protective equipment and answers frequently asked questions about employee leave options in case of exposure, quarantine, caring for a sick family member, etc.

Return to Learn Update

Gov. Reynolds and the Iowa Dept. of Education continue to release updated guidance on schools reopening this fall. Dr. Sheldahl and the Agency Planning Council stay abreast of the guidance and meet weekly with area superintendents to discuss return-to-learn plans and related issues.

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Adjournment

A MOTION was made by Dr. Rose and seconded by Mr. Evans to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:16 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.

Handwritten signature of Sheri Benson in black ink.

Ms. Sheri Benson
Board President

Handwritten signature of Jenny Ugolini in black ink.

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-until further notice 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 Agency's website.