

Board of Directors Board Meeting Minutes



October 13, 2020

BOARD MEETING*

Ms. Sheri Benson, president, called the meeting of the Heartland AEA Board of Directors to order at 4:31 p.m.

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

Ms. Margaret Borgen, Ms. Liz Brennan and Mr. Pete Evans joined the meeting immediately following roll call.

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 Dr. Rose to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Work Session

Board Self-Evaluation Results

Board members discussed the results of their annual self-evaluation. Highlights from their conversation:

- **Focus on learning** – Continue to look for opportunities to learn together and with members of the Agency's leadership team.
- **Work on culture** – How do we maintain and continue to grow the Agency's culture.
- **Board goals** – Consider developing goals that run parallel to the chief administrator's goals.
- **Strategic planning** – Expand the Board's calendar to include more strategic-level planning.

The Board recessed from 5:33 – 5:39 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from Sept. 8 and 29, 2020

A MOTION was made by Mr. Evans and seconded by Ms. Schwenk to approve the minutes from the Sept. 8 and Sept. 29, 2020 meetings. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Forum and Correspondence

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

Discussion Items

Chief Administrator's Reports and Recent Activities

- **Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESAs) Educators' Call to Action Conference** – The conference was held Sept. 29-30, 2020. Four legislative virtual meetings were held with U.S. Sen. Grassley and U.S. Sen. Ernst and U.S. Rep. Axne and U.S. Rep. Finkenauer. The meetings went well, and superintendents were able to discuss mental health services, IDEA, educator shortages, E-rate and ESSA. Dr. Jon Sheldahl, Heartland AEA chief administrator, reviewed several handouts that were shared during the conference including the AESA legislative priorities and talking points and national poll data that contained several interesting questions around education.
- **Agency COVID-19 Update** – The Board receives weekly updates on COVID-19 cases within the Agency. This information is also shared with staff. The COVID-19 Task Force continues to work on determining how "open" the Agency should be to visitors and professional learning activities. Currently the Agency still recommends professional learning activities and meetings be held virtually if possible. Staff continue to rotate through agency offices or work from home, depending on their job responsibilities.
- **Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB) Annual Convention** – The IASB Annual Convention will be held Nov. 18-19, 2020.

Board of Directors Board Meeting Minutes



October 13, 2020

Board Policies – Second Reading of Policies 104 and 820

Board members had second readings of new board policies 104 and 820.

Action Items

Board Policies – Second Reading

A MOTION was made by Ms. Borgen and seconded by Mr. Christensen to approve new board policies 104 and 820. The motion passed unanimously.

Level I Investigators

A MOTION was made by Mr. Kinley and seconded by Dr. Rose to add Ms. Susie Bentley as a Level I Investigator. Motion passed unanimously.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Kinley and seconded by Mr. Christensen to approve the list of Level I Investigators (Dr. Jadie Boens, Ms. Nia Chiaramonte, Dr. Kristi Upah and Ms. Susie Bentley) as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Evans reviewed the financial statements and indicated everything was in order. There was nothing of concern to report. A MOTION was made by Mr. Evans and seconded by Dr. Rose to approve the consent agenda including payment of warrant numbers 411681 through 411897 and electronic warrant numbers 31074-31317. Motion passed unanimously.

- Personnel Report
- Purchase Orders:
 - Zoom Video Communications, Inc. \$95,700.00
 - Sierra Training Assoc. - \$30,000.00

Board Comments

- Ms. Borgen shared that she was confident in the Agency's efforts to keep staff safe. She is supportive of whatever action needs to be taken to protect staff. Other board members expressed similar comments about protecting staff.
- The AESA Annual Conference will be held Dec. 2-5, 2020. Ms. Sheila King, Heartland AEA Chief Information Officer, and Ms. Susan Schrader, Heartland AEA Director of Resources & Library Services, will be facilitating one of the learning sessions.

Adjournment

A MOTION was made by Mr. Christensen and seconded by Dr. Bridgewater to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:38 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-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.