

Board of Directors Board Meeting Minutes



Jan. 12, 2021

BOARD MEETING*

Ms. Sheri Benson, president, called the meeting of the Heartland AEA Board of Directors to order at 4:32 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. Evans to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Work Session

Listening Circles and Other Social, Emotional, Behavioral & Mental Health Supports (SEBMH)

Ms. Nicole Craun, a Heartland AEA Challenging Behavior & Autism Consultant, and Dr. Kristi Upah, Heartland AEA Chief Student Services Officer, discussed the Agency's recent efforts to support SEBMH needs for students and for our staff. They shared information about the training modules that will be released next week for teachers which will help them develop the skills they need to support safe classroom learning environments.

Dr. Upah shared the results of the Agency's Listening Circles, a restorative practice that helps develop relationships and build communities. The Listening Circles were held this fall as a resource to help agency staff around their well-being. The topic focused on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and 60 staff participated.

Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESA) Presentation About AEA Scout

Ms. Sheila King, Heartland AEA Chief Information Officer, and Ms. Susan Schrader, Heartland AEA Director of Resources & Library Services, shared highlights from the AEA Scout presentation that was part of the annual AESA conference. AEA Scout is an online portal that houses digital resources that teachers and students can access through one interface. It's currently being piloted in several school districts across the state and will be further deployed as it continues to be developed.

Equity Choice Board

Dr. Jon Sheldahl, Heartland AEA Chief Administrator, highlighted the new learning opportunities available on the social justice and equity board.

The Board recessed from 5:35 – 5:40 p.m.

Board Meeting

Approval of Minutes from Dec. 8 and 11, 2020

A MOTION was made by Dr. Bridgewater and seconded by Mr. Evans to approve the minutes from Dec. 8 and 11, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Forum and Correspondence

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

Discussion Items

FY 2022 Budget Conversation

Mr. Kurt Subra, Heartland AEA Chief Financial Officer, walked board members through the proposed FY 2021-22 budget. He shared the impact that declining enrollment brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic will have on the Agency's budget. Several supplemental state aid scenarios were reviewed, and he discussed the Agency's solvency ratio which is expected to decrease next year.

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Chief Administrator Professional Development Goals

Dr. Sheldahl provided a mid-year update on his professional development goals. He reported that work is taking place in the areas of mental health and well-being and leading the Agency toward becoming a more equitable, socially just and anti-racist organization. Agency leaders will participate in Mental Health First Aid training this month, and the organization has contracted with the New York Leadership Academy on equity training.

Chief Administrator's Reports and Recent Activities

- **Legislative Update** – Dr. Sheldahl discussed the upcoming legislative session. The AEAs will advocate for higher supplement state aid, an allocation for mental health services and equitable AEA funding. It's expected that a bill will be presented to address open enrollment desegregation.
- **COVID-19: Resolution and Families First COVID-19 Relief Act (FFCRA) Benefits** – Dr. Sheldahl discussed the pandemic resolution that will allow the Agency to extend FFCRA or similar benefits through June 30, 2021.

Action Items

Pandemic Resolution

A MOTION was made by Ms. Borgen and seconded by Mr. Kinley to approve the pandemic resolution. Motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Dr. Bridgewater reviewed the financial statements and indicated everything was in order. A MOTION was made by Ms. Brennan and seconded by Dr. Rose to approve the consent agenda including payment of warrant numbers 412319 and 412518 and electronic warrant numbers 32019 and 32367. Motion passed unanimously.

- Personnel Report
- Purchase Orders:
 - *Learn Platform, Inc.* - \$50,899.20
- Transportation Agreements: Ballard CSD and North Polk CSD

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 2021-22 negotiations process. Motion carried unanimously. A roll call vote was taken.

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| • Ms. Sheri Benson | Aye |
| • Ms. Margaret Borgen | Aye |
| • Ms. Liz Brennan | Aye |
| • Dr. Earl Bridgewater | Aye |
| • 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 (exempt) session at 6:45 p.m. The Board returned to public session at 7:13 p.m.

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Adjournment

A MOTION was made by Dr. Bridgewater and seconded by Dr. Rose to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:14 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sheri Benson".

Ms. Sheri Benson
Board President

A handwritten signature in purple ink, reading "Jenny Ugolini".

Ms. Jenny Ugolini
Board Secretary

*Iowa Code 21.8 - Pursuant to Governor Reynolds' proclamation of public health emergency currently in effect, an electronic meeting will be held because it is impossible or impractical to host the meeting and hearing in person due to concerns for the health and safety of the school community and public due to COVID-19.