

Board of Directors

Board Meeting Minutes



Feb. 9, 2021

BOARD MEETING*

Ms. Sheri Benson, president, called the meeting of the Heartland AEA Board of Directors to order at 4:30 p.m.

Board Members Present: Ms. Sheri Benson, Ms. Liz Brennan, Dr. Earl Bridgewater, Mr. Bruce Christensen, Mr. John Kinley and Ms. Margie Schwenk. Ms. Margaret Borgen, Mr. Pete Evans and Dr. Steve Rose joined the meeting at 4:34 p.m.

Administrative Staff Present: Ms. Nia Chiaramonte, Mr. Kevin Fangman, Ms. Sheila King, Dr. Jon Sheldahl, Mr. Kurt Subra and Ms. Jenny Ugolini. *Absent:* Dr. Kristi Upah.

Approval of Agenda

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

Work Session

Legislative Update

Dr. Tom Lane and Ms. Kate Walton, lobbyists for Iowa's AEAs, were present to provide an update on the 2021 Iowa legislation session.

- **Supplemental State Aid (SSA)** – SSA could settle somewhere between 2.2-2.5%. A final number has not been reached.
- **Voluntary Transfer Ban** – This is a bill that would eliminate the voluntary transfer ban and prevent schools from keeping students from families with higher incomes from enrolling out of their district. If it passes, it would impact five Iowa districts.
- **SF168** – Is a bill that would require that certain AEA services and supports provided to non-public students must, if a parent or guardian grants permission, be provided on the non-public school's premises. The bill, as currently written, does not require the non-public school to be accredited.
- **Child Care Access and Affordability** – There are several bills in progress that would make child care more affordable, which will be meaningful to families.

Pear Deck

Ms. Annie Carpenter and Ms. Molly Sweeney, Heartland AEA math curriculum consultants, demonstrated Pear Deck, a digital tool that allows teachers to create interactive presentations in a virtual environment. It has received great response from Heartland AEA districts and helps teachers stay aligned with instructional best practices.

The Board recessed from 5:51 to 6:00 p.m.

Public Hearing on 2020-21 Amended Budget and 2021-22 Proposed Budget

A MOTION was made by Mr. Kinley and seconded by Dr. Rose to enter into the public budget hearing at 6:02 p.m. There was no one present from the public to speak. A MOTION was made by Ms. Brennan and seconded by Mr. Kinley to close the public hearing. The hearing closed at 6:03 p.m.

Board Meeting

Approval of Minutes from Jan. 12 and 26, 2021

A MOTION was made by Dr. Bridgewater and seconded by Mr. Evans to approve the minutes from Jan. 12 and 26, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Forum and Correspondence

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Dr. Sheldahl, Heartland AEA Chief Administrator, and Dr. Rose shared that a Top USA Workplace Award was recently awarded to Grant Wood AEA. Dr. Sheldahl will send them a congratulatory letter on behalf of the Board.

Discussion Items

Amended 2020-21 Budget and Proposed 2021-22 Budget

Mr. Subra, Heartland AEA Chief Financial Officer, reviewed the Agency's 2020-21 budget and proposed 2021-22 budget. He discussed the pandemic's impact on enrollment, shared that the Agency's solvency ratio will drop next fiscal year between 8.25-9.25% and noted that no capital improvement projects are currently budgeted.

Chief Administrator's Report and Recent Activities

- **COVID-19 Update** - Dr. Sheldahl shared that the Agency continues to work with county health departments on vaccinations for staff. Staff vaccinations will be monitored (without asking for any personal, identifiable information and within HIPPA guidelines) to help determine if and when any agency pandemic restrictions can be lifted. He shared that the Governor's recent changes on masks and group size requirements did not impact Heartland AEA's mitigation practices. Employees have been good role models for the community.
- **Equity Audit Update** - The Agency has contracted with the New York City Leadership Academy (NYCLA) on equity and diversity training for staff. An Equity Steering Committee, that will include external partners, is being formed to participate in an equity audit of the Agency. Board members can volunteer to participate.

Action Items

Amended 2020-21 Budget and Proposed 2021-22 Budget

A MOTION was made by Dr. Bridgewater and seconded by Mr. Evans to approve the amended 2020-21 budget and proposed 2021-22 budget. Motion passed unanimously.

Teamsters Tentative Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding

A MOTION was made by Mr. Kinley and seconded by Dr. Bridgewater to approve the Teamsters Tentative Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding. Motion passed unanimously. (The Agreement is for a \$.683 hourly rate increase for all Classified Union staff, resulting in a 2.96% average wage increase for 2021-22.)

Consent Agenda

Mr. Kinley reviewed the financial statements and indicated that they are on track. A MOTION was made by Mr. Evans and seconded by Ms. Borgen to approve the consent agenda including payment of warrant numbers 412519-412963 and electronic warrant numbers 32368-32606. Motion passed unanimously.

- Personnel Report
- Purchase Orders:
 - All Makes Office Equipment - \$35,095.84
 - Perfection Learning - \$55,000.00
 - Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) - \$24,700.00
- AEA Learning Online 28E Agreement
- Transportation Agreements - Dallas Center Grimes CSD
- VOYA Life Insurance Renewal Agreement

Closed (Exempt) Session

A MOTION was made by Mr. Kinley and seconded by Mr. Evans 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 6:56 p.m. The Board returned to public session at 7:04 p.m.

Adjournment

A MOTION was made by Dr. Bridgewater and seconded by Mr. Christensen to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:05 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 blue ink that reads "Sheri Benson".

Ms. Sheri Benson
Board President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "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.