

# Board of Directors Board Meeting Minutes



**March 9, 2021**

## **BOARD MEETING\***

Ms. Sheri Benson, president, called the meeting of the Heartland AEA Board of Directors to order at 4:37 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. *Absent:* Ms. Margie Schwenk.

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

## **Work Session**

### **Iowa's AEAs Mental Health Website & Resources**

Dr. Jon Sheldahl, Heartland AEA Chief Administrator, reviewed the Iowa's AEAs mental health and well-being website at <https://iowaeeamentalhealth.org/>. The website is rich in resources that are categorized around mental health topics such as anxiety and stress, depression and suicide prevention. Users such as parents and educators can easily navigate to find the support they need for any region within the state.

## **Thought Exchange**

Dr. Sheldahl shared information about Thought Exchange, a platform that is used to gauge perception around specific topics. Thought Exchange was used this winter by the AEAs to collect feedback from superintendents, the curriculum network and the special education director network about improving AEA services. He reviewed the collective Iowa's AEAs results and Heartland AEA's results, which will continue to be reviewed for major themes and areas of improvement.

**The Board recessed from 5:20 – 5:30 p.m.**

## **Board Meeting**

### **Approval of Minutes from Feb. 9 & 23, 2021**

A MOTION was made by Mr. Kinley and seconded by Mr. Christensen to approve the minutes from Feb. 9 and 23, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Public Forum and Correspondence**

There was no one from the public present to speak during the forum.

## **Discussion Items**

### **Chief Administrator's Report and Recent Activities**

- **COVID-19 Update** - Dr. Sheldahl shared that a short survey will be sent to staff about vaccinations. The survey will be sent after spring break, and it will only be used to determine the percentage of staff who have been fully vaccinated and those who do not plan on being vaccinated. Conversations around remote work and returning to the office continue to be held. This is primarily for the Johnston REC and Administration Center staff. The Agency is also gearing up for summer professional learning courses and discussing how to be more efficient when it comes to meetings and learning sessions.
- **Board Advisory Council** – The council met in Fall 2020 and in February 2021. The meetings were held to gather feedback from administrators, teachers and parents about agency services. At February's meeting, the new Heartland AEA website was shared along with information on how to access services and resources.
- **Legislative Update** – Dr. Sheldahl shared a spreadsheet that tracks current bills related to education. The spreadsheet details the file name and tracks the bills' progress through the legislative process. The AEA Chiefs continue to meet weekly with the AEAs' lobbyists to receive updates.

# Board of Directors

## Board Meeting Minutes



### Board Policies – First Reading – 600, 700, 800 Series and Board Policy 300

Board members had the first reading of the 600, 700 and 800 policy series and miscellaneous policy 300. They will be brought back for a second reading and approval at the April board meeting.

### Leaders/Managers Compensation (Certified Non-Union)

Mr. Kurt Subra, Heartland AEA Chief Financial Officer, shared the compensation recommendation for the Agency's Leaders/Managers (Certified Non-Union.) The recommendation for 2021-22 is for a salary increase of 2.77%, which is the result of a 2.5% total package increase.

### Classified Non-Union Compensation

Mr. Subra shared the recommendation for the Classified Non-Union compensation for 2021-22. The recommendation is for a salary increase of 2.99% based on a total package increase of 2.5%.

### Action Items

#### Negotiations – Certified Union (CU) Heartland Education Association (HEA) Tentative Agreement & Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

A MOTION was made by Dr. Bridgewater and seconded by Mr. Evans to approve the HEA Tentative Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Negotiations – Certified Non-Union (Leaders)

A MOTION was made by Dr. Rose and seconded by Mr. Christensen to approve the recommendation for the Leaders/Managers (CNU) compensation for 2021-22. The motion passed unanimously. (A salary increase of 2.77%, which is the result of a 2.5% total package increase.)

#### Negotiations Classified Non-Union (CLNU)

A MOTION was made by Mr. Kinley and seconded by Mr. Evans to approve the recommended CLNU compensation for 2021-22. The motion passed unanimously. (A salary increase of 2.99% based on a total package increase of 2.5%.)

### Consent Agenda

Ms. Brennan reviewed the financial statements and indicated everything was in order. She reported no concerns. A MOTION was made by Mr. Kinley and seconded by Dr. Rose to approve the consent agenda including payment of warrant numbers 412694-412858 and electronic warrant numbers 32607-32901. The motion passed unanimously.

- Personnel Report
- Purchase Orders:
  - *Apple Computers - \$58,190.00*
- Facility Service Agreement between Heartland AEA and Community, Family and Youth Services/PCDC 2021-22
- Facility Services Agreement between Heartland AEA and Youth Emergency Services & Shelter
- Facility Services Agreement between Heartland AEA and YSS/Rosedale Shelter
- 2021-22 Memorandum of Understanding between Heartland AEA Shelter Care Education Program and Polk County Juvenile Detention Center
- 2021-22 Memorandum of Understanding between Heartland AEA Shelter Care Education Program and Rosedale Shelter/YSS
- 2021-22 Memorandum of Understanding between Heartland AEA Shelter Care Education Program and Youth Emergency Services and Shelter
- First Amendment 2020-21 Agreement to Contract the Services of Heartland AEA Employee to the Iowa Association of Area Education Agencies

### Chief Administrator Comments

- Dr. Sheldahl asked the Board about continuing to hold electronic board meetings vs. when they would like to consider transitioning back to in-person meetings. A recommendation was made to begin in-person board meetings beginning this summer.



# Board of Directors Board Meeting Minutes



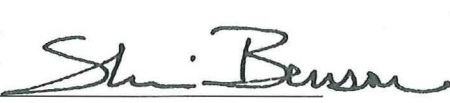

## Board Comments

- Mr. Christensen discussed AEA chief administrator salaries and questioned if Heartland AEA was still considered competitive. The topic will be added to a future agenda as part of the chief administrator's annual evaluation.

## Adjournment

A MOTION was made by Dr. Bridgewater and seconded by Mr. Evans to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:27 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) 473-6644, 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 - 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.