

# Board of Directors Board Meeting Minutes



October 12, 2021

## BOARD MEETING

Ms. Sheri Benson, president, called the meeting of the Heartland AEA Board of Directors to order at 4:04 p.m.

Board Members Present: Ms. Sheri Benson, Ms. Liz Brennan, Dr. Earl Bridgewater, Mr. Pete Evans, Mr. John Kinley, Dr. Steve Rose and Ms. Margie Schwenk. *Absent:* Mr. Bruce Christensen. Ms. Margaret Borgen arrived at 4:25 p.m.

Administrative Staff Present: Ms. Sheila King, Dr. Jon Sheldahl and Ms. Jenny Ugolini. *Absent:* Dr. Kristi Upah. Ms. Nia Chiaramonte and Mr. Kevin Fangman arrived at 5:00 p.m. Mr. Kurt Subra joined via telephone at 5:45 p.m.

## Approval of Agenda

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

## Board Work Session

### Board Self Evaluation Results

Board members discussed the results of their annual self-evaluation. They discussed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which limited meeting face-to-face and how that affected meeting engagement. Ideas for future work sessions were generated, including review of the Agency's mission, vision and goals, an update on the IAAEA statewide system, opportunities for legislative advocacy and a problem of practice case study on special education.

## Technology Showcase

Ms. Sheila King, Heartland AEA Chief Information Officer, and Mr. Jeff S. Weinberg, Heartland AEA Director of Technology, provided an update in three areas of the Agency's technology: instructional technology, ClassLink OneClick and implementing cybersecurity tools. The Agency will be piloting cybersecurity services as a managed service for districts to determine if it's cost effective and manageable.

**The Board recessed from 5:18 - 5:48 p.m.**

## Board Meeting

### Approval of Minutes from Sept. 13 and 28, 2021

A MOTION was made by Mr. Kinley and seconded by Mr. Evans to approve the minutes from Sept. 13 and 28, 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

- The All-Staff meeting was held Sept. 24. It featured guest speaker, Mitch Matthews, who talked about giving yourself permission to dream. The afternoon included breakout sessions on various topics. The meeting was well attended, with over 600 staff participating.
- Ms. Noelle Ellerson Ng, Associate Executive Director, Policy & Advocacy, for the Association of School Superintendents (AASA), provided a federal update at the Nov. 2 Heartland Administrators' Association (Superintendents) meeting. She discussed the Build Back Better Act, the teaching shortage and IDEA funding.

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- Dr. Jon Sheldahl, Heartland AEA Chief Administrator, shared that the Teamsters Local 238, who represents the Agency's Classified Union employees, was not going to recertify Heartland AEA. The current agreement will become null and void. He reviewed a recommendation to merge the Classified Union with the Classified Non-union group to form a new category known as Classified staff. This merger is also recommended to equalize processes and procedures by offering all Classified staff fully paid family dental insurance and faster vacation accrual, effective July 1, 2022. The Board will vote on the recommendation at its November meeting.

### Board Policies - First Reading of 900 and 1000 Series

Board members had the first reading of updated board policies within the 900 and 1000 series. They continue to work on other policies that will be brought forward at a later date. The Board reviewed the policies and had no further edits.

### Equity Update

Dr. Sheldahl provided an equity update. The Agency has finished work with the New York Leadership Academy and is in the final stages of developing its definition of equity. He shared that the Agency wants to be data driven in its work and focus on student outcomes. Equity will be a data-driven process for all children.

### Action Items

#### Level I Investigators

A MOTION was made by Mr. Kinley and seconded by Dr. Rose to approve the Level I investigators as listed: Dr. Jadie Boens, Ms. Nia Chiaramonte, Dr. Kristi Upah and Ms. Susie Bentley. The motion passed unanimously.

### Consent Agenda

Mr. Kinley reviewed the financial statements and indicated that everything was in order. A MOTION was made by Mr. Kinley and seconded by Mr. Evans to approve the consent agenda including payment of warrant numbers 414410 through 414668 and electronic warrant numbers 34850 through 35279. The motion passed unanimously.

- Personnel Report
- Purchase Orders:
  - *West Wind Education Policy* - \$36,000.00
  - *Paul H. Brookes Publishing* - \$31,973.40
  - *WebSpec Design* - \$53,812.50
  - *Beck Institute for Cognitive Behavior Therapy* - \$31,500.00
  - *Greiner Construction* - \$27,930.00
  - *Exterior Sheet Metal* - \$12,350.00

### Chief Administrator Comments

- Board members were reminded about upcoming conferences: the Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB) Annual Convention in November and the Association of Educational Services Agencies (AESA) in December.
- Dr. Earl Bridgewater and Mr. Bruce Christensen will be retiring from the Board this fall. Dr. Bridgewater will have served 23 years, and Mr. Christensen 14 years. Anyone interested in filling their director district positions should contact Dr. Sheldahl or Ms. Ugolini.

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## Board Comments

- Dr. Bridgewater commended the Board and the Agency's leadership for their work. The Agency has great fiduciary oversight and the IAAEA state system is unparalleled and commendable in its work. Board members thanked him and Mr. Christensen for their many years of dedicated service.

## 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 6:41 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.

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