

Board of Directors Board Meeting Minutes



November 9, 2021

BOARD MEETING

Ms. Sheri Benson, president, called the meeting of the Heartland AEA Board of Directors to order at 4:00 p.m.

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

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.

Guests: Ms. Tiara Mays, Heartland AEA board member-elect.

Approval of Agenda

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

Board Work Session

Audit Results

Ms. Mia Frommelt, auditor from Bohnsack & Frommelt, L.L.P., was present to review the results of the Agency's 2021-22 audit. The Board Audit Committee met prior to the board meeting to discuss the results. Three audits were performed and no issues were reported with any of them. An unmodified clean opinion was given, which is the highest opinion that can be given.

Chapter 274 & IAAEA State Overview

Dr. Jon Sheldahl, Heartland AEA Chief Administrator, reviewed Iowa Code Chapters 273.8 and 273.11. He discussed the purpose and intent of Iowa's area education agencies and boards of directors. He shared the current organizational structure of the Iowa AEA system and how the AEA chief administrators are navigating the work.

The Board recessed from 5:08 to 5:40 p.m.

Board Meeting

Approval of Minutes from Oct. 12 & 26, 2021

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

Public Forum and Correspondence

The results of the Oct. 26, 2021, Heartland Education Association (HEA) recertification were shared. There was no one from the public present to speak during the forum.

Discussion Items

Chief Administrator's Report and Recent Activities

- **Board Advisory Council** - The council met on Oct. 28 to gather feedback about current issues and concerns related to Heartland AEA services. Some of the major themes discussed were around more support for mental health and behavior, teacher shortages and help with recruitment and the impact of COVID-19 on student attendance.
- **Iowa Department of Education's BEST Summit** - Heartland AEA staff recently participated in the Iowa BEST Conference sponsored by the Iowa Department of Education and the University of Iowa.

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Several Heartland AEA staff presented at the conference, which focused on behavioral, equitable, social-emotional, trauma-informed health for educators.

- **Equity Definition of Work Teams** - The group will meet tomorrow to continue working on equity outcomes and operationalizing the Agency's work teams. Look for more information at a later date.

Annual Settlement of Accounts/Certified Annual Report (CAR)

Mr. Kurt Subra, Heartland AEA Chief Financial Officer, discussed the annual settlement of accounts and the Certified Annual Report. This is supplemental information that is provided every year, in addition to the results of the Agency's annual audit.

Human Resources Metrics

Ms. Nia Chiaramonte, Director of Human Resources, shared staffing metrics for the Agency. She reviewed staffing numbers and enrollment trends and discussed recruitment efforts to help create a more diversified workforce that would better reflect the students being served in area schools. Board members asked about trend numbers for recruiting and hiring interns.

Board Policies - Second Reading of 900 and 1000 Series

Board members held a second reading of the 900 and 1000 board policy series. No additional edits were suggested.

IASB Delegate Assembly - Appointment of Representative

Ms. Sheri Benson volunteered to attend the Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB) delegate assembly on behalf of the Board.

Board Holiday Dinner

Board members discussed holding a holiday dinner following the Dec. 14 board meeting.

Action Items

Board Policies 900 and 1000 Series

A MOTION was made by Dr. Rose and seconded by Ms. Brennan to approve the board policies in the 900 and 1000 series. The motion passed unanimously.

Acceptance of Audit Results as Presented

A MOTION was made by Mr. Kinley and seconded by Mr. Evans to approve the results of the Agency's audit as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Decertification of the Classified Union and New Classified Staff Benefits

A MOTION was made by Ms. Brennan and seconded by Mr. Evans to approve the decertification of the Agency's Classified Union and approve the new Classified staff group benefits. The motion passed unanimously.

IASB Delegate Assembly

A MOTION was made by Mr. Kinley and seconded by Mr. Evans to appoint Ms. Benson to attend the Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB) delegate assembly on behalf of Heartland AEA. The motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Benson reviewed the financial statements and indicated that everything was in order and the Agency is in a fiscally strong situation. No irregularities or problems were reported. A MOTION was made by Dr. Rose and

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seconded by Dr. Bridgewater to approve the consent agenda including payment of warrant numbers 414669 through 414909 and electronic warrant numbers 35280 through 35739. The motion passed unanimously.

- Personnel Report
- Purchase Orders:
 - AESA - \$30,000.00
 - Apple Computer - \$308,908.00
- 2021-22 Des Moines Support Services Contract Amendment
- LifeWorks Amending Agreement

Chief Administrator Comments

- Dr. Sheldahl noted upcoming conferences and encouraged board members to attend. He shared a presentation on AEA funding that will be co-presented by Heartland AEA and Central Rivers AEA at the November IASB Convention.

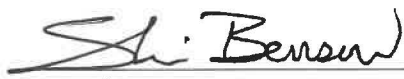
Board Comments

- At the Dec. 14 board meeting, new officers will be elected, i.e., president and vice president. Any board member interested in serving as an officer should contact Ms. Borgen by Dec. 1.
- Mr. Kinley was able to job shadow a Heartland AEA speech-language pathologist last month. He indicated it was a great experience and learning opportunity.

Adjournment

A MOTION was made by Mr. Kinley and seconded by Mr. Evans to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:46 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