

Board of Directors Board Meeting Minutes



March 8, 2022

BOARD MEETING

Mr. Pete Evans, 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. Margaret Borgen, Ms. Liz Brennan, Mr. Pete Evans, Dr. Steve Rose and Ms. Margie Schwenk. *Absent:* Mr. John Kinley and Mr. Alex Piedras.

Ms. Tiara Mays arrived at 4:11 p.m.

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 Ms. Benson to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Work Session

Family & Educator Partnership (FEP)

Ms. Kari Paulsen, Heartland AEA Lead Family & Educator Partnership Coordinator, and Ms. Johnna Deaton-Davis, a Heartland AEA Family & Educator Partnership Coordinator, discussed services and supports for schools and families of students served by special education. FEP coordinators are parents of children with special needs, so they share a unique perspective with the families they serve. Services range from transition planning, to providing information about wills, guardianships, waivers and insurance, to attending meetings IEP meetings with families.

The Board recessed from 4:59 p.m. to 5:34 p.m.

Board Meeting

Approval of Minutes from Feb. 8, 2022

A MOTION was made by Ms. Benson and seconded by Ms. Schwenk to approve the minutes from Feb. 8, 2022. 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

Dr. Sheldahl, Heartland AEA Chief Administrator, provided a brief legislative update.

- **SSB 3080 Student Vouchers** - A hearing was held today on the vouchers. At this time it's unknown if there are enough votes for the bill to pass.
- **HF727 AEA Reorganization** - This bill would consolidate the AEAs from nine to four. Once the bill is introduced into Appropriations, it's alive throughout the session. There is still uncertainty around the sentiment that's behind the reintroduction of the bill.

Retention Bonus

Dr. Sheldahl asked the Board to consider a recommendation that would authorize a retention bonus for regular full-time and part-time staff employed as of March 8, 2022. The bonus would encourage staff retention and act as encouragement and as a token of appreciation for their work during the ongoing pandemic.

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Classified Staff 2022-23 Compensation

Mr. Kurt Subra, Heartland AEA Chief Financial Officer, noted that the negotiations with the Certified Union group settled at a total compensation package increase of 2.75%. It's recommended that a total compensation package increase of 2.75% be given to Classified staff for 2022-23.

Leaders 2022-23 Compensation

A recommendation was made for a total compensation package increase of 2.63% for the Heartland AEA Leaders group for 2022-23.

Board Policies - First Reading

Board members had a first reading of several updated board policies. The edits were made based on recommendations from the Iowa Association of School Boards, which were reviewed and discussed by the Agency's Board Policy Committee.

Action Items

Negotiations - Certified Union/HEA

A MOTION was made by Ms. Benson and seconded by Dr. Rose to approve the tentative agreement with the Heartland Education Association (HEA) for 2022-23. The motion passed unanimously.

Classified Staff 2022-23 Compensation

A MOTION was made by Dr. Rose and seconded by Ms. Brennan to approve the Classified staff compensation recommendation as specified (2.75% total package increase for 2022-23). The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Leaders 2022-23 Compensation

A MOTION was made by Ms. Borgen and seconded by Ms. Brennan to approve the Leaders total package compensation increase (2.75% total package increase for 2022-23). The motion passed unanimously.

Retention Bonus

A MOTION was made by Dr. Rose and seconded by Ms. Benson that in order to encourage the retention of all staff during the ongoing pandemic and in order to reward staff for their ongoing work to provide quality services during the pandemic, Heartland AEA will offer all full-time staff members a \$1,000 bonus and all part-time staff members a \$500 bonus, if employed as of March 8, 2022. The motion was enthusiastically and unanimously passed. The Board noted they were proud to do this for Heartland AEA staff.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Brennan reviewed the financial statements and indicated that all was well. A MOTION was made by Ms. Benson and seconded by Ms. Schwenk to approve the consent agenda including payment of warrant numbers 415426 through 415556 and electronic warrant numbers 36998 through 37401. The motion passed unanimously.

- Personnel Report and Addendum
- Purchase Orders:
 - *Convergeone, Inc.* - \$25,901.28
 - *All Makes* - \$66,026.14
 - *Perfection Learning* - \$60,000.00
 - *NexusLeap, LLC* - \$42,000.00
- Delta Dental Renewal Agreement

Chief Administrator Comments

- Dr. Sheldahl shared that the Board has received a formal request for a closed hearing from a staff member whose position has been terminated. The employee has a procedural right to a hearing.
- Dr. Sheldahl commented that business strategy framework (BSF) projects are underway in the Agency. BSF teams met today with consultants to discuss their work. It will be brought back as a future work session for the Board to learn more about.

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Adjournment

A MOTION was made by Dr. Rose and seconded by Ms. Mays to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:21 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 black ink, appearing to read "Pete Evans", written over a horizontal line.

Mr. Pete Evans
Board President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenny Ugolini", written over a horizontal line.

Ms. Jenny Ugolini
Board Secretary