

Board of Directors Board Meeting Minutes



June 14, 2022

BOARD MEETING

Ms. Margaret Borgen, vice president, called the meeting of the Heartland AEA Board of Directors to order at 4:07 p.m.

Board Members Present: Ms. Sheri Benson, Ms. Margaret Borgen, Ms. Tiara Mays, Mr. Alex Piedras, Dr. Steve Rose and Ms. Margie Schwenk. *Absent:* Mr. John Kinley.

Ms. Liz Brennan and Mr. Pete Evans arrived at 5:35 p.m.

Administrative Staff Present: Ms. Nia Chiaramonte, Ms. Sheila King, Dr. Jon Sheldahl and Ms. Jenny Ugolini.

Approval of Agenda

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

Work Session

Computer Science at Heartland AEA

Ms. Amy Wichman, Heartland AEA Director of Instructional Services, and Ms. Marisa Dahl, a Heartland AEA Digital Learning Consultant, were present to talk about computer science education. They discussed the Future Ready Iowa Act that establishes requirements and timelines for computer science planning and instruction for school districts. The statewide Iowa's AEAs Computer Science Team was awarded \$1.5M in grants that will be used to provide training and instruction to over 1,000 educators.

The Board recessed from 5:07 through 5:46 p.m.

Board Meeting

Approval of Minutes from May 10, 26 and 31, 2022

A MOTION was made by Ms. Benson and seconded by Dr. Rose to approve the minutes from May 10, 26 and 31, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Forum and Correspondence

There was no correspondence from the public.

Discussion Items

Chief Administrator's Reports and Recent Activities

- **Legislative Update**
 - Dr. Jon Sheldahl, Heartland AEA chief administrator, shared that at the end of the 2022 legislative session, AEA Teacher Quality funds were cut, which was a reduction of approximately \$2M for Iowa's AEAs. The money was used to pay staff who participated in professional learning. The Agency is reevaluating its summer learning program and if training sessions will be held.
 - There is expectation that the school choice voucher bill, which did not pass this year, will be raised again in the next legislative session.
 - The AEA equity bill did not pass.
- **AEA Chiefs Retreat Update** - The AEA chief administrators will be holding a retreat this week. Dr. Ryan Wise, former director of the Iowa Department of Education, will help facilitate a conversation around AEA efficiencies.

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Johnston REC Remodel and Commitment of Fund Balance

Mr. Kurt Subra, Heartland AEA Chief Financial Officer, and Mr. David Voss, architect with SlingShot Architecture, reviewed Phase I of the Johnston Regional Education Center (REC) remodeling project, which includes indoor, outdoor and parking lot improvements. The Agency will commit roughly \$3.5M to Phase I of the project. Board members asked about adding a few alternatives to some of the remodeling work, that can either be cut or added, as the work and budget evolves.

Special Pay Plan (SSP)

Mr. Subra briefly reviewed the details of the SSP plan and discussed moving forward with the recommendation. The plan has been vetted by legal counsel at Ahlers & Cooney, which provided a formal legal opinion.

Staff Handbook Edits - Section 7.6: Vacation

Mr. Subra noted that the Agency's Staff Handbook would be updated to reflect the addition of the Special Pay Plan.

IASB Legislative Platform, Resolutions and Priorities

Board members reviewed and discussed choices for the 2023 IASB legislative priorities. They narrowed the choices to six. Ms. Ugolini will poll the Board later this summer to rate their top four which will be submitted to IASB after the August board meeting.

1. #19/20 - School Funding Policy and Supplemental State Aid
2. #16 - Teacher Recruitment and Licensure
3. #8 - Mental Health
4. #11 - Area Education Agencies
5. #9 - Special Education State
6. A new priority about school safety

August 9 Draft Retreat Agenda

The Board will hold its annual retreat on Aug. 9, 2022. The retreat will begin with a short business meeting then transition into dedicated learning time. Board members discussed and finalized their topics which will include a review of the Agency's Playbook, Staff Handbook and an overview of the Total Rewards Program. Future work session topics were shared, such as a learning session from an occupational or physical therapist and review of academic and enrollment data.

Action Items

Johnston REC Remodel and Commitment of Fund Balance

A MOTION was made by Ms. Brennan and seconded by Mr. Piedras to approve the plans of Phase I of the Johnston REC remodel and the commitment of fund balance recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

Special Pay Plan (SSP)

A MOTION was made by Ms. Borgen and seconded by Ms. May to approve the Special Pay Plan. The motion passed unanimously.

Staff Handbook Edits - Section 7.6: Vacation

A MOTION was made by Ms. Schwenk and seconded by Ms. Brennan to approve the Staff Handbook edits to Section 7.6: Vacation. The motion passed unanimously.

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Consent Agenda

Ms. Benson reviewed the financial statements and indicated that thanks to the Agency's Business Office, everything is financially in order. A MOTION was made by Dr. Rose and seconded by Mr. Piedras to approve the consent agenda including payment of warrant numbers 415944 through 416288 and electronic warrant numbers 38281 through 38768. Motion passed unanimously.

- Personnel Report
- Purchase Orders:
 1. *Apple Computer Inc.* - \$38,975.00
 2. *LightEdge Solutions, L.L.C.* - \$24,000.00
 3. *Midwest Special Instruments* - \$23,215.00
 4. *Journey Ed.Com* - \$20,717.16
 5. *Marco Technologies, L.L.C.* - \$46,458.72
 6. *BootUp PD Inc.* - \$87,600.00
 7. *Defined Learning* - \$50,386.86
 8. *EBSCO Industries, Inc.* - \$145,290.00
 9. *Drake University* - \$63,000.00
 10. *BootUp* - \$27,000.00
 11. *Iowa Association of AEAs* - \$942,080.55
- Transportation Agreements
 - Coon Rapids-Bayard CSD
 - Guthrie Center CSD
- Shelter Care Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) and Facility Agreements with Heartland AEA
 - *Polk County Facility*
 - *Polk County MOU*
- Lease Renewal Agreements for Classroom and Administration Space at Ellipsis

Chief Administrator Comments

- There were no comments from the chief administrator.

Board Comments

- Ms. Brennan provided an update from the Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB). IASB is currently a member of the National School Board Association (NSBA) due to a requirement in their bylaws. A special delegate assembly will be held in early September to update the bylaws so they're allowed to be a member of any national school board organization.
- Dr. Rose noted that it's Art Week in Des Moines and to look for various art activities being held this week.

Adjournment

A MOTION was made by Dr. Rose and seconded by Mr. Piedras to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:38 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.

Mr. Pete Evans
Board President

Ms. Jenny Ugolini
Board Secretary

