

Board of Directors Board Meeting Minutes



May 13, 2025

BOARD MEETING

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

Board Members Present: Ms. Liz Brennan, Mr. Pete Evans, Mr. John Kinley, Ms. Tiara Mays-Sims and Ms. Heather Sievers. Ms. Margie Schwenk joined at 4:02 p.m., Mr. Alex Piedras joined at 4:07 p.m., Ms. Margaret Borgen joined at 4:13 p.m. and Dr. Steve Rose joined at 4:15 p.m.

Administrative Staff Present: Mr. Kevin Fangman, Dr. Susie Meade, Ms. Jenny Ugolini, Dr. Kristi Upah, Mr. Brian Whalen and Dr. Cindy Yelick.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes from April 8 & 29, 2025

A MOTION was made by Mr. Evans and seconded by Ms. Sievers to approve the minutes from April 8 and 29, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Forum & Correspondence

No one from the public was present to speak to the Board. Board members were recognized for their service, as May is National School Board Recognition Month.

CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session - Section 21.5(1)(j) of the Iowa Code

A MOTION was made by Mr. Kinley and seconded by Mr. Evans to enter an exempt session as provided in Section 21.5(1)(j) of the Iowa Code for the evaluation of Dr. Cindy Yelick, chief administrator.

A roll call vote was taken. The Board of Directors entered into closed session at 4:03 p.m.

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| ● Ms. Margaret Borgen | Joined at 4:13 p.m. | ● Mr. Alex Piedras | Joined at 4:07 p.m. |
| ● Ms. Liz Brennan | Aye | ● Dr. Steve Rose | Joined at 4:15 p.m. |
| ● Mr. Pete Evans | Aye | ● Ms. Margie Schwenk | Aye |
| ● Mr. John Kinley | Aye | ● Ms. Heather Sievers | Aye |
| ● Ms. Tiara Mays-Sims | Aye | | |

The Board of Directors exited the closed session at 4:53 p.m.

The Board recessed from 4:53 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Discussion Items

Role of AEA Boards

Dr. Yelick shared that the Agency continues to work on gaining clarity about the roles of AEA board of directors due to changes legislated in House File 2612. The timeline for the board election process will remain the same. The AEAs are working with Jodi Flory, a geographical information systems specialist, to redraw the director district

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boundaries due to changes in Iowa Code. The School Administrators of Iowa (SAI) is also willing to assist the AEAs in the election process for the four superintendent director districts. It's anticipated that the boards of directors will function similarly as they have in the past, with no sweeping changes.

Legislative Update

- Legislation is stalled as both the House and Senate continue to debate the eminent domain pipeline bill.
- There is no update on the appropriations bill; it currently remains the same as last year, with a \$32.5M reduction for the AEA system. Heartland AEA has built its budget around this amount.
- There could be a shift in the \$10M allocated to the Iowa Department of Education for the development of its Special Education Department. It could be reduced by \$5M, which would be moved to the state's general fund.

Personnel Report & Recommendation for Reduction in Force for Classified Employees

Mr. Kevin Fangman, Heartland AEA Chief Human Resources Officer, noted the new hires, retirements and resignations on the personnel report. He also discussed the eight employees who are Reductions in Force (RIFs) due to AEA budget cuts.

Contract for State Funds Transfer Between AEAs & LEAs for Special Education Funding

Mr. Brian Whalen, Heartland AEA Director of Business Services, shared the contract that will be used with school districts to transfer state funds to the AEAs.

Action Items

Reduction in Force of Classified Employees

A MOTION was made by Mr. Kinley and seconded by Dr. Rose to approve the reductions in force as presented, with regret. The motion passed unanimously.

Personnel Report

A MOTION was made by Mr. Evans and seconded by Ms. Schwenk to approve the personnel report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Wellmark Medical Renewal

A MOTION was made by Mr. Evans and seconded by Ms. Sievers to approve the Wellmark renewal agreements as presented, including Delta Dental. The motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Evans reviewed the Agency's financial statements and indicated there was a thorough review of the reports. There is an expected drop in revenues and expenses, but everything is in line. There is a bit of additional revenue nuance with the sale of the Administration Center at 6445 Corporate Drive and a drop in property taxes. Interest income is up a bit compared to last year. A MOTION was made by Dr. Rose and seconded by Mr. Evans to approve the consent agenda, including payment of warrant numbers 422390 through 422494 and electronic warrant numbers 53038 through 53466. The motion passed unanimously.

- Purchase Orders
 - PowerSchool Group, LLC - \$78,904.57
 - WebSpec Design, LLC - \$39,000
 - Ready-to-Teach - \$62,871.91
- Jackie Abram dba Abram Audiology, LLC Agreement with Heartland AEA
- AEA Memorandum of Understanding between all Iowa AEAs - *Supersedes last month's agreement*
- Bohnsack & Frommelt, L.L.P. Audit Engagement Service Agreement
- 2025-26 Memorandum of Understanding between Ellipsis South Campus & Heartland AEA Shelter Care

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Educational Program

- 2025-26 Facility Service Agreement between Ellipsis South Campus & Heartland AEA
- Special Education Service Agreement between the Iowa Department of Corrections, Newton Correctional Facility, Iowa Correctional Institution for Women & Heartland AEA
- Dallas Center-Grimes CSD & Heartland AEA 2025-26 Service Agreement
- Diocese of Des Moines & Heartland AEA 2025-26 Service Agreements for
 - Lynn Bowen
 - Kaylynne Christenson
 - Angie Lorenz
 - Brianna Sayre Geiser
 - Katie Scholl
- Dowling Catholic High School & Heartland AEA 2025-26 Service Agreements for
 - Cindra Porter
 - Michelle Vaughn
 - Stacey Warren
- Knoxville CSD & Heartland AEA 2025-26 Service Agreements for
 - Jodi Cross
 - Adam Puderbaugh
 - Aimee Schuppe
 - Shared Special Education Coordinator
- Madrid CSD & Heartland AEA 2025-26 Service Agreement for Adam Puderbaugh
- Norwalk CSD & Heartland AEA 2025-26 Service Agreements for
 - Aimee Schuppe
 - Hanna Hollamby
 - Adam Puderbaugh
- Ogden CSD & Heartland AEA 2025-26 Service Agreements for
 - Angela Dvorak
 - Michelle Vaughn
- Roland-Story CSD & Heartland AEA 2025-26 Service Agreement
- South Hamilton CSD & Heartland AEA 2025-26 Service Agreements for
 - Shared Special Education Coordinator
 - Kaylynne Christenson
- United CSD & Heartland AEA 2025-26 Service Agreements for
 - Shared Special Education Coordinator
 - Kaylynne Christenson
- Woodward Academy & Heartland AEA Agreement (Audiology)
- Polk County Juvenile Detention Center Facility Agreement between Polk County, Iowa & Heartland AEA 2025-26
- Polk County Juvenile Detention Center Memorandum of Understanding between Heartland AEA & Polk County, Iowa for 2025-26
- Adel-DeSoto-Minburn CSD & Heartland AEA 2025-26 Service Agreements for
 - Misty Christensen
 - Angela Dvorak
 - Barb Sersland
- Ballard CSD & Heartland AEA 2025-26 Service Agreement
- Boone CSD & Heartland AEA 2025-26 Service Agreements for
 - Aimee Schuppe
 - Adam Puderbaugh

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- Des Moines Public Schools & Heartland AEA 2025-26 Service Agreements for
 - Lynn Bowen
 - Adam Puderbaugh
 - Brianna Sayre Geiser
 - Katie Scholl
- Greene County CSD & Heartland AEA 2025-26 Service Agreement
- Indianola CSD & Heartland AEA 2025-26 Service Agreements for
 - Jodi Cross
 - Katie Scholl
 - Stacey Warren
- Newton CSD & Heartland AEA 2025-26 Service Agreement
- Perry CSD & Heartland AEA 2025-26 Service Agreements for
 - Misty Christensen
 - Barb Sersland
- West Des Moines Sacred Heart & Heartland AEA 2025-26 Service Agreement
- Waukee CSD & Heartland AEA 2025-26 Service Agreement
- West Central Valley CSD & Heartland AEA 2025-26 Service Agreement
- 28E Agreement for the Management & Operation of a Behavior Classroom between West Des Moines CSD & Heartland AEA

Chief Administrator Comments

- Dr. Yelick shared that a portion of the May 27 Board Agenda Planning Meeting may be used to hold a first reading of several updated board policies. The June 10 meeting would then be used for a second reading and approval. Board members noted this would respect people's time, and members can come prepared.

Board Member Comments

- No comments.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:27 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. – 4:00 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth Brennan".

Ms. Liz Brennan
Board President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jenny Ugolini".

Ms. Jenny Ugolini
Board Secretary