

Board of Directors Board Meeting Minutes



October 14, 2025

BOARD MEETING

Ms. Liz Brennan, board president, called the Heartland AEA Board of Directors meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

Board Members Present: Ms. Margaret Borgen, Ms. Liz Brennan, Mr. Pete Evans, Mr. John Kinley, Ms. Tiara Mays-Sims, Dr. Steve Rose, Ms. Margie Schwenk and Ms. Heather Sievers. *Absent:* Mr. Alex Piedras.

Heartland AEA Administrative Staff Present: Mr. Kevin Fangman, Chief Human Resources Officer; Dr. Susie Meade, Chief Academic Officer; Ms. Jenny Ugolini, Executive Assistant/Board Secretary; Dr. Kristi Upah, Chief Student Services Officer; Dr. Cindy Yelick, Chief Administrator; and Mr. Brian Whalen, Director of Business Services.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

A MOTION was made by Dr. Rose and seconded by Ms. Sievers to approve the minutes from Sept. 8 and 24, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Forum & Correspondence

No one from the public was present to address the Board.

Work Session

Chief Administrator Professional Development Goals for 2025-26

Dr. Yelick shared her professional development goals for the 2025-26 year. They were developed around the Iowa Superintendent Standards. She reviewed her goal areas and asked board members for their feedback. They approved of her moving forward with her chosen goals.

Discussion Items

IAAEA Legislative Priorities for 2026

Dr. Yelick reviewed the Iowa Association of AEAs' (IAAEA) legislative priorities for 2025-26.

IAAEA Strategic Plan

Dr. Yelick shared the IAAEA strategic plan. As all nine AEAs received their accreditation reports, themes emerged on what work should be done as a system. The strategic plan was written to address those themes and to align with the State Board of Education's goals. Dr. Meade noted that work continues on determining the metrics and data to use for tracking progress. Each AEA board of directors will be asked to approve the plan, and they are welcome to add one to two individualized goals specific to their agency.

Board Policy 1006 - Facility/Public Meeting Room Usage

Board members reviewed the minor edit to Board Policy 1006.

Iowa Association of School Boards Legislative Platform and Proposed Public Policy Agenda

Board members confirmed Mr. Kinley will attend the delegate assembly at the Nov. 19-20 IASB BoardCon Convention, and Ms. Borgen will be the alternate. Board members were provided with IASB's platform and public policy agenda.

Board of Directors

Board Meeting Minutes



October 14, 2025

Action Items

IAAEA Legislative Priorities for 2026

A MOTION was made by Mr. Evans and seconded by Ms. Borgen to approve the IAAEA legislative priorities for 2026. The motion passed unanimously.

IAAEA Strategic Plan

A MOTION was made by Dr. Rose and seconded by Mr. Kinley to approve the IAAEA strategic plan as written and presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Level I Investigators

Dr. Yelick noted that due to changes in state law, any investigation involving a staff member or student will be handled by the Iowa Department of Human Services. A MOTION was made by Dr. Rose and seconded by Ms. Sievers to approve the Level 1 investigators. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Policy 1006 - Facility/Public Meeting Room Usage

A MOTION was made by Dr. Rose and seconded by Ms. Schwenk to approve Board Policy 1006 - Facility/Public Meeting Room Usage. The motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Dr. Rose reviewed and reported on the Agency's financial statements. He noted that revenues don't reflect the Des Moines Public Schools' flow-through money. Everything else is in order. A MOTION was made by Mr. Evans and seconded by Ms. Sievers to approve the consent agenda, including payment of warrant numbers 423045 through 423147 and electronic warrant numbers 54849 through 55243. The motion passed unanimously.

- Personnel Report (No addendum)
- Purchase Orders:
 - FBG Service Corp. - \$26,950.00
 - Navigate Wellness - \$24,453.00
 - PowerSchool Group L.L.C. - \$37,774.77
- TEC Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (Student Data Privacy Consortium)
- North Tama CSD and Heartland AEA Service Agreement 2025-26

Chief Administrator Comments

- Dr. Yelick shared that the behavior program between Heartland AEA and West Des Moines CSD opened last week with its first students. Districts are excited about having the service.
- Dr. Yelick continues to receive calls from districts outside the Agency's boundaries that may want to contract with Heartland AEA for services next year. They will need to decide if it's a better service for their district or to build the service within the AEA they currently have.
- Dr. Meade and Dr. Yelick met last month with Drake University about opportunities for collaboration. They are looking at a cohort opportunity for educators to obtain their special education endorsement. It's a great opportunity to grow the workforce.
- AEA board elections are taking place. The Agency currently has paperwork for four out of five of the director districts, and SAI is collecting names through Oct. 24 for the four at-large superintendent seats.

Board Comments

- Board members congratulated Dr. Yelick on the SAI Superintendent of the Year Award. It's a nice recognition and reflective of the hard work of the Agency.
- Dr. Rose asked about an update on the federal government closure and its impact on students. It's unclear how it will play out, but we don't anticipate any impact on services to children and students.

Board of Directors Board Meeting Minutes



October 14, 2025

A MOTION was made by Dr. Rose and seconded by Mr. Evans to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 5:15 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 cursive script, reading "Elizabeth Brennan", written in black ink over a horizontal line.

Ms. Liz Brennan
Board President

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jennifer Ugolini", written in black ink over a horizontal line.

Ms. Jenny Ugolini
Board Secretary