

Board of Directors Board Meeting Minutes



FEBRUARY 26, 2026

SPECIAL ELECTRONIC BOARD MEETING

Ms. Liz Brennan, board president, called the meeting of the Heartland AEA Board of Directors to order at 8:30 a.m.

Board Members Present: Ms. Liz Brennan, Mr. Shawn Holloway, Mr. Kasey Huebner, Mr. Mark Lane, Ms. Tiara Mays-Sims, Ms. Mary Poulter and Ms. Heather Sievers. *Absent:* Ms. Margie Schwenk.

Heartland AEA Administrative Staff Present: Mr. Kevin Fangman, Chief Human Resources 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 Ms. Sievers and seconded by Ms. Schwenk to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Item

Spirit Lake CSD and Heartland AEA Transfer of State Funding Contract

Dr. Yelick provided a legislative update on Senate Bill 2404, which is a proposed bill on the creation of two pilot behavior centers that could impact the special education funding of the Spirit Lake CSD contract. If the legislation passes as written and Spirit Lake pilots a center, there is the potential that the district would only have to send at least 42% of their special education funding to the Agency.

Action Item

Spirit Lake CSD and Heartland AEA Transfer of State Funding Contract

A MOTION was made by Ms. Sievers and seconded by Ms. Schwenk to approve tabling the Spirit Lake SD contract approval until the March meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Comments

- Ms. Sievers asked for a legislative update at the next meeting.

Adjournment

A MOTION was made by Ms. Sievers and seconded by Mr. Huebner to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:56 a.m.

EXEMPT SESSION

Exempt Session – Negotiations - Section 20.17(3) of the Iowa Code

The Board entered into an exempt session as provided in Section 20.17(3) of the Iowa Code to discuss the 2026-27 negotiation session at 8:56 a.m.

The Board of Directors exited the exempt session at 9:06 a.m.

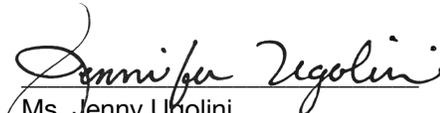
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Reports and documents and the full text of motions, resolutions or policies considered by the Board at this meeting are on file in the Board Secretary's office, (515) 473-6644, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.


Ms. Liz Brennan
Board President


Ms. Jenny Ugolini
Board Secretary