



## CENTRAL RIVERS AREA EDUCATION AGENCY

### **Central Rivers AEA Board of Directors Board Meeting Minutes Wednesday, July 19, 2023**

#### **Call Board Meeting to Order - Welcome Visitors**

Board President Dr. Debra Rich called the Central Rivers AEA Board of Directors Meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. Board members attending were Dennis Craun, Kathy Enslin, Maureen Hanson, Dr. Darshini Jayawardena via Zoom, and Dr. Tony Reid. Absent were Bryan Burton, Nicole Lovik-Blaser, and Dr. Mary Stevens.

Also in attendance were Chief Administrator Joel Pedersen, Asst. Chief Administrator/Director of HR Karl Kurt, Executive Director of Special Education Amy Knupp, and Executive Assistant/Board Secretary Lori Thomas. Attending via Zoom were Director of Creative Services/Communications Beth Strike and Executive Director of Ed Services Jen Sigrist. Visitors were Gina Weekley, Waterloo CSD and Central Rivers AEA staff members Pam Morrissey and Kay Schmalen.

#### **Approval of Agenda**

Kathy Enslin made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Dennis Craun. Motion passed.

#### **Approval of Consent Agenda**

Maureen Hanson made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Dr. Tony Reid. Motion passed.

#### **Program Review: DEI Update**

Gina Weekley provided the board with an update on DEI efforts made in 2022-23. Karl Kurt thanked Gina for attending the meeting and for all of her work in this area. Kathy Enslin commented that she took one of the DEI classes offered and enjoyed it very much. Dr. Debra Rich thanked Gina for her work over the past school year.

#### **Approve Lincoln Savings Bank as a Depository Bank**

Maureen Hanson made a motion to approve Lincoln Savings Bank as a depository bank with a limit up to \$15,000,000 (fifteen million), seconded by Kathy Enslin. Motion passed.

**Approve Board Policy 101.2 and 101.2R1**

Dr. Tony Reid made a motion to approve the second reading and updates to Board Policy 101.2 (Comprehensive Equity Policy) and its regulation 101.2R1 (Comprehensive Equity Complaint Procedure), seconded by Dennis Craun. Motion passed.

**Approve Agreement with Diane Sweeney Consulting**

Dr. Tony Reid made a motion to approve the agreement with Diane Sweeney Consulting for the amount of \$23,900 for the 2023-24 school year, seconded by Kathy Enslin. Motion passed.

**Approve Legislative Priorities for 2023-24**

Maureen Hanson made a motion to approve the AEA's Legislative Priorities for 2023-24, seconded by Dennis Craun. Motion passed.

**Approve Agreement for Video Services**

Dr. Tony Reid made a motion to approve the agreement for video services with Kelsey Hammer Productions Partnership for an initial six-month partnership at a cost of \$8,250 per month, seconded by Maureen Hanson. Motion passed.

**Board Correspondence**

The Central Rivers AEA Board of Directors received redistricting information and copies of the approval letters from the Iowa Secretary of State regarding the following school districts: Central Springs; Eldora-New Providence; Grinnell-Newburg; Hubbard-Radcliffe; Independence; Lake Mills; Sumner-Fredericksburg; Union; Waverly-Shell Rock; and West Fork.

**Reports to/from Board:**

**Joel Pedersen**

Joel reminded the board of upcoming board conferences that they may wish to attend. Joel shared that the first couple weeks in his new position have been great and he has received a lot of support and he is honored to serve the agency, students and educators we serve.

**Jen Sigrist**

Jen gave a report on the paraeducators program, sharing that the audit findings were positive.

**Amy Knupp**

Amy shared an update from the Special Education directors' retreat that she recently attended. Amy acknowledged the work of Behavior Team members Dr. Dana Miller, Angie Koop, and Shannon Sterling.

**Beth Strike**

Beth reported that the agency's new website has launched and she hopes the board members will have a chance to look it over. She gave credit to her Creative Services for all their hard work on the new website.

*Central Rivers AEA is committed to ensuring equitable, efficient, and effective educational services that prepare all Iowa children for a life well-lived.*

**Kathy Enslin**

Kathy recognized the Professional Learning department for helping her with a recent need. She gave a shout-out to Angie Gansen, Professional Learning Coordinator.

**Dr. Debra Rich**

DEb reported that she attended the June Iowa AEA board meeting and their next meeting will be held in September.

**Adjournment**

Dr. Debra Rich declared the meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m. on a motion by Kathy Enslin, seconded by Dennis Craun.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

*Lori A. Thomas*

Lori Thomas, Central Rivers AEA Board Secretary

*Dr. Debra Rich* 9-6-23

Dr. Debra Rich, Board President