



CENTRAL RIVERS AREA EDUCATION AGENCY

Central Rivers AEA Board of Directors Board Meeting Minutes Wednesday, October 4, 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 5:04 p.m. Board members attending were Bryan Burton, Dennis Craun, Kathy Enslin via Zoom, Maureen Hanson, Dr. Darshini Jayawardena, Nicole Lovik-Blaser, Dr. Tony Reid, and Dr. Mary Stevens.

Also in attendance were Chief Administrator Joel Pedersen, Chief Financial Officer/Board Treasurer Michael Kalvig, Asst. Chief Administrator/Director of HR Karl Kurt, and Executive Assistant/Board Secretary Lori Thomas. Attending via Zoom were Directors Beth Strike, Amy Knupp, and Jen Sigrist. Visitors included Central Rivers AEA staff member Pam Morrissey via Zoom.

Approval of Agenda

Dr. Tony Reid made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Dr. Mary Stevens. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Maureen Hanson made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Bryan Burton. Motion passed unanimously.

Program Review: Work Experience

Work Experience Coordinators Farrah Olson and Shyla Bagge gave an overview of the work the agency is doing to support students in work experience.

Approval of Early Retirement Notification Incentive

Bryan Burton made a motion to approve the Early Retirement Notification Incentive for staff, seconded by Dr. Darshini Jayawardena. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval for the Cedar Falls Parking Lot Replacement

Dr. Mary Stevens made a motion to approve the replacement of the Cedar Falls Parking Lot and accept the bid from Bowers Masonry for the amount of \$53,444.00, seconded by Dr. Tony Reid. Motion passed unanimously.

Board Correspondence

The Central Rivers AEA Board of Directors received redistricting information and a copy of the confirmation letter from the Iowa Secretary of State regarding the St. Ansgar Community School District.

Reports to/from Board:

Karl Kurt

Karl gave an update on new employees and commented on the quality work each one is doing in their respective role. He mentioned that all staff are now being invited to regional meetings in order to benefit from professional learning.

Michal Kalvig

Michael shared that auditors are at the agency this week.

Amy Knupp

Amy expressed her appreciation to Farrah Olson and Shyla Bagge for their dedication to students in the work experience program.

Jen Sigrist

Jen gave a report on the Ed Services team and their action plans for their work with districts. They are using new tools designed to prioritize work allocations.

Beth Strike

Beth explained the new “Difference Makers” initiative which honors AEA staff working in the districts. She reported that the print shop has been very busy with orders and she appreciated the assistance from other teams who helped.

Joel Pedersen

Joel shared his appreciation for the administrative cabinet members Michael Kalvig, Amy Knupp, Karl Kurt, Jen Sigrist, and Beth Strike and his executive assistant Lori Thomas for their support over the past three months as he is learning his role.

Joel updated the board on his visits with district superintendents and state legislators. He relayed the news that he will be featured on a local television broadcast, *The Steele Report*. Joel also recognized the local school districts that recently received awards as Blue Ribbon Schools.

Kathy Enslin

Kathy reported that there is an upcoming opening on the IASB Board and thought it might be a good opportunity for one of our board members.

Dr. Tony Reid

Tony attended the Superintendents' Meeting in September and shared that he enjoyed the learning around AI.

Maureen Hanson

Maureen also attended the Superintendents' Meeting and felt the AI learning was very beneficial. She reported that she attended a district's Board of Education meeting recently.

Dr. Debra Rich

Deb reported that the IAAEA Board met recently and expressed her appreciation to Jen Sigrist for her work as a leader in the state.

Adjournment

Dr. Debra Rich declared the meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m. on a motion by Dr. Tony Reid, seconded by Nicole Lovik-Blaser.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lori Thomas, Central Rivers AEA Board Secretary

 11-1-23

Dr. Debra Rich, Board President