



## CENTRAL RIVERS AREA EDUCATION AGENCY

### Central Rivers AEA Board of Directors Board Meeting Minutes Wednesday, November 1, 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 5:03 p.m. The meeting was held in the Clear Lake office and board members attending in person were Bryan Burton and Nicole Lovik-Blaser. Attending via Zoom were Dennis Craun, Maureen Hanson, Dr. Tony Reid, and Dr. Mary Stevens. Absent were Kathy Enslin and Dr. Darshini Jayawardena.

Also in attendance were Chief Administrator Joel Pedersen and Executive Assistant/Board Secretary Lori Thomas. Attending via Zoom were Executive Directors Karl Kurt, Beth Strike, Jen Sigrist and Michael Kalvig. Visitors included Mr. Gil Rich and staff member Kay Schmalen.

#### **Approval of Agenda**

Bryan Burton made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Nicole Lovik-Blaser. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Dr. Mary Stevens made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Maureen Hanson. Dr. Debra Rich, on behalf of the entire board, accepted Michael Kalvig's resignation with regrets. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **District Transportation Routes**

Nicole Lovik-Blaser made a motion to approve the districts' transportation routes for 2023-24, seconded by Bryan Burton. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Data Center Maintenance**

Nicole Lovik-Blaser made a motion to approve the recommended maintenance plan for the Data Center at a cost of \$37,976.71 for the first year and a cost of \$28,434.16 per year for the subsequent two years, seconded by Dr. Mary Stevens. Motion passed unanimously.

## **Reports to/from Board:**

### **Karl Kurt**

Karl reported on the Equity Committee and thanked MaKenzie Hakeman and Dr. Dana Miller for their work. He also shared that he held an emergency management review meeting today for all three sites and that he and Beth are continuing their work with the school districts' board members.

### **Jen Sigrist**

Jen gave an update on the statewide work of ESSA and also updated the board regarding the online learning system and making this available across the state.

### **Beth Strike**

Beth attended Dr. Dean Meier's funeral and expressed her sadness at his passing. Beth shared that she and Joel are continuing their work regarding AEA advocacy with legislators. Beth shared a new video featuring the work of Jari Sherburne, Work Experience Coordinator and thanked the board members for their support.

### **Michal Kalvig**

Michael thanked Joel and the administrative cabinet members for their support of his resignation. He relayed to the board that this was a difficult decision for him to make.

### **Joel Pedersen**

Joel met with the Forest City Superintendent and passed on their appreciation for Joe Kremer, Consultant for School Improvement and Joe's work around data. Joel acknowledged the work Amy and Jen have done in launching the statewide dashboard and also Beth and her team for the creation of the work experience video.

Joel expressed appreciation to the staff who were chosen by the districts for being Difference Makers in October and November. He also thanked all of the staff at River Hills School for being honored as Difference Makers this month. Joel thanked Michael for all his work in managing the agency's finances and shared that Michael will be greatly missed.

### **Dr. Tony Reid**

Tony thanked Michael for his work with the agency finances.

### **Maureen Hanson**

Maureen stated that it has been a pleasure working with Michael and she appreciates how helpful his financial reports have been over the years.

### **Nicole Lovik-Blaser**

Nicole shared her appreciation for the agency's social media presence and thanked Beth and her team.

**Dr. Mary Stevens**

Mary shared her appreciation for the wonderful video Beth's team created on the agency's work experience program.

**Dr. Debra Rich**

Deb expressed the board's sympathy to Maureen on the loss of her mother and gave condolences to Dr. Dean Meier's family, sharing that Dean was a strong advocate for the AEA and a great leader. Deb wished Michael all the best in his new position and shared that it is hard to have him leave.

**Program Review - Tour of the Building**

The board members took a tour of the Clear Lake office building. A computer was used during the tour in order for the board members attending virtually to also view the building.

**Adjournment**

Dr. Debra Rich declared the meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m. on a motion by Bryan Burton, seconded by Nicole Lovik-Blaser.

**Respectfully Submitted,**



Lori Thomas, Central Rivers AEA Board Secretary



12-6-23

Dr. Debra Rich, Board President