



CENTRAL RIVERS AREA EDUCATION AGENCY

Central Rivers AEA Board of Directors Board Meeting Minutes Wednesday, January 3, 2024

Call to Order – Welcome Visitors

Board President Dr. Debra Rich called the Central Rivers AEA Board of Directors Meeting to order at 5:06 p.m. via Zoom. Board members attending via Zoom were Bryan Burton, Dennis Craun, Kathy Enslin, Maureen Hanson, Dr. Darshini Jayawardena, Nicole Lovik-Blaser, Dr. Tony Reid, and Dr. Mary Stevens. Also attending electronically were Chief Administrator Joel Pedersen, Assistant Chief/Director of HR Karl Kurt, CFO Jennifer Coombes, Directors Amy Knupp, Jen Sigrist, and Beth Strike, and Board Secretary Lori Thomas (in-person). Staff member Pam Morrissey also attended via Zoom.

Approval of Agenda

Dr. Mary Stevens made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Bryan Burton. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Consent Agenda

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

Appoint Board Treasurer – Administer Oath of Office

Bryan Burton made a motion to appoint Jennifer Coombes to serve as board treasurer, seconded by Maureen Hanson. Motion carried unanimously. Board Secretary Lori Thomas administered the Oath of Office to Jennifer Coombes.

Approval of the 2024-25 Office Work Days

Dr. Mary Stevens made a motion to approve the office work days, holidays, and office closed dates for July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025, seconded by Dr. Darshini Jayawardena. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports to/from Board:

Joel Pedersen

Joel shared his appreciation to Jennifer Coombes for her stepping in as CFO for the agency. Joel reported that he has a meeting scheduled with Governor Kim Reynolds and expressed his appreciation for the advocacy work on behalf of the AEAs being done by the board, staff, community members, and our LEA partners.

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

Karl Kurt

Karl gave an update on DEI work in the agency. Training sessions continue to be offered along with several other employee resource groups available to staff.

Amy Knupp

Amy shared regarding the Behavior Team's work and relayed that the team has received numerous referrals and a high percentage have been resolved, effectively meeting the needs of the students.

Beth Strike

Beth gave an update on advocacy efforts and thanked the board for sharing the AEA success stories videos on social media.

Dr. Tony Reid

Tony had some questions regarding the various political claims about the Iowa AEA system and asked what can be done to ensure the facts are being made known. Joel and Beth shared various ways to advocate for AEA services to students and educators.

Adjournment

Dr. Debra Rich declared the meeting adjourned at 5:39 p.m. on a motion by Dr. Mary Stevens, seconded by Dr. Darshini Jayawardena.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lori Thomas, Central Rivers AEA Board Secretary



Dr. Debra Rich, Board President