



CENTRAL RIVERS AREA EDUCATION AGENCY

Central Rivers AEA Board of Directors Special Meeting Minutes
Central Rivers AEA Conference Center · 1521 Technology Parkway · Cedar Falls, IA
Monday, April 15, 2024 - 4:00 pm

Call to Order

Board President Dr. Debra Rich called the special board meeting to order at 4:09 pm. Board members attending electronically were Bryan Burton Dennis Craun, Kathy Enslin, Maureen Hanson, Dr. Darshini Jayawardena, Dr. Tony Reid, and Dr. Mary Stevens. Attending in person was Nicole Lovik-Blaser. Also in attendance were Chief Administrator Joel Pedersen, Board Secretary Lori Thomas, and Directors Beth Strike and Amy Knupp.

Visitors included staff members: Kelsey Baker, Sarah Nelson, Ryan Andreason, Amber Dietz, Heather Gould, Dana Harskamp, Brena Huber, Amy Starr, Mellissa Hesner, and Greg Koppes. Also present was Maria Kuiper from the Waterloo Cedar Falls Courier.

Approval of Agenda

Nicole Lovik-Blaser made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Kathy Enslin. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve the Resignation of Chief Administrator Joel Pedersen

Dr. Mary Stevens made a motion to accept Joel Pedersen's resignation and approve terminating his employment contract with Central Rivers AEA, effective June 30, 2024, seconded by Nicole Lovik-Blaser. Motion carried unanimously. Dr. Debra Rich, on behalf of the board noted that Joel's resignation was being accepted with regrets.

Chief Administrator Joel Pedersen thanked each of the nine board members, his four administrative cabinet members Karl Kurt, Beth Strike, Amy Knupp, and Jen Sigrist, and his executive assistant Lori Thomas for all their support throughout the past year.

Approve Entering a Closed Session per Iowa Code 21.5(1)(i)

The board voted to enter a closed session at 4:15 p.m. per Iowa Code 21.5(1)(i) on a motion by Nicole Lovik-Blaser, seconded by Maureen Hanson. A roll call vote was administered by Board Secretary Lori Thomas with the following results:

- Bryan Burton - aye
- Dennis Craun, Jr. - aye
- Kathy Enslin - aye
- Maureen Hanson - aye
- Dr. Darshini Jayawardena - aye
- Nicole Lovik-Blaser - aye
- Dr. Tony Reid - aye
- Dr. Debra Rich - aye
- Dr. Mary Stevens - aye

The motion passed unanimously. After a short bio-break, the board president officially began the closed session at 4:26 pm.

Dr. Debra Rich declared the board back into open session at 5:45 p.m. After a brief bio-break, the board convened back in session at 5:52 pm.

Approve a Chief Administrator for 2024-25

Maureen Hanson made a motion to share an interim chief administrator, Stan Rheingans, with Keystone AEA for 2024-25. The following considerations were cited by the board as impacting their decision:

- Experience as chief administrator;
- Experience with the legislative process;
- Uncertainty of future legislative decisions;
- Chair of Urban Education Network;
- Maintain internal support for current staff;
- Fiduciary responsibility; and
- Working in good faith efforts to align with state government expectations.

The motion was seconded by Bryan Burton and a roll call vote was administered by Board Secretary Lori Thomas with the following results:

- Bryan Burton - aye
- Dennis Craun, Jr. - aye
- Kathy Enslin - aye
- Maureen Hanson - aye
- Dr. Darshini Jayawardena - aye
- Nicole Lovik-Blaser - aye
- Dr. Tony Reid - aye
- Dr. Debra Rich - aye
- Dr. Mary Stevens - aye

The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Dr. Debra Rich declared the special board meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m. on a motion by Bryan Burton, seconded by Nicole Lovik-Blaser.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lori Thomas, Central Rivers AEA Board Secretary

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dr. Debra Rich 5-1-24". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Dr. Debra Rich, Board President