

**Central Rivers AEA Board of Directors Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, April 8, 2024 - Following the Foundation Meeting**

**Call to Order - Welcome Visitors**

Board President Dr. Debra Rich called the Central Rivers AEA Board of Directors board meeting to order via Zoom at 6:04 p.m. Board members attending in-person were Bryan Burton and Dr. Tony Reid. Attending electronically were Dennis Craun, Kathy Enslin, Maureen Hanson, Dr. Darshini Jayawardena, and Nicole Lovik-Blaser. Absent was Dr. Mary Stevens.

Also attending via Zoom were Administrators Joel Pederson, Karl Kurt, Amy Knupp, Beth Strike, Jen Sigrist, and Jennifer Coombes and Board Secretary Lori Thomas (in-person) and staff member Pam Morrisey via Zoom.

**Approval of Agenda**

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

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

Bryan Burton made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Dr. Darshini Jayawardena. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Sharing Services with Mississippi Bend AEA for a Chief Financial Officer**

Nicole Lovik-Blaser made a motion to approve sharing services with Mississippi Bend AEA for a Chief Financial Officer for 2024-25, seconded by Dennis Craun. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Sharing Services with Keystone AEA for a Special Education Director**

Dr. Darshini Jayawardena made a motion to approve sharing services with Keystone AEA for a Special Education Director for 2024-25, seconded by Bryan Burton. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Sharing Services with Keystone AEA for an Ed Services Director**

Dr. Tony Reid made a motion to approve sharing services with Keystone AEA for an Educational Service Director for 2024-25, seconded by Bryan Burton. Motion carried unanimously.

**Reports to/from Board**

**Karl Kurt**

Karl shared that the agency has received 61 staff resignations since January 2024, and he feels many are leaving due to the uncertainty of the future of the AEA system.

**Beth Strike**

Beth gave an update on Creative Services and shared that she and her team are staying solution-focused through this challenging time.

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

**Jennifer Coombes**

Jennifer reported that she is giving a presentation on April 26 regarding the agency budget as required by the Iowa Department of Education.

**Jen Sigrist**

Jen relayed that she is not hiring to replace Ed Services staff at this time and she is moving forward to help support Tesha Moser in her new role as Jen’s replacement.

**Amy Knupp**

Amy shared that she is meeting often with Annette Hyde who will be replacing Amy upon her retirement in June.

**Joel Pedersen**

Joel spoke to the fact that above all, we must think about all of the students, families and educators that need our support. He gave an update on the information received from IASB regarding the board and that no changes should happen before the next regular election in 2025. Joel thanked the board for their support of the agency and staff.

**Dr. Tony Reid**

Tony commended Joel and his leadership team for their positive attitudes during this time of uncertainty.

**Dr. Darshini Jayawardena**

Darshini expressed her sadness at how this new legislation will negatively impact students in Iowa and extended her appreciation to Central Rivers AEA’s staff for working so hard to find solutions for students.

**Dr. Debra Rich**

Deb shared her strong belief that if anyone can make this new way of providing services work, it is Central Rivers AEA. She thanked all of the Ad Cabinet for their support of staff and the board.

**Adjournment**

Dr. Debra Rich declared the meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m. on a motion by Kathy Enslin, seconded by Maureen Hanson.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lori Thomas, Central Rivers AEA Board Secretary



Dr. Debra Rich, Board President