



CENTRAL RIVERS AREA EDUCATION AGENCY

Central Rivers AEA Board of Directors Special Board Meeting Minutes Monday, October 13, 2025

Call to Order – Welcome Visitors

Board President Dr. Debra Rich called the Central Rivers AEA Board of Directors Special Board Meeting to order via Zoom at 5:01 p.m. Board members attending via Zoom were: Bryan Burton, Dennis Craun, Kathy Enslin, Maureen Hanson, Dr. Darsini Jayawardena, Nicole Lovik-Blaser (joined the meeting in progress at 6:14 pm), Dr. Tony Reid, and Dr. Mary Stevens.

Also in attendance were Chief Administrators Cindy Yelick (Heartland AEA) and Nathan Wood (Great Prairie AEA); and Board Secretary Lori Thomas (in person). Visitors included Keith Wieland, member of the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors.

Agenda Approval

Bryan Burton made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Kathy Enslin. Motion passed unanimously.

Closed Session per Iowa Code 21.5(1)(a) and 21.5(1)(i) to Review Candidates for the Chief Administrator Position

Dr. Tony Reid made a motion to enter a closed session per Iowa Code 21.5(1)(a) and 21.5(1)(i) to review candidates for the position of Chief Administrator, seconded by Dr. Mary Stevens. Board Secretary Lori Thomas administered a roll call vote. The total number of yea votes was eight and there were no nay votes. Board President Dr. Debra Rich declared the board in closed session at 5:04 pm. Dr. Debra Rich declared the board back in open session at 5:24 pm.

Interview Question Development

Chief Administrators Cindy Yelick and Nathan Wood shared the results of the feedback survey with the board and listed the top themes that staff and district superintendents would like to be considered for hiring the next chief administrator at Central Rivers AEA. The board discussed possible questions around those themes for the candidates selected as semi-finalists.

Select Interview Teams

The board briefly discussed possible interview teams from the list of those who volunteered their service. Dr. Mary Stevens thanked Nathan Wood and Cindy Yelick for leading the board through the search process with the other board members also expressing their gratitude. The chief administrators and the board acknowledged Lori Thomas for her assistance.

Adjournment

Board President Dr. Debra Rich declared the meeting adjourned at 6:28 pm on a motion by Dr. Mary Stevens and seconded by Maureen Hanson.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Thomas, Central Rivers AEA Executive Assistant/Board Secretary

Dr. Debra Rich, Board President