



**Central Rivers AEA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, May 6, 2026**

**Call to Order - Welcome Visitors**

Board President Dr. Debra Rich called the Central Rivers AEA Board of Directors meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. Board members attending were: Dennis Craun, Jr., David Hill, Jenn Peter (via Zoom), Dr. Cynthia Phillips( via Zoom), Nicole Lovik-Blaser (via Zoom), Dr. Tony Reid (via Zoom, and Dr. Mary Stevens. Absent was Dr. Theron Schutte.

Also attending were: Stan Rheingans, Chief Administrator, Karl Kurt, Assistant Chief Administrator/Director of HR, Jennifer Coombes, Chief Financial Officer (via Zoom), Lori Thomas, Executive Assistant/Board Secretary, and Annette Hyde, Executive Director of Special Education.

Visitors included staff members Rod Ball, Brian Foster, Pam Morrissey, Sarah Nelson, and Theresa Smith (via Zoom).

**Agenda Approval**

Dr. Mary Stevens moved to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by David Hill. The motion passed unanimously.

**Board Update: Career Connected Learning**

Brian Foster, Work Experience Coordinator and Theresa Smith, Consultant for Educational Services shared an overview of Career Connected Learning. This service connects classroom learning with real-world work experiences and industry exposure, and helps students explore career pathways and develop transferable skills.

Dr. Deb Rich expressed the Board's appreciation to Brian and Theresa for their informative presentation. Karl Kurt also thanked Rod Ball, Director of Special Programs, and Sarah Nelson, Director of IT and Special Programs, for their leadership and ongoing work in support of the team.

**Consent Agenda Approval**

David Hill moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mary Stevens. The motion passed unanimously.

**Cedar Falls Conference Center Project (Painting)**

Dr. Mary Stevens moved to approve the proposed bid from Young Painting & Decorating in the amount of \$49,440.00. The motion was seconded by Dr. Tony Reid. The motion passed unanimously.

**Firewall Hardware Purchase and Renewal**

Dennis Craun, Jr. moved to approve the purchase and renewal of Fortinet firewall hardware, licensing, and implementation services from Riverside Technologies, Inc. for a total cost of \$37,612.86. The motion was seconded by David Hill. The motion passed unanimously.

**Addendum to Board Policy 603.4R1: Travel Compensation Allowance**

Dr. Tony Reid moved to waive the second reading and approve the Addendum to Board Policy 603.4R1: Travel Compensation Allowance with a start date of July 1, 2026, and an ending date of June 30, 2027. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mary Stevens. The motion passed unanimously.

**Board Policies 702.3 and 702.3R1: Facility Usage Policy & Procedures**

Dr. Mary Stevens moved to approve waiving the second reading of Board Policies 702.3 and 702.3R1 (Facility Usage Policy and Procedures) and adopt the recommended revisions effective May 7, 2026. The motion was seconded by Dr. Tony Reid. The motion passed unanimously.

**Reports to/from the Board**

The Board received updates and reports from members and administration. No formal action was taken.

**Adjournment**

Board President Dr. Debra Rich adjourned the meeting at 6:12 p.m. upon a motion by Dr. Mary Stevens, seconded by Dennis Craun, Jr.

**Respectfully Submitted,**



Lori Thomas, Executive Assistant/Board Secretary

 6-3-26

Dr. Debra Rich, Board President