



CENTRAL RIVERS AREA EDUCATION AGENCY

Central Rivers AEA Board Work Session Minutes Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Call Work Session to Order

Board President Dr. Debra Rich called the Central Rivers AEA Board Work Session to order at 4:06 p.m. Board members attending were: Dennis Craun, Jr., David Hill, Jenn Peter (via Zoom), Dr. Cynthia Phillips, Nicole Lovik-Blaser (via Zoom), Dr. Tony Reid, Dr. Theron Schutte, and Dr. Mary Stevens (via Zoom). Also attending were: Karl Kurt, Chief Administrator and Lori Thomas, Executive Assistant/Board Secretary.

Agenda Approval

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

Chief Administrator's Update

Karl Kurt provided an update on progress toward his 2026–27 goals as the Chief Administrator and discussed the strategies and initiatives he has implemented to support achievement of those goals.

Adjourn Work Session

Board President Dr. Debra Rich adjourned the meeting at 4:56 p.m. upon a motion by David Hill, seconded by Dr. Theron Schutte.

Central Rivers AEA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Call to Order - Welcome Visitors

Board President Dr. Debra Rich called the Central Rivers AEA Board of Directors Meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. Board members attending were: Dennis Craun, Jr., David Hill, Jenn Peter (via Zoom), Dr. Cynthia Phillips, Nicole Lovik-Blaser (via Zoom), Dr. Tony Reid, Dr. Theron Schutte, and Dr. Mary Stevens (via Zoom).

Also attending were: Karl Kurt, Chief Administrator, Michael Kalvig, Chief Financial Officer, Beth Strike, Director of Creative Services & Communications, Jody Albertson, Executive Director of Special Education, Heather Gould, Executive Director of Ed Services, Sarah Nelson, Executive Director of Technology & Media, and Lori Thomas, Executive Assistant/Board Secretary.

Visitors included staff member Pam Morrissey (via Zoom).

Agenda Approval

Dr. Tony Reid moved to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Dennis Craun, Jr. The motion passed unanimously.

Agency Services Update: Strategic Plan

Jody Albertson, Executive Director of Special Education and Heather Gould, Executive Director of Ed Services provided an overview of the agency's proposed strategic plan, including its core values, strategic goals, and organizational commitments. The proposed plan reflects a shared vision for the future of the agency and aligns with the statewide strategic direction being adopted by all nine AEAs.

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.

Appoint Delegate & Alternate to IASB Delegate Assembly

Jenn Peter moved to appoint David Hill to represent the agency at the IASB Delegate Assembly in November 2026, and to appoint Dr. Theron Schutte as the alternate. The motion was seconded by Dennis Craun, Jr. The motion passed unanimously.

Iowa's Area Education Agencies Strategic Plan

Dr. Mary Stevens moved to approve Iowa's Area Education Agencies Strategic Plan. The motion was seconded by Dr. Cynthia Phillips. 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 5:50 p.m. upon a motion by Dr. Cynthia Phillips, seconded by Dr. Tony Reid.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Thomas

Lori Thomas, Executive Assistant/Board Secretary

Dr. Debra Rich, Ed. D.

Dr. Debra Rich, Board President