Central Rivers AEA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 7, 2026

Call to Order - Welcome Visitors
Board President Dr. Debra Rich called the Central Rivers AEA Board of Directors Meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. Board members attending were: Dennis Craun, Jr., David Hill, Dr. Cynthia Phillips (via Zoom), Nicole Lovik-Blaser (via Zoom), Dr. Tony Reid (via Zoom), Dr. Theron Schutte, and Dr. Mary Stevens (via Zoom). Absent was Jenn Peter.

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 members Pam Morrissey, Liz Donnelly, Hannah Hanson, and Jenne Seward.

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

Agency Services Update: Speech-Language Pathology
Regional Administrators Liz Donnelly, Hannah Hanson, and Jenne Seward provided the Board with an update on the agency's Speech-Language Pathology services. Board members acknowledged the importance of these services and the support they provide to districts. The Board President expressed appreciation to Liz, Hannah, and Jenne for their time and commitment to students.

Consent Agenda Approval
Dr. Mary Stevens moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Dennis Craun. The motion passed unanimously.

INspired Leadership for 2026-27
Dr. Mary Stevens moved to approve INspired Leadership Training with Dr. Leslie Moore for 2026-27 for a total estimated cost of $36,145. The motion was seconded by Dr. Theron Schutte. The motion passed unanimously.

Early Notification Incentive for 2026-27
Dr. Tony Reid moved to approve the Early Notification Incentive for Central Rivers AEA staff meeting the specified requirements for the 2026-27 work year. The motion was seconded by Dr. Theron Schutte. The motion passed unanimously.

Mileage Reimbursement Rate
Dennis Craun moved to approve the mileage reimbursement rate of $0.55 per mile effective October 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, and $0.50 per mile effective July 1, 2027. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mary Stevens. The motion passed unanimously.

Twin State Technical Services Licenses Purchase
Dr. Theron Schutte moved to approve the purchase of 2,795 KnowBe4 Advanced + PhishER licenses through Twin State Technical Services for a three-year total of $50,310, with participating school districts reimbursing Central Rivers AEA for their respective licensing costs. The motion was seconded by Dr. Cynthia Phillips. The motion passed unanimously.

Reseller Partnership with GrackleDocs
Dr. Mary Stevens moved to approve the reseller partnership with GrackleDocs, allowing Central Rivers AEA to resell digital accessibility software and services to schools. The motion was seconded by Nicole Lovik-Blaser. The motion passed unanimously.

Unitrends Recovery Series Through Kaseya
Dr. Theron Schutte moved to approve going forward with Unitrends backup and disaster recovery services through Kaseya at an annual cost of $30,266.09. The motion was seconded by David Hill. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Policy 603.4R1 Travel Compensation/Allowance
Dr. Tony Reid moved to approve the proposed revisions to Board Policy 603.4R1 Travel Compensation/Allowance, waive the second reading requirement, and approve the updated policy effective retroactively to July 1, 2026. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mary Stevens. 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 6:27 p.m. upon a motion by David Hill, seconded by Dennis Craun.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Thomas

Lori Thomas, Executive Assistant/Board Secretary

Dr. Debra Rich 11/4/26

Dr. Debra Rich, Board President