

AEA 11 Board of Directors
6500 Corporate Drive
Johnston, Iowa
Tuesday, February 10, 2009

MINUTES

BOARD WORK SESSION

Partnerships – Problem-Solving

At the January Board work session, opportunities were presented to learn about how partnerships were working at the Agency. Board members were able to hear stories about partnerships in the field and how data is being used to track the impact of those relationships. Since that meeting, the Board has been given time to reflect and to develop further questions. Ms. Sheila King, Dr. David Tilly and Dr. Cindy Yelick were present to answer some of those questions.

Questions:

- How is our system designed for delivery services that are focused on the child?
- How do we let districts know they need our services?
- What are we doing to make sure teachers have what they need to meet the needs of the child?
- How are Partnership Directors connected to special education?
- When you have conversations with Partnership Directors, are you finding similar themes?
- What differences, if any, do Partnership Directors have in responsibility during their second year?

Board members commended staff members on their work and felt much more informed about the problem-solving process.

JOINT BOARD MEETING WITH DMACC

A joint board meeting was held between the Heartland Board of Directors and Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) Board of Directors from 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Introductions

Introductions of all board members were made.

Present: Heartland Board of Directors: Ms. Margaret Borgen, Dr. Earl Bridgewater, Mr. Bruce Christensen, Mr. Nels Turnquist, Ms. Ann Wilson. Absent: Dr. Jane Bell, Dr. George Jackson, Dr. Steve Rose, Ms. Marcy Sparks.

DMACC Board of Directors: Mr. Fred Buie, Ms. Cheryl Langston, Ms. Madelyn Tursi, Mr. Jeff Hall, Dr. Ben Norman, Mr. Kevin Halterman, Mr. Jim Knott. Participating via conference call, Mr. Joe Pugel and Dr. Wayne Rouse.

Approval of Agenda

A MOTION was made by Mr. Nels Turnquist and seconded by Dr. Earl Bridgewater of the Heartland Board to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Madelyn Tursi and seconded by Mr. Jeff Hall of the DMACC Board to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

AEA Update

Board members received informational packets on the services and resources provided by Heartland. Dr. Kilcrease then reviewed five best practices that are currently being used by the Agency that are getting results in impacting student achievement. Some of these best practices include such things as the alignment between the Iowa Core Curriculum and Career Pathways that helps students develop skills for the workplace and the Heartland Educational Assessment Resource Toolbox (HEART) that stores and tracks district data. These types of practices are just a few pieces of evidence of the Agency's commitment to teachers and the students they serve. Dr. Kilcrease also reviewed the Agency's dedication to cultural competency and spoke about facility updates that were made to be more cost and energy efficient.

DMACC Update

Dr. Denson reviewed the spring enrollment for 2009, which hit a record high of 1,524 more students than last year. This is the largest enrollment DMACC has had in its existence. The recent layoffs that are impacting the state have not hit community colleges yet, although even during good years enrollment has increased.

DMACC has many ongoing partnerships. The school is heavily involved in Central Iowa Works, a job training system to develop a state-of-the-art work force program that is now being recognized nationally. By working closely with the Greater Des Moines Partnership, United Way and the Casey Foundation, their goal is to align businesses with clients. DMACC has also started many new programs, including mortuary science, enology, viticulture and the electronic crime institute, which will be the first one-of-its-kind institute built.

Drop-Outs: Role of AEAs and Community Colleges

Dr. David Tilly reviewed dropout data from the last three years from the 54 districts Heartland serves. This information was compiled from the Department of Education and shows the impact of dropouts per school district. Board members then broke into two small groups to review the statistics and to brainstorm ideas on possible solutions.

Group feedback:

- Ask for K-14 education with the legislature providing funding. This will benefit students who do not have the skills or background to participate in a system their parents have no background in.
- There is a gap with students who drop out that are not yet 18. They have to wait until they turn 18 before they can be entered into a GED program. This is a glitch in the system.
- Exploring additional DMACC opportunities.
- Make sure accommodations are available.
- Career academies that are available that link to career development work.
- Make sure there is an increase in communication about GED opportunities.
- AEAs push community accountability.
- Explore stronger relationships between teachers and students.

Joint Projects

- Heartland and DMACC will continue to examine drop out rates.
- Heartland will be working closely on relocating the Newton Regional Office to the Newton DMACC campus.

The joint board meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Board President Ms. Ann Wilson called the regular meeting of the Heartland Board of Directors to order at 5:36 p.m.

Board Members Present: Dr. Jane Bell, Ms. Margaret Borgen, Dr. Earl Bridgewater, Mr. Bruce Christensen, Mr. Nels Turnquist, Dr. Steve Rose and Ms. Ann Wilson. Absent: Dr. George Jackson and Ms. Marcy Sparks.

Administrative Staff Present: Ms. Brenda Gustafson, Dr. Maxine Kilcrease, Mr. David King, Ms. Laura Gillon, Dr. Chris Pierson, Mr. Steve Prall and Ms. Jenny Ugolini.

Approval of Agenda

A MOTION was made by Mr. Nels Turnquist and seconded by Mr. Bruce Christensen to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Recognition

Ms. Brenda Gustafson introduced Ms. Sue Schirmer, Heartland Professional Learning and Leadership Consultant, and Ms. Julianne Steven, Iowa Elementary School Counselor of the Year. Both women were recognized for their work in supporting school counselors. In 2007, school counselors were placed back in the Iowa Code and every school district is required to have school counselors and a counselor program in place. Ms. Steven and Ms. Schirmer were instrumental in helping create and implement a counseling program model tied to this legislation and providing professional development to school counselors.

Also recognized were Ms. Ruth Ann Gaines, East High School teacher, Ms. Stephany Jones-Vo, Heartland English as a Second Language Consultant, Ms. Sheri Florez, former Indianola teacher and Ms. Sue Schirmer, Heartland Professional Learning and Leadership Consultant, for their work in cultural competency. For the past few years, these women worked together to create a DVD on diversity and the impact it has in Iowa schools. The DVD features numerous speakers talking about cultural competency and was produced through the use of Title III funds and a partnership with Iowa Public Television. The DVD has been distributed in and out of the state of Iowa and some clips from the DVD will also be shown during the Immigration Forum on February 11.

Discussion Items

Support and Services for Students with Challenging Behaviors

Dr. Cindy Yelick, Mr. Randy Allison and Mr. Matt Cretsinger were present to follow-up on what the Agency is doing to support students with challenging needs. The philosophy of the future is to build the capacity of Heartland and LEAs so there are more staff in the districts to work with students exhibiting these behaviors. The second step will be to build program options for students. Dr. Yelick provided an outline that gave specific details on the various opportunities available. These varied from additional staff support and learning new curriculum that focuses on social skills and social communication to clinical classroom settings and residential facilities.

Staff Allocation

Ms. Sheila King gave the Board an update on this year's staff allocation process. The Agency will continue to use the current formula, however through input from staff and districts, have a better understanding of how the system is working and how improvements can be made. No major overhaul of the formula is expected, although a few areas will be tweaked now that there is better data. The goal will be to make assignments by the end of the month and final decisions made by spring break in March.

Second Year Communication Plan

Ms. Brenda Gustafson presented the final draft of the Communications Department Strategic Plan for 2007-10. This is a comprehensive plan that encompasses the Board, chief administrator and North Star goals. It's not a step-by-step plan but a cross walk across the Agency. The content of the plan has been a team effort and the work being done is to achieve everything listed.

Insurance Renewal

Dr. Chris Pierson and Mr. Mark Becker from Lind & Associates provided a brief summary of Heartland's benefit plan. The Agency will experience a 10 percent increase (still being negotiated) in insurance rates. There will also be a slight increase in prescription co-pays and the Insurance Committee is looking at possibly eliminating the zero deductible plan. No changes to dental coverage are expected at this time. Other plan enhancements are also being reviewed and would be offered at no increase in cost. Specifically, specialty prescriptions applying to current co-pay structure and the inclusion of Federal Mental Health and Substance Abuse Requirements.

Public Forum

A grandparent from Ames was present to speak to the Board regarding her grandson. She wanted the Board to understand that there is too much bureaucracy in how the AEAs work and that she thinks that needs to change.

Action Items

2009-10 Proposed Budget

A MOTION was made by Dr. Earl Bridgewater and seconded by Dr. Jane Bell to approve the 2009-10 proposed budget. Motion carried unanimously.

Insurance Renewal

A MOTION was made by Dr. Earl Bridgewater and seconded by Dr. Steve Rose to approve the Dental Plan and Wellmark Insurance Renewal actions contingent upon current or improved offers. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Personnel Report

Minutes of January 13, 2009

Bills (Ms. Margaret Borgen)

AEA 11 and Youth and Shelter Services 2009-10 Agreement

Title I agreement between AEA 11 and Des Moines Independent Community Schools

AEA 11 and Youth Emergency Service Shelter 2009-10 Agreement

AEA 11 and South Central Youth & Family Services 2009-10 Agreement

Purchase Requisitions: Scholastic, Inc., Explore Learning and Iowa Communications Network

Johnston Bus Route Request

A MOTION was made by Ms. Margaret Borgen and seconded by Dr. Jane Bell to approve the consent agenda including payment of warrant numbers 00336048 through 00336721. Ms. Borgen reviewed the monthly bills and stated that everything is in good order but noted that the figures on page 7 of the financial statements are prior to the 7 percent cut. Motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session

A MOTION was made by Mr. Bruce Christensen and seconded by Dr. Earl Bridgewater to hold a closed session, as provided in Section 21.9 of the Code of Iowa, to discuss strategy in matters relating to negotiations.

Dr. Jane Bell	Aye
Ms. Margaret Borgen	Aye
Dr. Earl Bridgewater	Aye
Mr. Bruce Christensen	Aye
Dr. George Jackson	Absent
Dr. Steve Rose	Aye
Ms. Marcy Sparks	Absent
Mr. Nels Turnquest	Aye
Ms. Ann Wilson	Aye

The Board of Directors entered into closed session at 7:23 p.m. and returned to public session at 8:18 p.m.

Chief Administrator Comments

- Brent Siegrist, Director of AEA Services, will be at the March Board meeting and will be available for questions. Dr. Kilcrease will send a reminder to Board members about Mr. Siegrist's role and responsibilities.
- Dr. Kilcrease was invited to represent Iowa in Philadelphia to discuss dropout and school leaver issues. Transportation and lodging expenses will be paid so there is no expense to the Agency for those items.

Board Comments

- Dr. Steve Rose has received many comments from the field on Dr. Kilcrease's communication to staff regarding Agency layoffs. It was very well done.

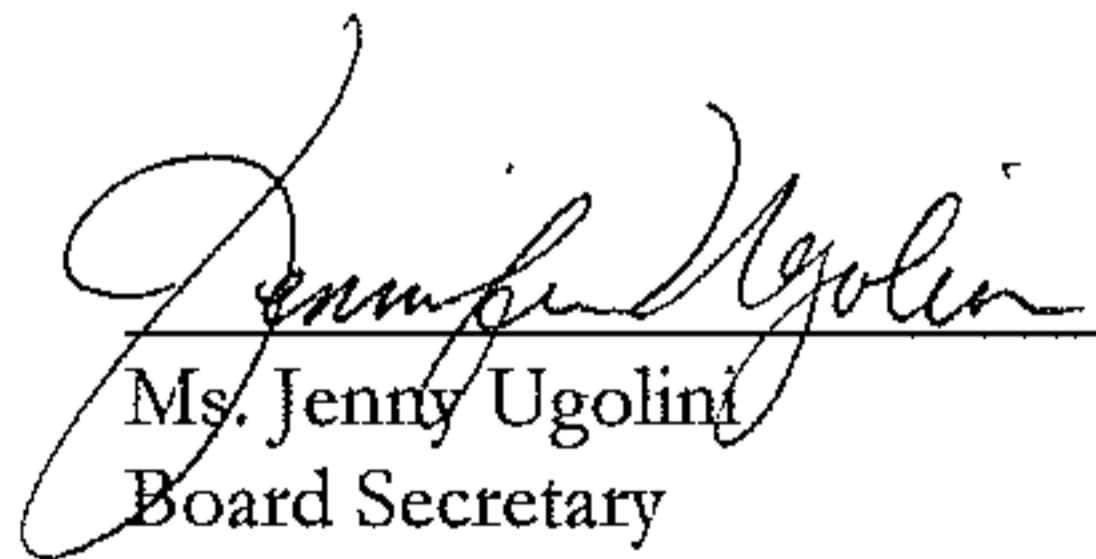
Adjournment

A MOTION was made by Dr. Steve Rose and seconded by Dr. Earl Bridgewater to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The regular meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Reports and documents and the full text of motions, resolutions or policies considered by the Board at this meeting are on file in the Board Secretary's office, 515/270-9030 ext. 14441, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.



Ms. Ann Wilson
Board President



Ms. Jenny Ugolini
Board Secretary

Heartland Area Education Agency is dedicated to enriching people's lives. We are partners for learning who provide cutting-edge services for children and youth, families, schools and communities. Heartland AEA is a pro-active and caring organization fueled by a passion for excellence in all we do. We are committed, every day, to helping people grow, develop and learn. Heartland Area Education Agency 11 does not discriminate based on gender, gender identity, race, national/ethnic origin, creed, age, marital status, sexual orientation, or disability.