

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

MINUTES

BOARD WORK SESSION

Web 2.0 Tools

Ms. Brenda Gustafson and Ms. Arletta Dawson explained and reviewed the benefits of some of the latest Internet tools with the Board. Blogs, RSS feeds, wikis and social networking sites are just a few of the tools that are being used by students and teachers. As technology has changed, it has created a global competition within the educational field and job market. Teachers, now more than ever, need cutting-edge technology tools to help them do their jobs. The future holds many unknowns such as how do teachers prepare students for technologies that don't yet exist, for solving problems that are still unknown and for teaching technologies that have yet to be identified.

Area Education Agencies in Iowa

Mr. Brent Siegrist discussed his role as Director of Iowa's Area Education Agencies. Mr. Siegrist meets with five AEA boards a year to discuss current AEA activities as well as his responsibilities and goals. His role as director was created to oversee the Iowa Educator Consortium, work with legislators on public policy, collaborate with the Iowa Department of Education, chair the Chief Administrators' Committee and to run day-to-day operations of the AEA system. Mr. Siegrist discussed recent AEA accomplishments and a few topics related to the legislative session.

AEA accomplishments:

- Developed a warehousing database across the state.
- Created a council to look into sharing resources across the AEAs in the area of professional development and online courses.
- Created the Elmore Project to provide professional development for superintendents.
- Experienced \$50M in sales through the Iowa Educators Consortium. The consortium has over 360 participating school districts.

Legislative update:

- State revenues this year are down and even with budget cuts, there will be a \$100M shortfall. Rainy day fund/surplus money will be used to backfill this loss; however, it will not correct the problem long-term.
- No further discussions have taken place about additional AEA cuts.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Board President Ms. Ann Wilson called the regular meeting of the Heartland Board of Directors to order at 5:48 p.m.

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

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

Approval of Agenda

The public forum was moved to later in the agenda to accommodate guests who would be arriving late. A MOTION was made by Mr. Nels Turnquist and seconded by Mr. Bruce Christensen to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Recognition

Dr. Angelisa Braaksma Fynaardt, Heartland professional learning and leadership consultant, and Ms. Kara Buerger, guidance counselor at Centennial Elementary in the SE Polk School District were recognized for their work with Positive Behavior Supports (PBS). PBS is in its fourth year of implementation at Centennial and is a program targeted at dealing with student behavioral issues. Dr. Fynaardt was instrumental in providing training to the school, and Ms. Buerger credits her accessibility to the program's development and success. The Centennial RAMS Plan (Respectful, Responsible, Manners and Safety) was broken down and individualized for each common area of the school. Students were then taught the behavior expectations for each area and are rewarded for their behavior through games and other fun events. The school's goal was to have an 80 to 90 percent response rate to the interventions. Currently the response rate is at 98 percent. Ms. Brenda Gustafson recognized Dr. Fynaardt and Ms. Buerger for their work and noted how lucky the Agency and Centennial are to have such wonderful staff.

Discussion Items

Collective Bargaining

Mr. Frank Harty, attorney, gave a presentation on the current legislative session and collective bargaining. The first legislative funnel will occur on Friday, March 13 with the legislative session expected to close at the end of April. Three bills that are still open include Fair Share, Prevailing Wage, Public Employee Collective Bargaining and Workers' Compensation Choice of Doctor. Mr. Harty reviewed each bill and predicted that at least one of them would pass this session. Board members were encouraged to contact their legislators and ask the necessity of these bills and what the results would be should they be voted into law. He also encouraged the Board to keep an eye on the Supreme Court Case, Gross vs. FBL, that pertains to the burden of proof in age discrimination cases.

Budget and Legislative Update

Dr. Maxine Kilcrease provided a handout that shows what the Agency currently knows, doesn't know and is in progress related to finances.

- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA, aka stimulus plan): This is one-time money with no answers on how the funds can be used. The Agency may get the money before the rules are known. The Department of Education will approve and make recommendations on how much goes to districts and AEAs. This includes funding for K-12 education, IDEA, Title I, Head Start and education technology. The Agency has been told that for every stream of funding there will be a new reporting system different from Part A and Part B.
- The ARRA will have three funding sections: 1.) funding allocated to the number of students, 2.) Race to the Top: rewards districts and agencies for innovative practices and 3.) grants for innovation. This is not a single pot of money, but three, each with different categories.
- Some of the stimulus package money will be given to the state to back-fill the deficit. If there is another shortfall in 2009, the legislature and governor will predict how much funding is given in 2010-11.
- 27 percent of what the Agency receives goes to the Des Moines district.
- Media and educational services are funded through property taxes and that impact is unknown at this time.
- The new lower federal income tax will be implemented on March 13, although the tax tables are still in development.
- Effective January 1, 2009, certain employees with non-qualified dependent children covered by insurance may have to pay additional taxes. This could create a \$25-\$50 reduction in pay.
- Heartland certified management salaries have been frozen.

- Cabinet members will meet on March 23 to review recommendations made by staff and budget managers on reductions that can be made to create additional savings.

As more information is gathered, the chart will be updated and sent to Board members.

Annual Progress Report (APR)

Ms. Brenda Gustafson provided a quick overview on the Annual Progress Report. This report is required by the Department of Education; however, it is set-up in such a way that the general public would not understand it. It also does not provide a way in which the Agency's story can be told, e.g. what are the Agency's accomplishments, what services have been provided and what impact have they had on student achievement. Board members were asked to brainstorm ideas on how the report could be used and who the audience should be.

Board members agreed that although clear goals are stated, the report fails in many ways. It needs to tell why the Agency is here, what it's trying to accomplish, and what direct impact have services had on teachers and students. Once that is known, it can be shared with legislators, various councils (such as the parent advisory council), at public events such as KidsFest and even at the Iowa State Fair. The report will be reformatted and a draft presented by May 15. A final document will be completed by June 30.

Facilities Update

Mr. Steve Prall gave a brief overview of current facility issues, specifically the chiller at the 6500 building. A brief history of the chiller was given noting the problems have become severe enough that fixing it is no longer a wise investment. The Board approved the purchase of a new chiller and a timeline was given on receiving and finalizing bids for installation. The new chiller, dependent upon weather, should be fully installed by April 27.

Consent Agenda

- Personnel Report
- Minutes of February 10, 2009
- Bills (Mr. Bruce Christensen)
- AEA 11 and Quakerdale 2009-10 Service Agreement
- Purchase Requisitions: Clima Cool Cooperation

A MOTION was made by Dr. Earl Bridgewater and seconded by Mr. Bruce Christensen to approve the consent agenda including payment of warrant numbers 00336770 through 00337552. Mr. Christensen reviewed the monthly bills and stated that everything is in good order. The Agency is progressing through the budget and under-spending is also occurring. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Forum

Kathy Fromm, a grandmother from Ames, Iowa, was present to speak to the Board. She asked members to be responsible in the use of the stimulus package money, expressed how *user* friendly the Agency Web site is to parents and encouraged the Board to do a better job of serving special needs children.

Closed Session

A MOTION was made by Mr. Bruce Christensen and seconded by Mr. Nels Turnquist to hold a closed session, as provided in Section 21.9 of the Code of Iowa, to discuss strategy in matters relating to negotiations. Motion carried unanimously.

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

The Board of Directors entered into closed session at 7:40 p.m. and returned to public session at 8:30 p.m.

Chief Administrator Comments

- The Des Moines Register is still pursuing the topic of AEA administrator salaries.
- Mr. David King will be sending a letter to legislators on Senate File 314 about reporting requirements. (Senate File 314 is an Act providing for all existing funds for teacher compensation to be directed into one salary system.)
- The Agency is keeping an eye on three additional legislative areas: 1.) writing assessment implications as far as training, 2.) Iowa Core Curriculum money and 3.) school start date. This may cause adjustments to be made on when contracts can begin.
- Next month a presentation will be given on multi-educational blue prints with discussion around statewide drop out rates, including Des Moines.
- School district reorganization: Manning and IKM may look at merging quicker than planned. There needs to be a statewide support system put into place to help districts through mergers. AEA Chief Administrators have begun preliminary conversations about developing a process. Iowa Code states that AEAs are to assist districts with the dissolution process.
- Dr. Kilcrease will be in Carroll on Friday, March 13 to serve on the Aspiring Civic Leaders Group Panel.
- The Iowa Civil Rights Commission has contacted Dr. Kilcrease and asked for her assistance with the recruitment and retaining of staff and to train staff on diversity. This is evidence that Heartland's hard work around cultural competence is gaining attention.
- The (statewide) Heartland AEA Customer Survey was sent Monday, March 9. The goal is to double the number of responses this year from 18 to 36 percent.
- Board members should contact Jenny Ugolini by Friday, March 20 regarding registration for the April 30 and May 1 AEA Board Conference.
- The Agency will be up for accreditation in 2010. Currently four staff members are taking part in site visits at AEA 267, as they go through the process. This will help prepare the Agency for next year.
- The Superintendents' Advisory Council and other stakeholders will meet in April to discuss stimulus dollars.
- Four superintendents are retiring this year: Randall McCaulley (Perry), John Millhollin (Panorama), Greg DeTimmerman (Van Meter) and Doyle Scott (Winterset). This creates a fair amount of change as compared to previous years.
- Revamping of the Agency Web site is currently in progress. Right now the site is difficult to search and contains some outdated information. Work began last June and is part of the current Communications Plan.
- Agenda items for the April meeting:
 - Action plan on communication, recognition and allocation of caseloads with Laura Gillon
 - Regional Center planning
 - Crisis Plan review and training
 - Communication Plan update
 - Print and Production overview

- May agenda: Iowa Core Curriculum

Board Comments

- Mr. David King will email the legislative letter on Senate File 314 to board members.
- A concern was raised that the Board minutes might need to better reflect how and what the Board does to improve student achievement.

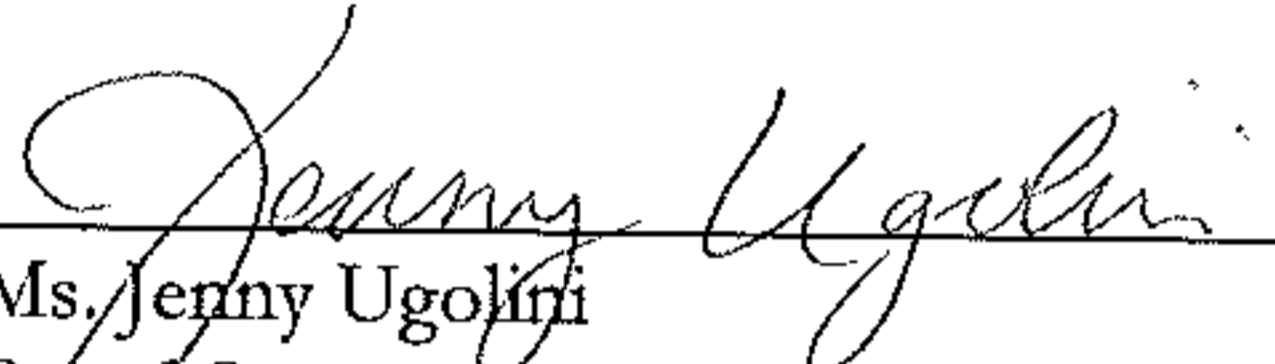
Adjournment

A MOTION was made by Dr. Earl Bridgewater and seconded by Mr. Bruce Christensen to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The regular meeting was adjourned at 8:47 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.