

**AEA 11 Board of Directors**

6500 Corporate Drive

Johnston, Iowa

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

MINUTES

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

Board President Ms. Ann Wilson called the regular meeting of the Heartland Board of Directors to order at 5:35 p.m.

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

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

*Approval of Agenda*

A MOTION was made by Dr. Earl Bridgewater and seconded by Dr. Steve Rose to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

*Public Forum*

Dr. Ethel Faust was present to share additional information regarding the state's guidelines for educating children with autism. Dr. Faust's child has autism and does not meet any of the benchmarks for 3rd grade but will be entering 8<sup>th</sup> next year. Her child takes the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills every year and tests in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade. This is a concern because the child cannot communicate or hold a conversation. She would like to have her child reach a reading level above third grade before graduation and asks the Board to consider options on how the stimulus money can be used to help children with special needs.

Ms. Danielle Sharpe shared financial information she received from the Department of Education regarding AEA special education funding and the services children with autism receive. She has a child with autism that has not been seen by an autism specialist for years. Ms. Sharpe wants to know why if 80 percent of the budget goes to special education, why aren't autistic children aren't receiving services at a higher percentage rate than 11 percent?

Ms. Cherrie Tiffany was also present to speak to the Board. She has a child with Asperger's Syndrome that is an autism spectrum disorder. She has requested numerous services and accommodations from the AEA and district but has not received them. She says parents of children with special needs are constantly fighting for services, therapy and medication and against the health system and insurance companies. Her child is now living in a residential facility because she said the school and AEA could not meet the child's need. She says the system is failing kids, and she urges the Board to fix that and provide services.

*Board Recognition*

Ms. Brenda Gustafson introduced the members of the agency's Iowa Core Curriculum Team including Ms. Linda Hoobin, Ms. Julie Hukee, Ms. Lynn McCartney, Dr. Brad Niebling, Ms. Teresa Bellinghausen, Ms. Becca Lindahl, Ms. Jennifer Riedemann and Ms. Julie Sypersma. With the implementation of the Core Curriculum, they have been asked to do additional work in providing training for districts. They have stepped up and have done a brilliant job, not just at the agency level but working at the state level too. The Core Curriculum strives to improve teaching methods, not just curriculum.

Ms. Becca Lindahl introduced Ms. Sarah Wessling, an AP English teacher at Johnston High School. Heartland's Core Curriculum team was introduced to Ms. Wessling when they began looking for video clips to help present a Core Curriculum leadership module. The Heartland team decided that instead of showing a clip of a teacher in New York demonstrating effective instruction, they would create a DVD of a local teacher demonstrating this in her own classroom. The DVD shows a grant project that has students developing a non-profit organization that supports people who are not meeting "the American dream." Students are to come up with a budget and compete against each other for money. A panel made up of community members then rates each of the teams. The Agency has made a kit including this DVD which includes Ms. Wessling, teachers, students and panel members that will be used in Core Curriculum trainings to show effective instructional strategies.

Team members and Ms. Wessling were presented with certificates of recognition and thanked by President Ann Wilson.

Dr. Maxine Kilcrease recognized board members as part of School Board Recognition Week. Board members received flowers, certificates and a personal note from Dr. Kilcrease. The Board has demonstrated an authentic participation by tripling the amount of time they spend on board work, participating in the Lighthouse Project and providing leadership at the state level, either through the Wallace Committee and the state governing board. Dr. Kilcrease noted that they have been the most impressive board she has worked with in 36 years, especially in the areas of knowledge, dedication, commitment and caring for all students.

### *Discussion Items*

#### *Iowa Core Curriculum*

Ms. Julie Hukee, Ms. Lynn McCartney and Ms. Jennifer Riedemann were present to give an update on the Iowa Core Curriculum training. Trainings are being offered to districts in modules to help them with their implementation plans. Districts are expected to reach full implementation by July 1, 2010, for grades 9-12 and July 1, 2012, for K-12. Over 705 leaders have participated in the training, including superintendents, teachers, principals and central office staff. One hundred percent of Heartland public schools and all but one non-public school have participated in the trainings. Ms. Hukee also reviewed required outcomes of the Core Curriculum which included schools, content alignment, professional development and instruction and assessment. These outcomes are part of a self-study that districts must complete prior to implementation to ensure understanding of Core Curriculum guidelines.

Additional information on the Iowa Core Curriculum can be found at [www.aea11.k12.ia.us/icc](http://www.aea11.k12.ia.us/icc) or at <http://www.corecurriculum.iowa.gov/Home.aspx>.

### *Closed Session*

A MOTION was made by Dr. Earl Bridgewater and seconded by Dr. Steve Rose to hold a closed session, as provided in Section 21.9 of the Code of Iowa, to discuss records which are required or authorized by state or federal law to be kept confidential and to discuss strategy with counsel in matters that are presently under litigation. 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	Aye
Ms. Marcy Sparks	Aye

Mr. Nels Turnquist	Aye
Ms. Ann Wilson	Aye

The Board of Directors entered into closed session at 6:50 p.m. and returned to public session at 7:37 p.m.

### *Action Items*

A MOTION was made by Dr. Jane Bell and seconded by Mr. Nels Turnquist to approve the settlement agreement recommended by attorney Ron Peeler. Motion carried unanimously.

### *Discussion Items Continued*

#### *Recommendations for use of Stimulus Money*

A committee has been formed to help determine the use of the America's Reinvestment Recovery Act (ARRA) funds that the Agency will receive. The ARRA Committee consists of stakeholders from every group across the Agency and has met numerous times to review recommendations. The District Services Council (DSC) and Operations Support Council (OSC) provided the framework underneath and compiled a list of what they felt were the most important areas of concern.

- Special education
- Maintenance of Effort (MOE)
- Phase II Regional Education Center implementation
- Hardware/software
- Training
- Recruiting

Dr. Kilcrease also reviewed a draft of Heartland's 2009-11 ARRA budget. (This budget is an estimate as of May 12 because the figures will likely change.) \$5,094,426 will be dedicated to special education and \$3,645,514 will be dedicated to MOE. MOE funds can be used to support things such as the Iowa Core Curriculum, learning supports, math assessment, instructional coaching, effective instruction institute, Instructional Decision-making (IDM) and Positive Behavior Supports (PBS).

The committee will meet again on May 18. Final recommendations will be presented at the June 9 board meeting.

### *Consent Agenda*

- Personnel Report
- Minutes of April 14, 2009 Board meeting
- Bills (Dr. Jane Bell)
- Newton Contract – Third addendum to lease
- Knoxville Contract – Second addendum to lease

A MOTION was made by Dr. Earl Bridgewater and seconded by Dr. Steve Rose to approve the consent agenda including payment of warrant numbers 00338628 through 00338875. Dr. Jane Bell reviewed the monthly bills and stated that the Agency is in good standing and the budget is where it should be. The Agency has spent 72 percent of its budget, which is typical for this time of year. Motion carried unanimously.

### *Chief Administrator Comments*

- The negotiations with Newton DMACC continue. Mr. Prall will meet with Mr. Doug Williams from DMACC on May 14. The Regional Education Center Committee also continues to look at space allocation. Their recommendations will be submitted by the end of the week.
- The 2010 IASB Legislative materials will be reviewed at the June 9 board meeting.

- The Agency has met with the Science Center of Iowa regarding the SEMI project. They are interested in a broader project that would provide training to science teachers in preparation of the Iowa Core Curriculum. The SEMI would be located at various regions and would offer intensive and robust training to students, teachers and the community.
- The article "Redesigning an Educational Service Agency to be Accountable for Student Achievement and Cultural Competency" will be published this fall in *Perspective* magazine. It was written by Dr. Maxine Kilcrease, Dr. Alecia Rahn-Blakeslee, Dr. Brad Niebling and Dr. David Tilly.
- Heartland has received official notification from the Department of Education that AEA 13 and 14 will merge. The Agency can now be approached by districts who may wish to join AEA 11. The Board and newly constituted boards from 13 and 14 would be required to grant approval.
- The *Blueprint for Success*, part of the Multiple Education Pathways project (MEBP), was completed and provides information on the drop-out rate in Des Moines. On May 13, Dr. Kilcrease, Mr. Wayne Ford and Dr. Rob Denson presented it at a public forum to the community. Heartland, DMACC and United Way may work on creating a Workplace Learning Center housed at DMACC as a way of preventing dropouts by offering opportunities in the world of work and internships. Dr. Kilcrease will also work with Mr. Ford on using the AEA system as a hub to form focus groups on dropout issues and what is needed across the state. An integrated system will also be developed as part of the Iowa Core Curriculum to create a seamless system to connect people in the workforce and school system.

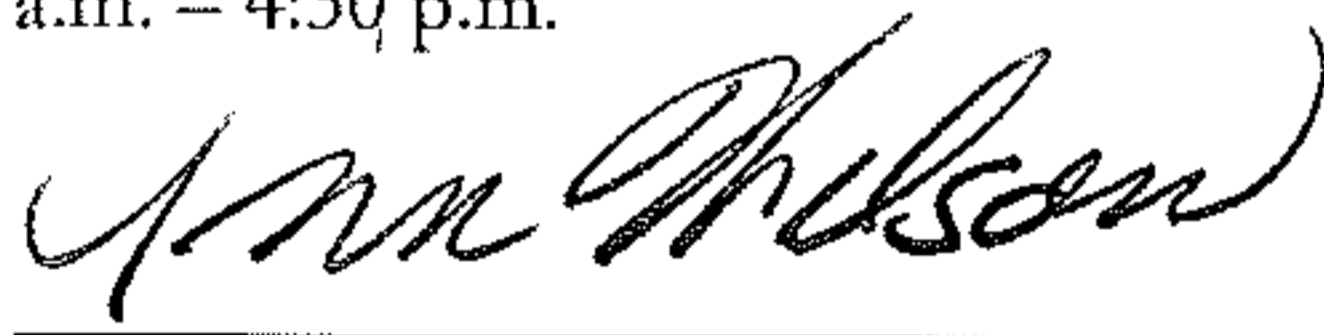
*Board Comments*

- Ms. Ann Wilson requested that board members hold comments during public comment to ensure that the board can discuss the issue and/or direct staff to answer questions or comments made during public comment. The Board also requested that the administration research answers to questions and comments for the board. The board wants the administrators of special education programs to be prepared to address compliance of agency programs and services.
- A work session will be held in the future to review educational opportunities for all students so all board members understand the special education process and requirements.

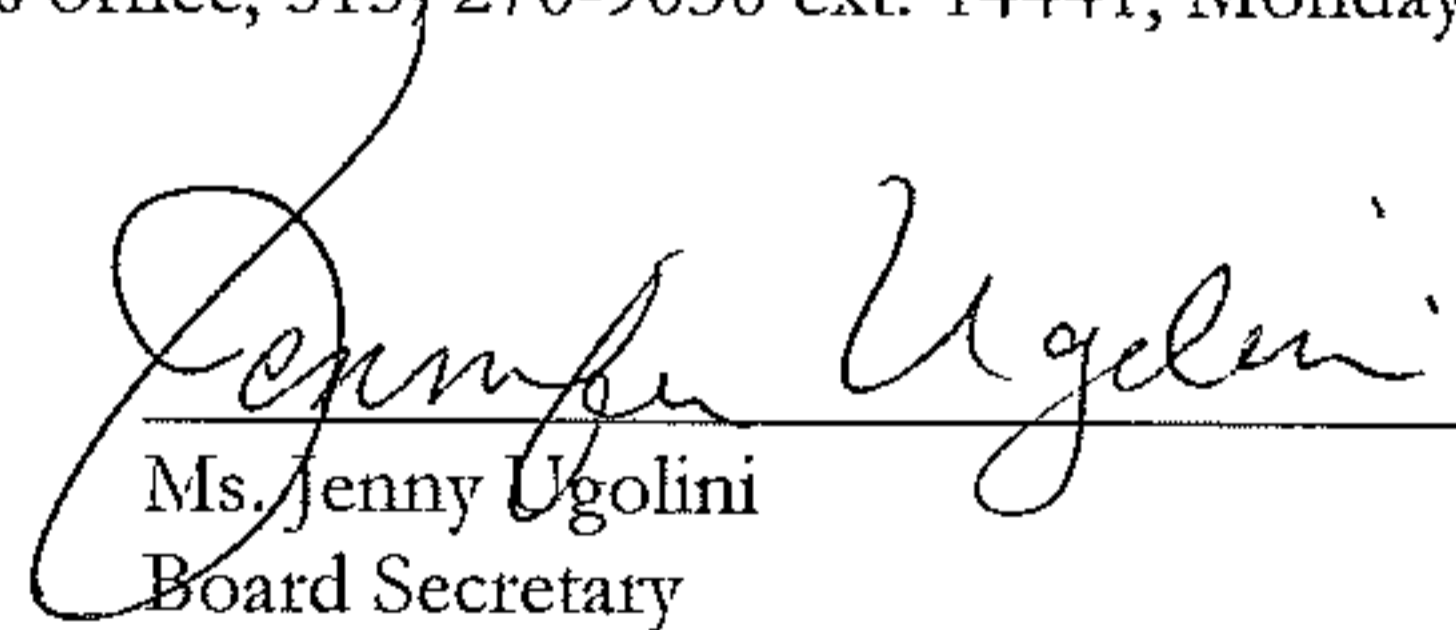
*Adjournment*

A MOTION was made by Dr. Steve Rose and seconded by Mr. Bruce Christensen to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The regular meeting was adjourned at 9:18 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.*