

## AEA 11 Board of Directors

6500 Corporate Drive

Johnston, Iowa

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

### WORK SESSION MINUTES

#### BOARD WORK SESSION

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

Administrative Staff Present: Ms. Laura Gillon, Dr. Maxine Kilcrease and Ms. Jenny Ugolini

Board President Ms. Ann Wilson called the work session of the Heartland Board of Directors to order at 3:15 p.m.

#### *Professional Development*

Ms. Sharon Kurns spoke about the Agency's transformation from professional development to professional learning. Professional learning looks at how services, i.e. teacher practice and instruction, can be improved to more effectively impact student achievement. The Agency has always offered quality professional development and will build upon this as it works towards engaging staff and clients in quality learning. Ms. Kurns reviewed a series of critical success factors that were developed to help with the transformation.

- *Communication* – Communicate the expectations of effective practices and the resources available.
- *Collaboration* – Create collaborative groups or learning teams will provide ongoing learning opportunities.
- *Capacity building* – Develop a strong partnership to build capacity amongst Agency staff and at the district level.
- *Leadership* – Collective leadership so strengths, skills and expertise can be shared.
- *Technology* – Learn about new tools that can be used to teach in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- *Iowa Core Curriculum focus* – Support of the Iowa Core Curriculum
- *Adapted to learner needs* – Become more effective and better skilled at making good decisions for students.
- *Assessment literacy* – Perform assessments and understand what they mean.
- *Program evaluation* – Involvement with the implementation and monitoring of programs.

Board members had the chance to ask questions and share comments, specifically noting the huge increase in demand for professional learning opportunities now more than ever.

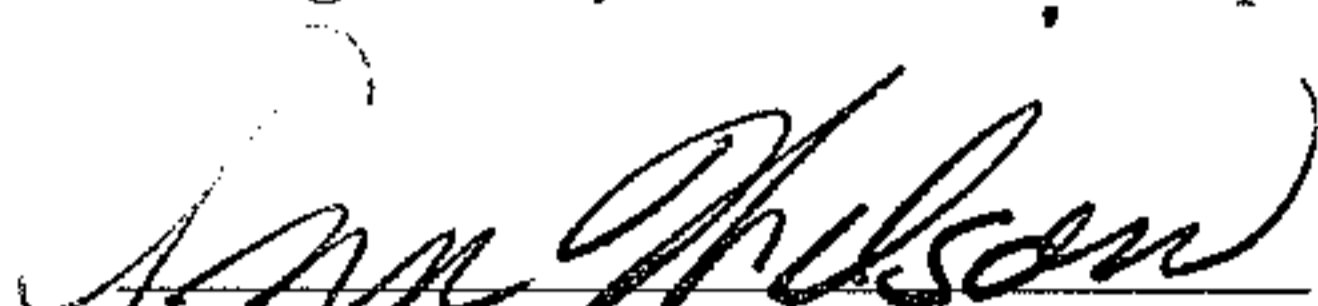
#### *Future of AEAs and Reorganization Ideas*

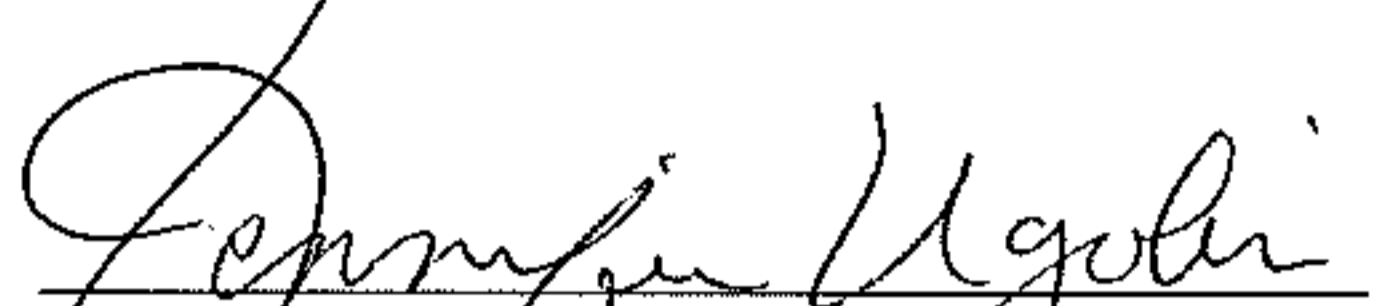
One of the goals of the Board is to advocate for a statewide AEA system. This was chosen as a goal because it would be the most efficient and fair way to meet the needs of children across the state. When you have a system focus, goals and priorities can be set and there are shared commitments. This has not yet occurred. There are things occurring around the state and in the legislature that let us know changes are going to happen. As the perfect storm builds, the Board needs to ask three things:

1. Are we as a system and as board members willing to have someone else define our future?
2. Are we able to set a foundation and guiding principles under which we should operate?
3. Can we design a 3-5 year plan to make a unified system a reality that focuses on three things: student achievement, is financially sound and is flexible enough to deal with future changes.

Dr. Kilcrease has been asked to lead a two-day work session in August. At this retreat she will lead an effort to design the framework for a unified system. She indicated that she needs feedback from the Board. Board members broke into small groups to review three sample models and to discuss the pros and cons of each. These were initial ideas to generate conversations around what a unified system should look like.

Reports and documents 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.*