

AEA 11 Board of Directors

6500 Corporate Drive

Johnston, Iowa

Tuesday, June 9, 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, Ms. Sharon Kurns, Dr. Maxine Kilcrease, Dr. David Tilly and Ms. Jenny Ugolini

Approval of Agenda

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

Public Forum

No one was present from the public to address the Board of Directors.

Discussion Items

Special Education Follow-up

During the public forum at the May 12 board meeting, concerns were raised regarding special education services to children with autism. Ms. Laura Gillon was present at the June meeting to provide feedback on the previous issues raised.

- According to the Information Management System (IMS), 45 percent of students who list autism as a primary disability on their Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) receive speech-language services. If *entitled individual* is indicated as the primary disability, the student may not receive those services unless they are screened. The Agency realizes the need to collect additional data from those who list autism as a secondary disability to provide a clearer picture. Ms. Gillon will look into gathering this information and will provide feedback at the next board meeting.
- During the last five years, the Agency has spent 77-78 percent of its budget on special education. The Agency has controlled funding that determines spending levels for media, special education and educational services. The Agency falls below 80 percent because media and educational services have historically had extensive services that have lowered the percentage. For instance, last year the Agency had cooperative purchasing that was an educational service function. How the Agency can spend funds is prescriptive by state law and federal appropriations.
- Members of the Challenging Behavior and Autism Team (CBAT) do not attend all IEP meetings. They are deployed to where there is a high need. Although requests come in from parents for CBAT members to attend IEP meetings, the Agency does not have the structure or staffing capacity for staff members to respond to all requests. Attention will be paid to how these requests will be addressed in the future.
- This fall the Agency will have school social workers and school psychologists attend autism training to build capacity across regions and in several job categories.

Ms. Gillon introduced Ms. Grace Bargstadt as the Agency's new special education director. She will begin her duties on July 1. Ms. Bargstadt spent a few minutes sharing her vision of special education with the Board.

2009-10 IASB Legislative Priorities

Board members reviewed the 2009 Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB) Legislative Action Priorities and Resolutions. Every year, the Board is asked to select five resolutions that they consider to be high priority. IASB uses that input during the legislative session to develop policy that impacts student achievement. Board members made numerous recommendations and offered their suggestions. Ms. Borgen will compile a final list and e-mail board members for confirmation.

Progress on Communication Goals

Ms. Gustafson gave a brief update on the progress of communication goals for the Agency.

- The new Heartland Web site is on schedule and will rollout August 3. There will be tabs for teachers, parents and administrators. All blogs and wikis will be easily accessible and there will also be a quick link to budget and ARRA information.
- Work continues with the Leadership Partnership and the Wallace Grant on creating an educational version of the *Did You Know* video. Ms. Gustafson has met with Scott McLeod from Iowa State University on developing this video.
- AEAs will once again have a booth at the Iowa State Fair. The booth will be double in size and will have continuously looping videos from parents and students who have received services from Heartland.

Instructional Decision-Making

Dr. Brad Niebling and Dr. Alecia Rahn-Blakeslee discussed the progress made in Instructional Decision-Making (IDM). Districts have been using IDM since the 2005-06 school year to help schools increase their capacity to educate all students and to increase student achievement and behavioral success. Currently there are 78 buildings and 36 districts in the Heartland area using IDM, and 67 AEA staff members have served as external coaches.

Districts that want to participate in IDM must undergo six days of professional development, complete a self-report readiness survey and dedicate staff to the training process. After initial training there are cohort meetings and structured workdays to provide additional support. When IDM began there were only 19 districts involved. As time progresses, the number keeps increasing and the challenge has been to figure out how to support all the schools that want to participate.

Dr. Niebling shared that the Agency is ahead in the field of IDM and the country continues to look at Heartland to meet the needs of students. This work is key to the Agency moving ahead and remaining cutting edge.

Board members can access more information on IDM at www.aea11.k12.ia.us/idm.

Consent Agenda

Personnel Report

Minutes of May 12 and June 4 Board meeting and work sessions

Bills (Dr. Earl Bridgewater)

Purchase Orders: EBSCO Information Services, Central Iowa Library Service Area, EBSCO

Publishing and 3M Library

Cataloging Services Contract between Heartland AEA and Grant Wood AEA

A MOTION was made by Dr. Steve Rose and seconded by Mr. Nels Turnquist to approve the consent agenda including payment of warrant numbers 00339336 through 00340212. Dr. Earl Bridgewater reviewed

the monthly bills and stated that the first phase of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act money has been received. Within the bills is the first disbursement of the LEA portion of the funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session

A MOTION was made by Mr. Nels Turnquist and seconded by Dr. Earl Bridgewater to hold a closed session, as provided in Section 21.9 of the Code of Iowa, to evaluate the professional competency of individuals whose appointment, hiring, performance or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and the individual's request a closed session.

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 8:20 p.m. and returned to public session at 9:50 p.m.

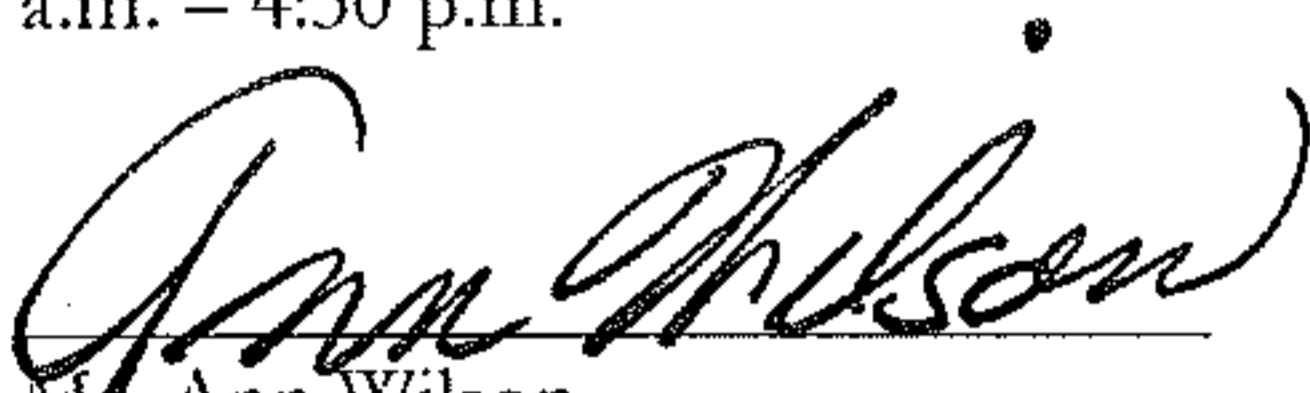
Action Items

A MOTION was made by Dr. Steve Rose and seconded by Mr. Bruce Christensen to offer the interim chief administrator position to Ms. Sheila King, with salary to be negotiated at a later date. Motion carried unanimously. This motion was amended to include that the position would begin July 1, 2009. Motion with amendment carried unanimously.

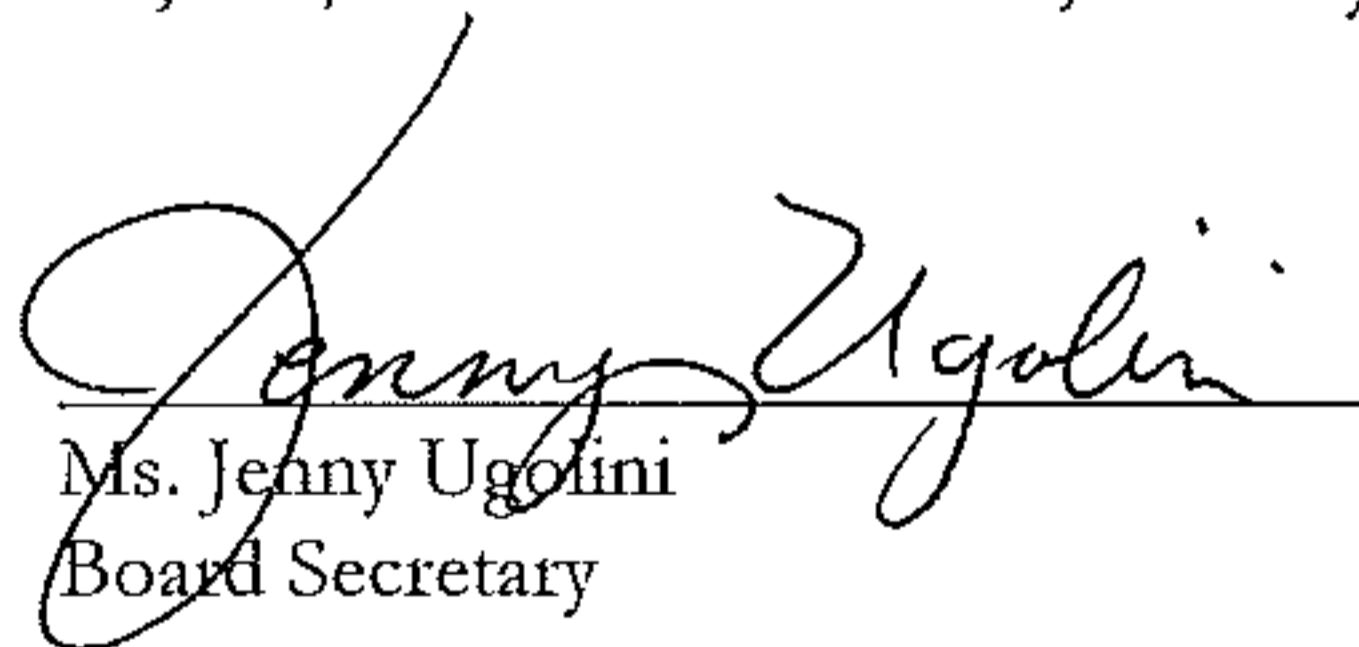
Adjournment

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 9:55 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.