

AEA 11 Board of Directors

6500 Corporate Drive

Johnston, Iowa

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

MINUTES

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

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

Board Members Present: Ms. Margaret Borgen, Dr. Earl Bridgewater, Dr. Steve Rose, Ms. Marcy Sparks, Mr. Nels Turnquist and Ms. Ann Wilson.

Mr. Bruce Christensen arrived at 5:36 p.m.

Ms. Jane Bell arrived at 5:45 p.m.

Administrative Staff Present: Ms. Arletta Dawson, Ms. Laura Gillon, Ms. Brenda Gustafson, Mr. David King, Ms. Sheila King, Mr. Steve Prall and Ms. Jenny Ugolini.

Public Hearing

No one was present to speak at the public hearing regarding the replacement of the roof at the Agency's building at 6500 Corporate Drive in Johnston.

Approval of Agenda

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

Public Forum

Ethel Faust of West Des Moines, Iowa, spoke to the Board about the recent article in the *Des Moines Register* regarding the number of schools in Iowa that are in need of assistance according to federal No Child Left Behind guidelines. Dr. Faust has a child with autism who continues to score low in reading comprehension. Although Heartland AEA recommended a reading specialist to work with her son, the West Des Moines district would not provide one. She believes there is a huge divide between the district and the AEA. She encourages the Board to look at what partnership directors are doing and what services the AEA and districts should provide children.

Board Recognition

Ms. Sara Becker, Information Systems Technical Support Specialist, Mr. Monte Heeren, Data Base Administrator/Systems Engineer, Mr. Rod Howell, Data Processing Operation Manager, Mr. Francis Musignac, Information Systems Technical Support Specialist, Mr. Russ Richards, Programmer, Mr. Doug Schuster, Systems Analyst/Programmer, Ms. Lori Thelen, Information Systems Manager, Ms. Mien Tran, Information Systems Technical Support Specialist and Ms. Maureen Whited, Programmer, were recognized for increasing efficiencies within the Agency through their work with technology solutions such as Integrated Financial and Administrative Solutions (IFAS) and 4D. Their recent accomplishments include calendar online, the paperless purchase system, documents online, online budget transfers, reminder e-mails for certificate renewal, the conversion of leave balances from a 7.5-hour workday to an 8-hour workday and

other server and database maintenance. Ms. Wilson thanked them for being the unsung heroes who keep the Agency moving in the right direction.

Discussion Items

Regional Education Centers

Mr. Steve Prall updated the Board on the progress of the Regional Education Centers (RECs). Timelines for many of the centers have been extended.

- Newton REC – Completion no later than July 31, 2010
- Johnston REC – Completion no later than December 31, 2010
- Adel REC – Prioritization moved to FY 2010-11

Mr. Prall presented a revision of the REC commissioning document that provided clarification on the differences between RECs, regional offices and co-location workspaces.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

The ARRA application deadline has been postponed until early October. The Agency is very attentive to the criteria and rules surrounding the funds and to minimizing the effects of the funding cliff. Priority will be given to maintaining a strong and balanced budget and to avoiding any personnel cuts. Six areas of high priority have been identified.

1. Special education
2. Early childhood and Early Access
3. Instruction
4. Behavior and learning supports
5. Facilities and the transition to regional centers
6. Technology

The Agency will also look at supporting the implementation of the Iowa Core Curriculum, instructional coaches, sign language interpreters and math curriculum. Additional information on the ARRA distribution will be provided at the October board meeting.

Board members expressed their concern that the Agency needs to be very transparent in their process for allocating the ARRA funds. The Agency needs to be open to input from its partners.

They also noted the hard work that had been done in the West Des Moines district. The district had warm praise for Rod Howell and his team and for Mary Ann Culver, Anita Westerhaus and Jim Verlengia for their valuable contributions.

Action Items

Board Policy 418

A MOTION was made by Dr. Earl Bridgewater and seconded by Dr. Jane Bell to approve amended Board Policy 418. The Board noted that both the original and amended versions had been reviewed. Motion carried unanimously.

6500 Roof Replacement

A MOTION was made by Dr. Steve Rose and seconded by Mr. Bruce Christensen to approve the construction bid to replace the roof at the Agency's building at 6500 Corporate Drive, Johnston, pending approval from the Department of Education. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Personnel Report

Bills (Jane Bell)

Minutes of August 11 Board Meeting

Purchase Orders: 4D Inc.

Memorandum of Amendment - Annual Renewal between Des Moines Independent Community School District and Area Education Agency 11

Second Amendment to Commercial Lease - Indianola

Itinerant Teacher Service Agreement between Statewide System for Vision Services and Area Education Agencies

Orientation and Mobility Service Agreement between Statewide System for Vision Services and Area Education Agencies

A MOTION was made by Mr. Nels Turnquist and seconded by Ms. Marcy Sparks to approve the consent agenda including payment of warrant numbers 00342133 through 00342801. Dr. Jane Bell reviewed the bills and stated that the Agency is in good financial standing and has enough money to meet payroll and pay its bills. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Comments:

- Mr. Nels Turnquist agreed to be the delegate at the November Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB) meeting. Dr. Jane Bell will act as alternate.
- Ms. Margaret Borgen asked that at the October board meeting time be given to review the IASB legislative priorities.

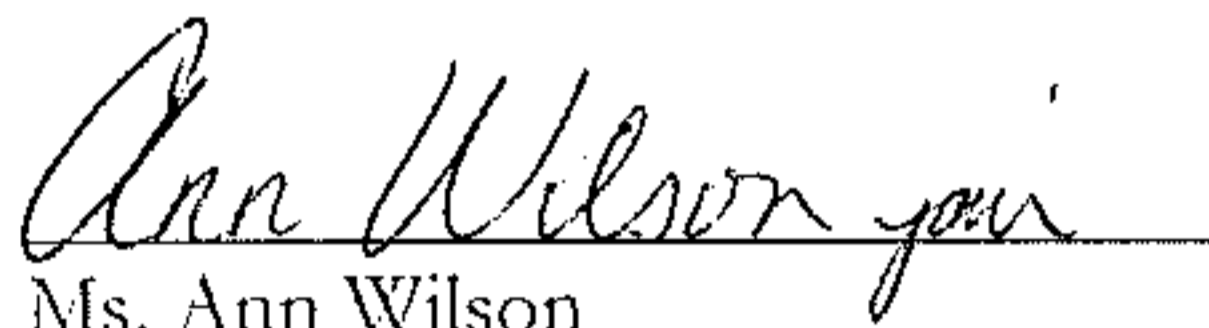
Interim Chief Administrator Comments:

- The verdict of the Department of Education (DE) complaint has been moved to September 11. The DE explained that due to the complexity of the issues, it needed more time to deliver its ruling.


Adjournment

A MOTION was made by Ms. Marcy Sparks and seconded by Dr. Jane Bell to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The regular meeting was adjourned at 6:18 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.