



CENTRAL RIVERS AREA EDUCATION AGENCY

Central Rivers AEA Board of Directors Board Work Session Minutes Wednesday, March 1, 2023, 4:30 p.m.

Call Work Session to Order - Welcome Visitors

Board President Dr. Debra Rich called the Central Rivers AEA Board of Directors Work Session to order at 4:34p.m. Board members attending were Bryan Burton, Dennis Craun, Kathy Enslin, Maureen Hanson, and Dr. Mary Stevens. Attending electronically were Nicole Lovik-Blaser at 4:50 p.m. and Dr. Tony Reid at 4:56 p.m. Also in attendance were Chief Administrator Sam Miller and Board Secretary Lori Thomas. Absent was Dr. Darshini Jayawardena.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved on a motion by Maureen Hanson, seconded by Bryan Burton.

Chief Administrators' PD Update

Chief Administrator Sam Miller presented an update on his professional development plan.

Close Work Session

Board President Dr. Debra Rich adjourned the work session at 4:58 p.m. on a motion by Dr. Mary Stevens, seconded by Bryan Burton.

Central Rivers AEA Board of Directors Board Meeting Minutes Wednesday, March 1, 2023, 5:00 p.m.

Call Board Meeting to Order - Welcome Visitors

Board President Dr. Debra Rich called the Central Rivers AEA Board of Directors Meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. Board members attending were Bryan Burton, Dennis Craun, Kathy Enslin, Maureen Hanson, Nicole Lovik-Blaser via Zoom, Dr. Tony Reid via Zoom, and Dr. Mary Stevens. Absent was Dr. Darshini Jayawardena.

Also in attendance were Sam Miller, Karl Kurt, Michael Kalvig, Beth Strike, and Lori Thomas. Attending electronically were Amy Knupp, Jen Sigrist, Ashley Sires, Amy Thoms-Starr and staff member Pam Morrissey.

Central Rivers AEA is committed to ensuring equitable, efficient, and effective educational services that prepare all Iowa children for a life well-lived.

Approval of Agenda

Dr. Mary Stevens made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Kathy Enslin. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Maureen Hanson made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Dr. Mary Stevens. Motion carried unanimously.

Program Review: IDEA/DA

Regional Administrators Ashley Sires and Amy Thoms-Starr shared information with the board regarding IDEA/DA, a newer support service offered to districts.

Accept the Central Rivers AEA Audit Report

Maureen Hanson made a motion to accept the Central Rivers AEA Audit Report, seconded by Bryan Burton. Dr. Debra Rich recognized Michael Kalvig and the business office staff for their work in ensuring a positive audit. Michael thanked his entire team for their work. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Agency Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Statement

Dr. Mary Stevens made a motion to approve the Central Rivers AEA Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Statement, seconded by Dr. Tony Reid. A suggestion for changing the formatting, not any verbiage was made by Bryan Burton. Sam Miller will share this feedback with the Equity Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports to/from Board:

Jen Sigrist

Jen shared that she is in the process of hiring staff and that she is part of a statewide task committee for Future Ready.

Beth Strike

Beth gave an update on the board room renovations and recognized Gus Delamore for his work on the remodeling. Beth has hired a new print facilitator who will begin on April 3 and also shared that her annual communication visits with districts are almost completed.

Karl Kurt

Karl shared updates on insurance renewals, negotiations, and hiring. He sent a workplace survey to staff this week and feels this is a good way to improve the culture of the organization. Karl also reported that a couple community groups have used our facility for their meetings.

Sam Miller and Michael Kalvig

Sam and Michael mentioned the options regarding the building debt.

Kathy Enslin

Kathy recognized Ann Lupkes' retirement and her many years of service. She thanked Amy Thoms-Starr, Ashley Sires, and Jody Albertson for the great job they did on the district board visits this year.

Dr. Mary Stevens

Mary shared her appreciation for the DEI app and the Story of Belonging video series. She reported that she is looking forward to attending the Unconscious Bias training later this month.

Dennis Craun

Denny shared with the board regarding some personal issues he has experienced.

Dr. Debra Rich

Deb thanked Denny for his vulnerability and courage in sharing with the board. Deb thanked Amy Knupp, Amy Thoms-Starr, and Ashley Sires for the presentation on IDEA/DA. Deb also informed the board that the June board meeting will include a retirement dinner for Sam Miller after the board meeting.

Adjournment

Dr. Debra Rich declared the meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m. on a motion by Bryan Burton, seconded by Maureen Hanson.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lori Thomas, Central Rivers AEA Board Secretary



Dr. Debra Rich, Board President