



CENTRAL RIVERS AREA EDUCATION AGENCY

**Minutes of the Joint Board of Directors of Central Rivers Area Education Agency,
Hawkeye Community College, Iowa Valley Community College District, and North Iowa
Area Community College
April 17, 2023 via Zoom - hosted by Hawkeye Community College**

Hawkeye Community College President Todd Holcomb opened the meeting at 4:30 pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted this is an opportunity to get together to reacquaint the three community colleges and Central Rivers AEA and to learn more about each other.

Central Rivers AEA Minutes

Present from Central Rivers AEA: Chief Administrator Sam Miller; Board Members Dennis Craun, Kathy Enslin, Maureen Hanson, Nicole Lovik-Blaser, Dr. Debra Rich, Dr. Tony Reid, and Dr. Mary Stevens; and Board Secretary Lori Thomas.

Chief Administrator Sam Miller shared an update on the Regional Planning Partnership (RPP) work. Rod Ball, Director of Special Programs leads this partnership between the AEA and the community colleges. Sam also shared that he is retiring this year and Joel Pedersen of Cardinal CSD has been selected as the new chief.

As Submitted by Lori Thomas, Central Rivers AEA Executive Assistant/Board Secretary.

Iowa Valley Community College District Minutes

Present from Iowa Valley Community College District: President Dr. Kristie Fisher; Directors Deb Jones, Joanna Hofer, Clark Lawler, and Paul Pohlson; and Board Secretary Barbara Jennings.

Dr. Kristie Fisher shared a review of construction projects funded predominantly by the \$32 million Bond Issue passed by voters in November 2019. The projects included improvements to the Iowa Valley Grinnell Gunsmithing lab as well as major interior and exterior improvements to the Marshalltown campus; including the Conference Center, library and E-sports arena. Improvements at the Ellsworth campus include renovated locker rooms, student activity space and new residence hall.

As Submitted by Barbara Jennings, Iowa Valley Community College District Board Secretary.

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

North Iowa Area Community College Minutes

Present from North Iowa Area Community College: President Dr. Steve Schulz; Board President David Steffens, Jr; Directors Debra Hill, John Rowe, Nicki Prantner, and Cathy Rottinghaus; and Assistant to the President Abby Donald.

Dr. Schulz shared that NIACC was an Aspen Top 25 Finalist and received Nation Science Foundation and Title III Student Support grants. In the 2021 Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation profile, provided by the Iowa Department of Education, NIACC ranked in the top three in the following categories: credit awards rate, noncredit penetration rate, total penetration rate, graduation rate, transfer rate, and success rate. Dr. Schulz also shared a review of recent construction projects in the gymnasium, cafeteria, and the career center in Charles City.

As submitted by Abby Donald, North Iowa Area Community College Assistant to the President

Hawkeye Community College Minutes

Present from Hawkeye Community College: President Dr. Todd Holcomb; Trustees Jay Nardini, Louis Beck, JoDee Knox, Casey McLaughlin; and Board Secretary/Assistant to the President Annette Staples.

Dr. Holcomb shared that the Grundy Hall renovation is nearing completion, and will be ready for students in the fall. The Dental Clinic portion of the renovation has already been completed. Ten new chairs were added which will allow for more enrollment in the dental programs. The construction is nearing completion for the Automation and Robotics Center which is located at the Techworks campus, downtown Waterloo. The center will provide students with Industry 4.0 training that will address the integration of technology with manufacturing. A special election took place on March 7 where voters were asked to approve the renewal of a \$35 million bond referendum. A 60% supermajority was needed for passage. The vote passed with a 75.2% approval rate. The funds will be used for a skilled trades and apprentice center, an expanded law enforcement training center, and a STEM Learning Center. Hawkeye will also be undergoing a First Impression Courtyard Renovation project. This project will begin this fall and take about 12 months to complete. The plan includes new concrete, trees and flowers as well as several designated areas throughout the courtyard including a hammock area, gathering space, and new Brock Student Center patio. The new Vocal and Music programs at Hawkeye are off to a great start and students have already participated in several performances. The Marketing department has begun work towards developing a new College Website. Hawkeye is adding several new programs into its athletic program including Women's Softball, Women's Golf, and Men's and Women's Wrestling.

Next year's joint Board meeting will be hosted by Hawkeye Community College on Monday, April 8, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

As Submitted by Annette Staples, Hawkeye Community College Board Secretary/Assistant to the President.



CENTRAL RIVERS AREA EDUCATION AGENCY

Central Rivers AEA Board of Directors Board Meeting Minutes Monday, April 17, 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 5:00 p.m. Board members attending were Dennis Craun, Kathy Enslin, Maureen Hanson, Nicole Lovik-Blaser, Dr. Tony Reid, and Dr. Mary Stevens. Absent were Bryan Burton and Dr. Darshini Jayawardena.

Also in attendance were Sam Miller, Karl Kurt, Michael Kalvig, Beth Strike, Jen Sigrist, Lori Thomas, Sarah Nelson, Cari Teske, and Bryan Knecht. . Visitors included staff member Liz Del Castillo.

Dr. Debra Rich expressed the board's condolences to Dr. Darshini Jayawardena on the loss of her mother.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Consent Agenda

Kathy Enslin made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Maureen Hanson. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Mystery Science

Dr. Mary Stevens made a motion to approve the quote to purchase Mystery Science for two years at a cost of \$61,098, seconded by Maureen Hanson. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Cybersecurity Measures

Dr. Tony Reid made a motion to approve the recommended purchase of ProCircular's MXDR and SOC for a deployment fee of \$7,500 and an annual fee of \$67,800 per year for a three-year agreement, seconded by Nicole Lovik-Blaser. Motion carried unanimously.

Maureen Hanson exited the meeting immediately after the vote on cybersecurity measures at 5:44 p.m.

Approval of the Collective Bargaining Agreement for 2023-25, Administrative Guidelines, and the Contracts for the Central Rivers AEA Education Association for 2023-24

Dr. Mary Stevens made a motion to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement for 2023-25, Administrative Guidelines, and the Contracts for the Central Rivers AEA Education Association for 2023-24, seconded by Nicole Lovik-Blaser. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the Collective Bargaining Agreement for 2023-25, Administrative Guidelines, and the Contracts for CWA for 2023-24

Kathy Enslin made a motion to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement for 2023-25, Administrative Guidelines, and the Contracts for CWA for 2023-24, seconded by Nicole Lovik-Blaser. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Salary Increases and Contracts for NUSS for 2023-24

Dr. Mary Stevens made a motion to approve the Salary Increases and Contracts for NUSS for 2023-24, seconded by Kathy Enslin. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Salary Increases and Contracts for Administration for 2023-24

Nicole Lovik-Blaser made a motion to approve the Salary Increases and Contracts for Administration for 2023-24, seconded by Dr. Tony Reid. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports to/from Board:

Jen Sigrist

Jen shared that her team has stepped in to fill the void left by the passing of Jeff Struck. His loss has been traumatic for the team and schools have also been very supportive..

Beth Strike

Beth gave an update on the board room renovations and recognized Gus Delamore and Bryan Knecht for their quick response to a construction mishap. There was no lasting damage and everything was quickly repaired. Beth worked with Independence CSD to conduct a communication audit and meets with their board later this evening. She also plans to meet this week with the Waterloo CSD to assist with their work regarding student dress code.

Michael Kalvig

Michael gave an update on the building debt repayment plan and investment of funds.

Sam Miller

Sam gave a legislative update and plans to meet with lobbyists later this week. He shared that March's Superintendent Retreat was well-attended and noted that Joel Pedersen presented a session on culture. Sam reminded the board that the June 7 board meeting will be held in the newly remodeled Cedar River Room

Dr. Mary Stevens

Mary reported that she took the diversity training in Marshalltown and felt that Gina Weekley did a wonderful job presenting to the group. Mary commented on how welcoming and professional the Marshalltown office looked.

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Kathy Enslin

Kathy shared that she took the diversity training in Marshalltown and she commented that Gina Weekley was a great teacher. She also recognized Beth Strike and her team for how nice of a job they did remodeling the Marshalltown office hearing booth. Kathy shared that she drove to Des Moines hoping to talk with legislators in order to advocate for the AEA system; however, she was not able to meet with them due to their time constraints. Kathy mentioned that she would like to have the board hold board meetings in both the Marshalltown and Clear Lake offices next year.

Dr. Debra Rich

Deb thanked Kathy Enslin for attempting to speak to the Iowa legislators and advocate for the work of the AEAs with Iowa students and educators. Deb shared that she is participating in a book study with Gina Weekley regarding DEI. Deb reported that the Iowa AEA board met at the end of March. She gave instructions to the board members for sending her their reflections regarding Sam's work with the agency. Due to Sam's retirement this year, this is in lieu of a formal evaluation.

Adjournment

Dr. Debra Rich declared the meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m. on a motion by Dr. Mary Stevens, seconded by Dr. Tony Reid.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori A. Thomas

Lori Thomas, Central Rivers AEA Board Secretary

Dr. Debra Rich 5-3-23

Dr. Debra Rich, Board President