



## CENTRAL RIVERS AREA EDUCATION AGENCY

### Central Rivers AEA Board of Directors Board Meeting Minutes Wednesday, May 3, 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 5:07 p.m. Board members attending electronically were Kathy Enslin, Nicole Lovik-Blaser, Dr. Tony Reid, and Dr. Mary Stevens. Dennis Craun joined the meeting during agenda item #4, at 5:11 p.m. via phone.

Absent were Bryan Burton, Maureen Hanson, and Dr. Darshini Jayawardena.

Also in attendance were Sam Miller, Karl Kurt, Michael Kalvig, Beth Strike, Jen Sigrist, Amy Knupp, Joel Pedersen, and Lori Thomas. Visitors included staff members Cari Teske, Pam Morrissey, Dr. Leslie Moore, and Kristine Kienzle.

#### **Approval of Agenda**

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

#### **Approval of Consent Agenda**

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

#### **Program Review: INspired Leadership Initiative**

Dr. Leslie Moore gave a report regarding the agency's work around INspired Leadership. Dr. Rich thanked Leslie, on behalf of the board, for her work facilitating this initiative going forward.

#### **Approval of Media Purchase**

Dr. Tony Reid made a motion to approve the purchase of a News-O-Matic subscription for \$29,329 per year for the next two years (2023-24 and 2024-25) at a total cost of \$58,658.00, seconded by Nicole Lovik-Blaser. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Approval of First Reading of Board Policies 700 Series**

Nicole Lovik-Blaser made a motion to approve the first reading of the 700 series of board policy (General Public Relations) including the recommended changes, seconded by Dr. Mary Stevens. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Approval of Board Policies 101.2 and 101.2R1**

Kathy Enslin made a motion to approve the updates to Board Policy 101.2(Comprehensive Equity Policy) and its regulation 101.2R1 (Comprehensive Equity Complaint Procedure), seconded by Dr. Tony Reid.

After board discussion, Kathy Enslin amended her original motion to approve a first reading of board policy 101.2 and regulation 101.2R1 with suggested title changes, seconded by Dr. Tony Reid. The amended motion carried unanimously.

This item will be brought back to the board at a later date for final approval.

### **Approval of Workers' Compensation with Jester Insurance Agency**

Dr. Tony Reid made a motion to approve Workers' Compensation Insurance coverage with Jester Insurance as the Agent of Record and approve the payment of \$238,862 for the retro deposit premium for 2023-24, seconded by Dr. Mary Stevens. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Approval of Commitment of Agency Funds**

Kathy Enslin made a motion to approve the commitment of agency funds, seconded by Dr. Mary Stevens. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Reports to/from Board:**

#### **Cari Teske**

Dr. Tony Reid had a few questions regarding Media materials used by school districts and Cari Teske, Director of Media gave an update on this to the board.

#### **Joel Pedersen**

Joel shared that he will be moving to Cedar Falls within the next couple months and expressed his appreciation to the board, Sam, and the administrative cabinet for supporting him in his transition to Central Rivers AEA.

#### **Jen Sigrist**

Jen shared her appreciation to Cari Teske for purchasing quality new materials for districts. Jen reported that she recently completed another Site Visit with the Department of Education.

#### **Amy Knupp**

Amy recognized Ann Lupkes on being awarded the Iowa Council for Administrators in Special Education (I-CASE) service award. She also congratulated Ann on her upcoming retirement and many years of service to the agency. Amy reported that we are hosting a Legal Summit in June.

**Beth Strike**

Beth shared that she will be bringing a request to the board next month for equipment purchases. Beth also gave an update on the renovations to the Cedar River Conference Room.

**Karl Kurt**

Karl expressed his appreciation to Dr. Leslie Moore for presenting to the board and for the work she is doing within the agency. He noted that the professional learning event for the office support team on April 24 was a great success. Karl reported on the workplace survey results which were very positive.

**Sam Miller**

Sam noted that May is Board Appreciation Month and he thanked the board and expressed gratitude for their leadership of the agency and for all they do on behalf of students, educators, and agency staff.

Sam reported that a new director of the Iowa Dept. of Education has been named and gave an update on the funding cut to the AEAs by the Iowa Legislature. He will provide a more in-depth report once he has more information, Sam reminded the board that the June 7 board meeting will be held in Cedar Falls, beginning at 4:30 p.m.

**Dr. Debra Rich**

Deb thanked the board members for sharing their reflections on Sam Miller's leadership and she plans to share those with him later this month.

**Adjournment**

Dr. Debra Rich declared the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m. on a motion by Dr. Mary Stevens, seconded by Nicole Lovik-Blaser.

**Respectfully Submitted,**



Lori Thomas, Central Rivers AEA Board Secretary



Dr. Debra Rich, Board President