



CENTRAL RIVERS AREA EDUCATION AGENCY

Central Rivers AEA Board of Directors Board Meeting Minutes Wednesday, July 17, 2024

Call to Order – Welcome Visitors

Board President Dr. Debra Rich called the Central Rivers AEA Board of Directors Meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. Board members present were: Bryan Burton, Dennis Craun, Kathy Enslin, Maureen Hanson via Zoom, Dr. Darshini Jayawardena, Dr. Tony Reid, and Dr. Mary Stevens. Absent was Nicole Lovik-Blaser.

Also present were: Chief Administrator Stan Rheingans, CFO Jennifer Coombes via Zoom, Directors Annette Hyde, Karl Kurt, Tesha Moser-Zimmerman, Beth Strike, and Board Secretary Lori Thomas.

Visitors included staff members Kelsey Baker, Liz Del Castillo via Zoom, and Pam Morrissey via Zoom.

Approval of Agenda

Dr. Tony Reid made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Kathy Enslin. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Dr. Mary Stevens made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Bryan Burton. Motion passed unanimously. Dr. Debra Rich, on behalf of the board noted that Bryan Knecht's resignation was accepted with regrets.

Approval of the Purchase of Furniture for River Hills School

Bryan Burton made a motion to approve the purchase of furniture from Demco for the River Hills School's new adaptive library in the amount of \$26,215.50, seconded by Dr. Darshini Jayawardena. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the Purchase of a Printer for Creative Services

Kathy Enslin made a motion to approve the purchase of a Challenge Titan Cutter, Duplo Folder, and Phoenix Laminator from Infomax for a total cost of \$33,695.00, seconded by Dr. Mary Stevens. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports to/from Board:

Stan Rheingans, Chief Administrator

Stan Rheingans shared his appreciation for the board as he began his new role at Central Rivers AEA and acknowledged the team work of Karl Kurt, Jennifer Coombes, Beth Strike, and Lori Thomas.

Stan is focusing on listening to staff and learning the history of the agency. He plans to create a committee for reviewing board policies and is starting a process of having written reports from directors included in each board agenda. Stan requested a special board meeting to be held on August 14, in order to seek board approval on additional staff hiring.

Karl Kurt, Asst. Chief Administrator/Director of HR

Karl Kurt reported that while staff are encouraged to attend DEI training, they will not be required. He is meeting with Jennifer Coombes and agency insurance agents regarding medical plans and the cost of the self-funded insurance.

Jennifer Coombes, Chief Financial Officer

Jennifer Coombes reported that she is attending weekly meetings regarding the implementation of Harvest and that she is in the year-end process of closing out the books for the business office.

Beth Strike, Director of Creative Services/Communications

Beth Strike shared that she is working with five districts this year for their communication needs.

Annette Hyde, Executive Director of Special Education

Annette Hyde expressed her excitement to begin working with the special education team and the regional administrators. She reported that we have two new regional administrators and she is working to build a team around the Achieve system.. Annette shared that she is considering the possibility of staff at Keystone AEA assisting Central Rivers AEA with data entry.

Tesha Moser-Zimmerman, Executive Director of Ed Services

Tesha Moser-Zimmerman shared a slide presentation with the board, explaining how the agency plans to proceed with providing services to districts under the new legislation. She gave a shout-out to Phil Hendricks, Senior Web Developer/Programmer for his work setting up a new pricing structure system.

Dr. Debra Rich, Board President

Dr. Rich shared that she attended the Iowa AEA Organizational meeting this month. She asked for some guidance from the Dept. of Ed to be provided to the board regarding how the board should plan for changes due to the new legislation. Dr. Rich also requested that a board policy on stipends be brought to the board for future consideration.

Adjournment

Dr. Debra Rich declared the meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m. on a motion by Dr. Tony Reid and seconded by Dr. Mary Stevens .

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Thomas

Lori Thomas, Central Rivers AEA Board Secretary

Dr. Debra Rich 9/17/24

Dr. Debra Rich, Board President