

Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency
Regular Monthly Board Meeting
Tuesday, April 21, 2015 · 4:35 pm
Emmetsburg, IA

President Dean Saunders called the regular meeting of the Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency Board of Directors to order at 4:30 pm. The following board members were present: Gary Astor, Sue Brown, Pat Brown, Steve Jimmerson, Rick Morain, and Dean Saunders. Absent: Todd Lundgren

Board approval was given to the agenda presented by Chief Administrator Jeff Herzberg.

On a motion by Gary Astor, seconded by Steve Jimmerson, board approval was given to the minutes of the March 17, 2015, Regular Board Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

On a motion by Pat Brown, seconded by Sue Brown, board approval was given to the bills as presented by Michelle Dowd. Motion carried unanimously. The cash flow report was reviewed by M. Dowd.

Becca Bunnell, Mindy Miller, Pam Fritz(via zoom) and Deb Shelton of the Parent & Educator Connection (PEC) team shared information about the work they perform for our agency. Each AEA in the state of Iowa has at least one parent and one educator working together, dedicated to promoting genuine partnerships among families, schools, and communities. PLAEA is fortunate to have three parents sharing this important work. The PEC program offers the following activities: One to one coaching for families and educators, Link families and educators with needed services and resources, Network with other agencies and programs who work with parents and educators, PEC team blog bit.ly/pecteam, Financial support to families to attend workshops and AEA mediation services. Thank you to the PEC team for taking the time to join us and share your story.

On a motion Steve Jimmerson, seconded by Sue Brown, the board approved that the Administrative and Technology Team cell phone reimbursements, and agency provided cell phones, end effective June 30, 2015. Motion carried 5 to 1 with G. Astor voting no.

On a motion by Gary Astor, seconded by Rick Morain, the board approved the following PLAEA resignations:

- Karen Ackerman, Teacher of Hearing Impaired, resignation effective at the end of the current 193 day contract.
- Courtney Draude, Speech Language Pathologist, resignation effective at the end of the current 193 day contract.
- Rachel Rachut, Speech Language Pathologist, resignation effective at the end of the current 193 day contract.
- Jamie Rouse, Behavior Strategist, resignation effective at the end of the current 193 day contract.

Motion carried unanimously.

The board was informed of the retirement of Pam Metzger, Accounts Payable Specialist, effective June 30, 2015.

On a motion by Steve Jimmerson, seconded by Pat Brown, the board approved the contract for Dawn Higgins, Physical Therapist, East Region - Algona office, 193 days, MA30/CI-5, \$74,402 (based on 2014-2015 salary schedule, start August 10, 2015. (replaces a contracted service agreement). Motion carried unanimously.

Recognition of Excellence:

- From a Principal at Ridge View Shared CSD - As an administrator of 11 years, this had been my best year with AEA support staff in the building. All AEA that serve this school are eager to help make improvements and are enthusiastic to do so. Communication is great, their knowledge is what is needed and they are very much about this school. I could not make the changes needed in behavior, speech, special education or in ELA without them. Thank you, thank you, thank you... you are hiring the best and I am thrilled! Celebrate and pat yourselves on the back! This principal is doing cartwheels, smiling and cheering... all because of your team!
- From Katie McClurg, Speech Language Pathologist with PLAEA - I want to take the time to acknowledge four coworkers who stepped in for me while I was going through my cancer diagnosis, surgery and treatments. First, Connie Hopper, my Communication Paraprofessional, took many extra students of mine, making sure the kids IEP minutes were being met. Also, Treva Graves, Addy Leistikow and Lisa Richter, all PLAEA SLP's, filled in as subs for me, seeing the rest of the kids on my caseload. All four of these coworkers allowed me the peace of mind to work on my recovery and not have to worry about IEP's, parent meetings, updating data, etc. So a big thank you to all of them for being willing to add to their already busy schedules.
- From a district Teacher Librarian at Manson NW CSD - I want to give feedback for PLAEA staff as they helped us on the Makerspace Kickoff held at Manson Northwest Webster Elementary School. We simply couldn't have had a successful event, or any event at all, if it wasn't for Scott Fosseen, Ed Zimmerle, Erin Olsen, Leslie Keenan, Mike Anderson, and Julie Graber. All of them led sessions, Scott both days, and none of that would have been possible without them. I want to give a special notice to Julie Graber. She helped my administration to see the vision of makerspace, and helped me to stay on target for our kickoff. She deserves more thanks than I am able to give her.

Upcoming Staff Presentation Schedules include:

- May 18, 2015 - Hearing Dept.
- June 15, 2015 - Summer Reading Program

Upcoming Dates

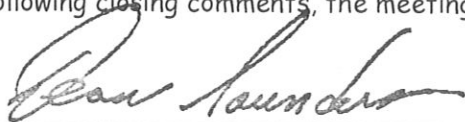
- IASB Spring ABLE Workshops - Strategic Board Governance - The Time is Now! - 6-8:30 pm. Dinner at 5:30 is included in registration. Let Ginger know if you want to register. Rick M has registered for the Carroll session
 - April 28 - Emmetsburg
- TICL Conference - June 15-17, BVU, Storm Lake

The May board meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 18, 2015 - 4:00 pm, Pocahontas AEA, Iowa Lake room.

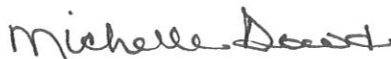
There being no further business the board adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

The PLAEA board then joined the Iowa Lakes Board of Trustees for a joint meeting in the Bienfang Dining Room on the Emmetsburg Campus. After introductions were made by President Newhouse, Molly Bates, Intermediary Connections Coordinator, presented information regarding her work with the area K-12 schools and businesses. Several members had questions after the presentation.

Following closing comments, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 P.M.



Board President



Board Secretary