

**Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency  
Regular Board Meeting  
Monday, April 15, 2019 – 4:00 p.m.  
Pocahontas, Iowa**

Vice President Brown called the regular board meeting of the Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency Board of Directors to order at 4:00 p.m. The following board members were present: Christina Allen, Pat Brown, Dawn Crane, Janice Harbaugh, and Todd Lundgren. Absent: Gary Astor.

On a motion by Pat Brown, seconded by Dawn Crane, board approval was given to the agenda, including amendments, as presented by Chief Administrator Jeff Herzberg.

Vice President Brown asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the March 18, 2019 Regular Board Meeting. Hearing none, the minutes stood approved.

On a motion by Todd Lundgren, seconded by Pat Brown, the Board approved the resignation of Gary Astor as Board President of Prairie Lakes AEA's Board of Directors. Motion carried unanimously.

Michelle Dowd, Board Secretary, called for nominations for the office of Board President.

A motion was made by Todd Lundgren, with a second by Pat Brown, to nominate Sue Brown for President. Todd Lundgren moved, seconded by Pat Brown, that nominations cease and a unanimous vote was cast for Sue Brown as Board President. Motion carried unanimously.

The oath of office for Board President was administered to Sue Brown by Michelle Dowd, Board Secretary.

Board President, Sue Brown, called for nominations for the office of Board Vice President.

A motion was made by Dawn Crane, with a second by Janice Harbaugh, to nominate Pat Brown for Vice President. Dawn Crane moved, seconded by Janice Harbaugh, that nominations cease and a unanimous vote was cast for Pat Brown as Board Vice President. Motion carried unanimously.

The oath of office for Board Vice President was administered to Pat Brown by Michelle Dowd, Board Secretary.

Staff presentation: Chief Administrator Jeff Herzberg presented an overview of the Mental Health First Aid training program. Mental Health First Aid is an 8-hour course that teaches someone how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders. The training gives teachers and administrators the skills they need to reach out and provide initial help and support to someone who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem or experiencing a crisis. Chief Herzberg, along with Kristy Liechti, Jessica Ulrich, and Becca Bunnell have become certified Mental Health First Aid instructors for PLAEA. Their team has provided training to nine local school districts this school year. Interested districts, should contact Jeff Herzberg.

On a motion by Janice Harbaugh, seconded by Pat Brown, the Board approved the bills as presented by Michelle Dowd. Motion carried unanimously. The cash flow report was reviewed by Dowd.

On a motion by Pat Brown, seconded by Dawn Crane, the Board approved the resignation of Teresa Alesch, Regional Administrator, Spencer office, resignation effective at the end of the 2018-2019 contract year. Motion carried unanimously.

On a motion by Janice Harbaugh, seconded by Pat Brown, the Board approved the following resignations from the Licensed group: Rachael Mooney, School Psychologist, Algona office; Kathryn Fillmore, Early Childhood Special Education Teacher/Consultant, Spencer office; Melanie Fisher, Leadership & Learning Consultant, Storm Lake office; Treva Graves, Speech Language Pathologist, Spencer office; Katie Darby, Speech Language Pathologist, Webster City office and Lynae Otten, School Social Worker, Spencer office. All of the resignations are effective at the end of the 2018-2019 contract year. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board was informed of the following resignations: Carrie Weishaar, Secretary, Pocahontas office, resignation effective June 27, 2019 and Becca Bunnell, Family Educator Partner, Storm Lake office, resignation effective at the end of the 2018-2019 contract year.

On a motion by Todd Lundgren, seconded by Pat Brown, the board approved the following new hires in the licensed group: Annette Benedict, Academic Strategist, Storm Lake office, 193 days, MA+15, Step 14, \$63,575; Jessica Wright, Speech Language Pathologist, Pocahontas office, 193 days, MA+30, Step 7, \$57,601; Courtney Cook, Social Emotional, Behavior, Mental Health (SEBMH) Coordinator, Spencer office, 193 days, MA+30, Step 11, \$61,502; and DeAnn Leiting, School Social Worker, Jefferson office, 193 days, MA, Step 15, \$63,698. All of the contract have a start date August 19, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board was informed of the following new hire: Lindsey Otis, Educational Paraprofessional, Lakes Partnership School, 29 days, Grade B, Step 1, \$14.96, start date April 23, 2019.

The Board was informed that the Department of Education will recommend the Iowa Principal Leadership Academy (IPLA) program for "Conditional Approval" at their May 9, 2019 Board meeting. This recommendation is a result of an accreditation visit that was held in May 2018. The State Board has adopted new leadership standards for administrators and the current IPLA program needs to adjust the program content to meet those new standards. IPLA has one year to complete the compliance and documentation needed to achieve full accreditation status.

Chief Administrator's Report: Recognition of Excellence: Gary Astor was recognized by the Board for his ten years of service to the Prairie Lakes AEA Board of Directors. Kayti Pohlman, School Social Worker, was recognized for exceptional work with a parent. Thank you! Board Member Development: Chief Herzberg informed the Board of, Royce White, former ISU basketball player (2013), to speak on his struggles with mental health. He will be in Iowa Falls (Bethany Lutheran Church) on April 24 and Storm Lake (HS Auditorium) on April 25. The schedule includes him speaking to students and coaches in the afternoon and then to anyone who may attend from 6:00-7:30 p.m. The Board, and Chief Herzberg, proclaimed May as Mental Health month. The Agency will communication through various channels to promote awareness of Mental Health. Advocacy: Chief Herzberg shared an update on HF758 - Provides the \$3 million from Governor Reynolds' budget to the AEAs for educator training (YMHFA and Toxic Stress/ACEs) & portal for mental health resource portal.

Upcoming dates: May 7<sup>th</sup> - Innovation Showcase 9.0 at Superintendent Meeting, 9:30-12:00 at Pocahontas and November 8-9, Trauma Conference 2.0 at BVU.

The May board meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 20, 2019 - 4:00 p.m. Prairie Lakes AEA, 500 NE 6th Street, Pocahontas, Iowa.

Other items: Chief Herzberg shared a thank you note from Patti Snyder, Secretary, and Chief Negotiator for the Prairie Lakes Educational Services Association, thanking the Board for extending her association leave to attend the National Education Association Conference.

On a motion by Sue Brown, seconded by Janice Harbaugh, the Board moved to go into closed session for a negotiation strategy session according to IA Code 20.17(3). By unanimous vote the board entered into closed session at 5:35 p.m.

At the end of the closed session, it was moved by Dawn Crane, and seconded by Pat Brown, to return to open session. Motion carried unanimously.

No action was taken. The Board will review the administrative salaries, along with statewide, and local district, comparable information. A recommendation will be brought to the May board meeting.

There being no further business, on a motion by Janice Harbaugh, seconded by Dawn Crane, the Board adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

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Board President

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Board Secretary