

**Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency
Regular Monthly Board Meeting
Monday, August 17, 2015 - 4:00 PM
Pocahontas, IA**

President Dean Saunders called the regular meeting of the Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency Board of Directors to order at 4:00 pm. The following board members were present: Gary Astor, Pat Brown, Sue Brown, Steve Jimmerson, Todd Lundgren, Rick Morain and Dean Saunders.

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

On a motion by Gary Astor, seconded by Sue Brown, board approval was given to the minutes of the July 20, 2015, Regular Board Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

On a motion by Todd Lundgren, seconded by Rick Morain, board approval was given to the bills as presented by Michelle Dowd. Motion carried unanimously. The cash flow report was reviewed by Michelle Dowd.

Wendy Parker, Director of Special Education, introduced our new Regional Administrators: Ryan Flaherty, Fort Dodge Region, Teresa Alesch, Spencer Region, and Kris Ahrens, Algona/Pocahontas Region. Our AEA has moved from five regions to six regions, each being assigned a Regional Administrator. The new role of the RA is like that of a principal in a local school district. The Regional Administrators will be responsible for overseeing both special education and general education services to our districts. Wendy also explained the new Collaborative Team Structure which includes an Academic Strategist, Behavior Strategist, Literacy Consultant, Math Consultant, Technology Integrationist and other AEA support as needed to help provide coordinated services to a district. The changes in our structure are being made to help support collaboration among our staff and our district partners, reduce silos within our agency, and help eliminate the 'lone ranger' services.

The Board was informed of the following resignation:

- Jaymie Krukow, Educational Paraprofessional at the Lakes Partnership School, resignation was effective at the end of the 2014-2015 contract year.

On a motion by Todd Lundgren, seconded by Steve Jimmerson, the board approved waiving the second reading and adopted Board Policy 402.7 - Vacations. The policy reduces the number of allowable unused vacation days that may be carried over from one year to another to a maximum of five days. Motion carried 6-1, with Rick Morain voting no.

On a motion by Steve Jimmerson, seconded by Pat Brown, the board approved the 2015-2016 Level I Child Abuse Investigators: Wendy Parker, Pam Ahlrichs, Diane Jackson, Lesa Nauss, and Kandy Martin. Motion carried unanimously.

On a motion by Rick Morain, seconded by Gary Astor, the board approved the 2015-2016 Harassment Coordinators; Josh Bader and Diane Jackson. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Administrator's Report:

- Recognition of Excellence: Thank you everyone at Prairie Lakes AEA for your continued support and leadership you show to our school districts. Wishing everyone a great 2015-2016 school year!
- AEA Legislative Advocacy: Chief Administrative Herzberg meeting with Linda Fandel on Tuesday, August 18th from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at our Jefferson office was postponed by Fandel. The meeting will be rescheduled and a communication will be sent out to the Board.
- Chief Administrator Herzberg discussed his letter to Governor Branstad. While attending the SAI convention the Governor left some questions unanswered that Chief Herzberg feels need to be address directly by the Governor. Herzberg is hopeful the Governor with reply.
- Executive Director Report from Brent Siegrist was also shared and the Board appreciated the detailed communication from Siegrist.
- Instructional Coaching - What is all this talk about? Chief Herzberg shared an overview of Jim Knight's research on Instructional Coaching with the Board. This model is being used in districts for their new Teacher Leadership systems. To help support our districts in this work, PLAEA contracted with Ann Hoffman to conduct Instructional Coaching workshops. PLAEA staff also participated in these workshops to help build capacity within our agency and model instructional coaching when working with our districts.
- Update on the Organizational Chart of PLAEA - The organizational chart was shared with the Board. This is a big picture representation of the flow of supervision. This is still in draft format.
- Book study - Creative Schools by Sir Ken Robinson - Chief Herzberg led a conversation centered on the following questions: 1). What kind of schools do we have? 2). What kind of schools do we want? 3). How can we close the gap, assuming there is one, between questions 1 and 2? The Board shared their thoughts: Liked Sir Ken Robinson's Ted Talk; wondered what percentages of our teachers today are teaching to the thinking of Robinson; Robinson states a lot of things that need to be done but not how do we do it? Innovative teachers make it apart of teaching so children can apply it to everyday life. Chief Herzberg shared a 5th grade standards based assessment tool with the Board. Will have to find creative programs and get those into the schools rather than looking for creative schools as a whole. To view Sir Ken Robinson's Changing Education Paradigms, [click here](#).
- Update on offices; the Blairsburg office will be moved into the new Webster City location by the end of this month; Chief Herzberg is meeting with an investor regarding the Jefferson Office who may be interested in purchasing the upper level floors of the building; Chief Herzberg met with the Algona library's Board to discuss sharing space in their library; and conversations are pending with Estherville CSD's superintendent on utilizing one of their buildings.
- Upcoming Staff Presentation Schedule -
 - September 21st - Balanced Literacy Project
 - October 19th - Instructional Coaching
 - November 16th - Lakes Partnership School
 - December 21st - Teacher Leadership & Compensation
 - January 18th - Gifted & Talented and School Counseling

- February 15th - Learning, Teaching, & Innovation Scott McLeod
- March 21st - Early Childhood Special Education Team

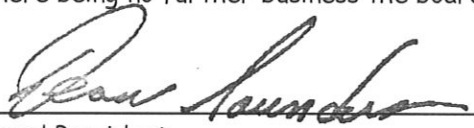
Upcoming dates:


- 70th Annual IASB Convention & Trade Show - November 18-20, 2015, Des Moines
- 30th Annual AESA Conference - December 2-5, 2015, New Orleans, LA
- AEA Governing Board Conference - April 14-15, 2016, West Des Moines

The September board meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 21, 2015 at 4:00 pm, Pocahontas AEA, Iowa Lake Conference Room.

Other: Board President Dean Saunders announced his retirement with the Prairie Lakes AEA Board effective this coming October. Saunders has served on the AEA board for 38 years. Steve Jimmerson will also be leaving our Board in October after three years of service. Their service to our Board and Agency are greatly appreciated!

There being no further business the board adjourned at 6:16 p.m.


Board President


Board Secretary