

**MISSISSIPPI BEND AREA EDUCATION AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Regular Board Meeting
October 9, 2019**

The Board of Directors of the Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency (MBAEA) convened its regular monthly board meeting at 12:03 p.m. on Wednesday, October 9, 2019, at the Agency's office in Bettendorf, Iowa.

Present on roll call: Board President Rex Masterson, Vice President Joe Adam, Directors Mike Duytschaver, Robin Krueger, Mike Wolf, Ken Krumwiede, Scott Saveraid.

Absent: Ralph Johanson, Dick Wold.

Also present were: Chief Administrator William J. Decker, Board Treasurer Jennifer Coombes, Director of Special Education Kim Hofmann, Director of Educational Services Shane Williams, Iowa Department of Education (DE) Appointed Expert Mentors Tom Downs and Tim Grieves, Board Secretary Cheryl Beck, Quad City Times Reporter Megan Valley.

BOARD MEETING

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion by Ken Krumwiede, seconded by Mike Duytschaver, the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on September 11, 2019, were approved as presented. Roll call vote was recorded: Yes: (7) Adam, Duytschaver, Krueger, Wolf, Krumwiede, Saveraid, Masterson. No: (0). Motion carried.

Board and Committee Reports

Upon motion by Joe Adam, seconded by Robin Krueger, the Treasurer's Report of receipts and disbursements to the various accounts to September 30, 2019, was approved as presented. Roll call vote was recorded: Yes: (7) Adam, Duytschaver, Krueger, Wolf, Krumwiede, Saveraid, Masterson. No: (0). Motion carried.

Chief Administrator's Report

Mr. Decker gave the following report on statewide AEA work:

Future Ready

A flyer entitled *Solving Iowa's Workforce Challenge – Becoming Future Ready by 2025 with Iowa's AEA's*, was shared with the board. The nine AEA's are working together to create an overall system to help an increasingly greater percentage of students be both college and career ready.

Well-being

The group continues to build their platform and are not ready for a flyer at this time. AEA 9 is addressing the Well-being component through student mental health first aid training. Mr. Decker and Kim Hofmann are also developing a pilot program in which the Agency will cooperate with school districts to get access through local providers by having mental health professionals available in their districts. Dollars allocated to AEA's

for the Well-being effort will be used to supplement school district dollars in giving them access to the local mental health providers.

Synergy

Discussion on strategies are being rolled out each month to look at equalizing funding. This has not been presented in a way that will have an impact in either a positive or a negative way for AEA 9, as our student population has been relatively stable. One of the primary goals of the Synergy group is to update the funding formula, enabling all AEAs to provide equitable services as a result of funding matching current enrollment. There is also an effort to factor student sparsity into the formula.

Mr. Decker provided some history of the Agency paying for internet access bandwidth for districts. The decision was made many years ago that the Agency would provide bandwidth because it was more economical. The superintendents were surveyed seven years ago, and again three years ago, to determine if they wanted to continue to receive internet access or follow a model similar to other AEAs where MBAEA would charge for the internet access and then use media services dollars toward technology integration and instruction. The almost unanimous vote on both occasions from the superintendents was to remain in the current format where MBAEA pays for internet bandwidth. Randy Olsen, Coordinator of Information Technology, will ask the question again to superintendents at their monthly meeting tomorrow. Mr. Olsen has found a different solution using a managed service, for the same or reduced cost. The Agency can provide bandwidth, firewall, and free up dollars to be used toward classroom instruction.

Mr. Decker thanked the board members who attended the Annual Board & Administrator Banquet on October 2. A DVD of the keynote speaker, Dr. Joe Sanfelippo, is available upon request.

A listing of the recipients of the internal High Five Awards and the quarterly MBAEA District Watch Awards was shared with the board. Agency Building Collaborative Team Leaders (BCTLs) will present the certificates to the recipients in the districts they serve, and pictures will be posted in the designated area in the AEA Learning Center and on social media. The board was congratulatory and discussed other ways they might acknowledge their appreciation. Mr. Decker will discuss other ways for MBAEA board involvement with Whitney Smith-Bringolf, Communication Facilitator. A list of recipients will be attached to the minutes.

An All-Staff meeting will be held on Monday, October 21. HumanEx staff, along with several trained MBAEA staff, will disaggregate the climate and culture survey. A main focus of this meeting will be to gather staff recommendations and determine the next steps in making climate and culture improvements.

As a follow-up from the September board discussion on the current board meeting schedule, Mr. Decker presented a comparison of past MBAEA board meeting times with other AEAs, along with a possible new schedule for 2020 MBAEA board meetings. When evening board meetings and daytime board retreats from the past were totaled, MBAEA's total meeting time was the longest among the six AEAs whose minutes were available. The information sheet also included a potential schedule with all meetings held at the same time of day and of the same length each month. No decision on the meeting schedule was intended at the October meeting, as

the provided information was for review prior to discussion at the December Organizational Meeting.

Mr. Decker encouraged board members to attend the Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB) annual convention on November 20-21, particularly the keynote speaker Sir Ken Robinson. MBAEA Board members are also invited, encouraged, and welcome to attend the State Board of Education meeting on November 20.

The MBAEA Board of Directors has six districts up for re-election (3, 4, 5, 7, 8, & 9). A Statement of Candidacy has been received for three of the districts, and there are three more potential candidates who have requested the required paperwork. Mr. Decker has been in contact with all of the superintendents in the school districts represented by those six director districts.

There was discussion around the orientation of new board members and the legality of attending the annual IASB convention prior to being sworn in. Tom Downs will contact IASB to question if districts can use public funds to pay for board members-elect to attend training at the IASB Convention before they are seated at the organizational meeting.

Strategic Management & Evaluation

Upon motion by Ken Krumwiede, seconded Mike Duytschaver, the board approved all items in the Consent Agenda, as amended and presented. Roll call vote was recorded: Yes: (7) Adam, Duytschaver, Krueger, Wolf, Krumwiede, Saveraid, Masterson. No: (0). Motion carried.

A break was declared from 12:58 p.m. - 1:12 p.m.

Board Development & Learning

Tom Downs reported that IASB will be offering a new board member onboarding workshop, "Thriving in Your First 90 Days" on November 20 as a pre-convention workshop. There will also be regional workshops, "Leadership Essentials for School Boards," offered in January and February, addressing the fundamental duties of board members.

The focus of the board learning today was communication, finances, and board engagement. Mr. Downs facilitated conversation on developing strategies to enhance the boards' role in those areas and to align with what the state code says the board has the authority and responsibility to do. Board engagement and mission/vision will be the focus at the December board meeting; January's focus will be on finances.

Adjournment

Upon motion by Joe Adam, seconded by Robin Krueger, the meeting adjourned at 2:39 p.m.

Rex Masterson, Board President

Cheryl Beck, Board Secretary

October 2019 MBAEA District Watch Awards

Kamie Montoya

Principal, Jefferson Elementary-DCSD

Kamie Montoya is truly a leader...not only as principal at Jefferson, but also in the DCSD! She believes that all students can learn at high levels and ensures that students academic, behavioral, and social-emotional needs are met.

Andy Werling

Assistant Principal, Muscatine High School

Andy is working extremely hard with the special education staff to provide students with accommodations and specially designed instruction to meet their individual needs. He believes and urges every student to be successful and encourages them to program their classes to meet their future goals.

Amy Windt

Special Education Teacher, Davenport Williams Intermediate School

Amy has been a rock star at Williams Intermediate over the last two years. Her dedication to students is unmatched. She has been incredibly responsive to parents, proactive with her students, and going the extra mile for ALL students she works and interacts with on a daily basis.

Stacey Faulkner

Special Education Facilitator, Davenport Wood Intermediate School

Stacey goes above and beyond to ensure all of her teachers have the knowledge and materials they need to make informed educational decisions. She loves to engage in difficult conversations; guiding teachers to look at the "whole" child and challenging them to think outside the box when figuring out the most appropriate educational plan. Her guidance and support are integral to the teachers' and students' success at Wood.

Arafel Swords

Teacher of ID, West High School DCSD

Arafel excels at instructing her student while dealing with behaviors.

Michelle Martens

Special Education Facilitator, West High Davenport Community School District

Michelle's communication, motivation, creativity, student and parent relationships, and organization focused on the students is of the highest standards. She has a positive effect on everyone she comes in contact with. Michelle is the best!

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October 2019 MBAEA District Watch Awards

(Continued)

Amanda Morrison

Preschool Paraeducator, Bettendorf - Neil Armstrong

Amanda goes above and beyond to help the littlest communicators find their voices. She has learned AAC devices and become an exemplar model for communication coaching success!

Wilton Elementary

Wilton CSD

Wilton's elementary program needs to be recognized for their OUTSTANDING dedication and devotion to supporting the needs of students with hearing loss! The entire elementary staff (including all support staff) exemplifies awe-inspiring positive helpful behaviors, naturally investing in and making the needs of this vulnerable population a priority.

North Scott District

North Scott has worked collaboratively with the MBAEA Challenging Behavior Team Lead over the past two years to train and develop a district-wide team of general and special education staff to address the behavioral concerns of their students using an MTSS framework.

Tara Notz

Professional Growth & Student Learning Facilitator, Maquoketa CSD

Tara has been wonderful to collaborate with and is always student centered.

Ben Driscoll

Principal, Davenport Monroe Elementary

Ben is a selfless leader, dedicated to making his school the best for his staff and students. He is a change agent and a true instructional leader, working side-by-side with teachers and staff to do the heavy lifting needed to improve culture and instruction. He is truly an inspiration.

Perry Bentsen

Special Education Instructor 6th-8th grade, Bettendorf Middle School

Perry with his staff created "Mocha in Middle"; a communication, social and life skills activity. Every week, students in Mr. Bentsen's special education classroom buy supplies, make drinks, knock on doors, greet staff and ask who would like a beverage from their "Mocha" cart. Everyone looks forward to Fridays at

BMS!