

**MISSISSIPPI BEND AREA EDUCATION AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Public Hearing on Proposed 2019-2020 Budget,
Regular Board Meeting & Board Retreat
February 13, 2019**

The Board of Directors of the Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency (MBAEA) convened its public hearing on proposed 2019-2020 budget, regular board meeting, and board retreat at 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 13, 2019, at the Agency's office in Bettendorf.

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

Absent: Director Dick Wold.

Also present were: Chief Administrator William J. Decker, Director of Educational Services Shane Williams, Board Treasurer Jennifer Coombes, School Improvement Administrator Karinne Tharaldson and Board Secretary Cheryl Oake.

PUBLIC HEARING

President Masterson convened the Public Hearing on the proposed 2019-2020 budget at 12:00 p.m. Ms. Coombes stated the FY20 ending balance of \$975,148 is higher than the previous projected balance of \$332,000 because of an audit adjustment that affects FY18. No increase to revenues have been projected, however, with a proposed SSA increase of 2.06%, the projected 2020 ending balance will likely be higher. Mr. Decker stated that even with the additional expenses, as a result of the Davenport special education audit, budget projections are right on target. In FY13-14 the Agency had a staff ratio at 80% of the budget; the budget presented today will have a staff ratio of about 70%. In the current scenario, 80% would be completely unsustainable. The FY13-14 staffing ratio, if no staffing changes had been made, would currently be 86% of the Agency budget.

Director Wolf requested staff ratios by types of service be presented at a future board meeting.

Jennifer Coombes stated that the audit process went smoothly and she anticipates receiving a preliminary report next month. Ms. Coombes will contact the auditors regarding attending a future board meeting.

President Masterson reported no members of the general public were present and no written objections were received. Upon motion by Joe Adam, seconded by Mike Duytschaver, the board approved the Proposed Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget as presented. Roll call vote was recorded: Yes: (8) Adam, Duytschaver, Krueger, Wolf, Johanson, Krumwiede, Saveraid, Masterson. No: (0) Motion carried.

Upon motion by Ken Krumwiede, seconded by Scott Saveraid, the Public Hearing was concluded at 12:16 p.m. Roll call vote was recorded: Yes: (8) Adam, Duytschaver, Krueger, Wolf, Johanson, Krumwiede, Saveraid, Masterson. No: (0) Motion carried.

BOARD MEETING/BOARD RETREAT

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion by Mike Wolf, seconded by Robin Krueger, the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on January 16, 2019, were approved as presented. Roll call vote was recorded: Yes: (8) Adam, Duytschaver, Krueger, Wolf, Johanson, Krumwiede, Saveraid, Masterson. No: (0)
Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

The 2nd quarter federal grant payment was received. Receipts are running 11% over accumulated average due to requesting a larger amount on the first quarter federal grant payment. The Agency health plan is running on the high end, but is comparable to FY17. Following an initial renewal meeting with the Agency's carrier, a 4.07% renewal rate increase is anticipated. Other revenue is approximately 8% higher than what was projected due to additional hearing interpreter revenue and compensatory education billing.

Board members were given a summary of travel expenditures from 2015 through 2019 and a list of outside funding sources. The summary showed a consistent and intentional decrease in travel expenditures for each of the last four years. A large part of Agency travel is providing services to districts and fulfilling the requirements of those outside funding sources. Mileage expenses have been reduced as a result of more efficient staff assignments.

Upon motion by Ken Krumwiede, seconded by Joe Adam, the Treasurer's Report of receipts and disbursements to the various accounts to January 31, 2019, was approved as presented. Yes: (8) Adam, Duytschaver, Krueger, Wolf, Johanson, Krumwiede, Saveraid, Masterson. No: (0)
Motion carried.

Chief Administrator Report

The board self-assessment discussion with Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB) staff was postponed until all board members can be present. MBAEA's board will be the first AEA board in the state to work with IASB in the self-assessment process. MBAEA was a part of the IASB Lighthouse Project in 2006-2007 and should be commended for participating in those efforts.

The 2019 Legislative Education Advocacy event was held in Des Moines last week. This is a statewide AEA sponsored event and seven AEA 9 superintendents attended. This event brings together school administrators from across Iowa to learn the most up-to-date legislative insight, and meet with legislators face-to-face at the Capitol.

The AEA chief administrators interviewed semifinalists for the Iowa AEA Executive Director position. Three finalists will be interviewed next week and an announcement of the new Director is expected next Friday. Previously the AEA system employed an Executive Director, Director of Purchasing, and a lobbyist. For 2018-2019, those three positions have been consolidated into one Executive Director position.

Andrea Stewart and David Ford will be presenting on AEA Postsecondary Readiness & Equity Partnership (PREP) and The Center at next week's chief administrator and joint director's meeting. This work started in AEA 9 and is evolving into very effective statewide initiatives.

Every school district in the state is receiving college and career readiness information on students through the AEA PREP program. AEA 9 was the only AEA in the state to have an increase in postsecondary enrollment this past year. There has been an explosion of work around personalized learning and competency-based education, making school a more relevant place for students.

The Agency will be updating to a new financial operations software on July 1, 2019. This will be a more effective system and a cost savings to the Agency. Additional information will be presented at a future board meeting.

Solution Focused Bargaining Council recently discussed Board Policy 404.1D Severe Weather Condition Closing. This has been a unique year in the number of school days missed because of inclement weather. It was agreed the policy needs to be reviewed, specifically the language regarding staff assigned to a building not making up days missed due to weather. The Policy Review Committee, formerly named Quality Indicators, will be meeting on a regular basis and Policy 404.1D will be one of the first policies reviewed.

No report has been received on the state audit.

No report has been received on the November, 2018, Iowa Department of Education site visit.

Strategic Management & Evaluation

Director Krumwiede referenced a staff retirement letter indicating that the early childhood department has lost five full time early childhood special education teachers over the last three years and needs continue to increase as staff decreases. Mr. Decker responded that unfortunately, as shown in the numbers earlier, revenue has not increased. As revenue stays relatively flat the Agency does not have the choice of maintaining the staffing that existed five years ago.

Mr. Decker clarified that the supplemental contracts in Exhibit 1 of Item 502 of the Consent Agenda are due to the increase in services required as a result of the Davenport Special Education audit and Dr. Gronlund's retirement. The three supplemental contracts are for additional contracts days to complete the work and do not include an increase in salary.

Bid specifications for the purchase of a new drivers education vehicle were sent to 14 vendors, one bid was received.

Upon motion by Mike Duytschaver, seconded by Robin Krueger, the board approved Consent Agenda, as amended and presented. Roll call vote was recorded: Yes: (8) Adam, Duytschaver, Krueger, Wolf, Johanson, Krumwiede, Saveraid, Masterson. No: (0) Motion carried.

Agency Presentations and/or Reports

Mr. Decker reported that the work to complete 2,600 reevaluations, as required by Davenport CSD state special education audit, is 79.76% complete. Mr. Decker commended Courtney Olson and retired Agency employees Mary Cashman and Michelle Martin, as well as all staff serving Davenport, for their support in completing this work. The deadline for completing the reevaluations is April 23, 2019.

Agency employees Krysta Smith, Nick Swanson, and Shaun Wilkinson provided an overview of the mental health first aid training being provided to Agency employees and LEA staff. The mental health first aid is the initial help offered until appropriate treatment and support are received or until the crisis resolves. Participants learn the risk factors and warning signs of mental health and substance use problems, the 5-step action plan to help someone who is developing a mental health problem or is in crisis, and the evidence-based professional resources available. MBAEA is the first AEA in the state to provide this training to all employees.

The board discussed providing a one hour mental health first aid training refresher at the August All Staff Inservice and the August Board Retreat.

Director Wolf left the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Andrea Stewart, Director of The Center, provided an update on Future-Ready Learners: At The Center. The purpose of The Center is to develop Iowa's capacity to leverage learner-centered, personalized, and competency-based ecosystems as pathways to future readiness. The Center works with schools and community partners to co-create engaged learners, innovative environments, future-ready community members, and resilient, self-directed young people.

Adjournment

Upon motion by Ralph Johanson, seconded by Ken Krumwiede, the meeting adjourned at 2:16 p.m.

Rex Masterson, Board President

Cheryl Oake, Board Secretary