

**MISSISSIPPI BEND AREA EDUCATION AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Special Board Meeting
August 6, 2020**

The Board of Directors of the Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency (MBAEA) convened for a special board meeting on Thursday, August 6, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and current directives from the state and federal government restricting the size of public gatherings, this meeting was held electronically.

Present on roll call: Board President Joe Adam; Via Zoom: Directors Kim Huckstadt, Mike Wolf, Debbie Menke, Paul Brooks, Ken Krumwiede, Ralph Johanson.

Absent: Vice President Mike Duytschaver, Director Scott Saveraid.

Also present: Board Secretary Cheryl Beck; Via Zoom: Chief Administrator William J. Decker, Board Treasurer Jennifer Coombes, Director of Educational Services Shane Williams, Director of Special Education Kim Hofmann, Coordinator of Information Technology Randy Olsen.

Welcome, Public Forum, and Communication

Mr. Adam welcomed the board and Agency staff.

Edgenuity Contract

Mr. Decker stated that, as discussed at previous meetings, the Agency has been working with Edgenuity, a company that provides a wide range of online learning options. Because of the many uncertainties schools are facing, districts were unable to make a commitment towards Edgenuity prior to the July MBAEA board meeting. As the school year approaches and Return to Learn plans are being finalized, there is a better understanding of what their online student base will look like. The reason for this special board meeting is to request board approval on the Edgenuity contract allowing districts to begin enrolling students on this platform; waiting another week and a half would make a difficult timeline for districts.

Mr. Olsen stated that 41 school districts across the state of Iowa have expressed interest, and 28 of those districts have submitted signed agreements, exceeding the yearly volume minimum of full-time enrollments. Mr. Olsen presented the cost comparison for schools joining the consortium at the negotiated price vs. going on their own. Because of the consortium pricing, districts will be saving over \$980,000 in what would have been spent using Edgenuity services, and putting those taxpayer dollars back into education. The number of agreements are continuing to increase, which will obviously also increase the total dollars saved.

Mr. Decker expressed appreciation to Mr. Olsen for his efforts in building a relationship with Edgenuity and providing a great opportunity for districts across the state of Iowa at a significant cost savings.

Following questions and comments of the board, Mr. Wolf moved to approve the contract with Edgenuity as presented. Mr. Krumwiede seconded the motion. Voice vote was recorded: Aye: (7). No: (0). Motion carried.

On behalf of the board, Mr. Adam thanked Mr. Decker and Mr. Olsen for their efforts on this project and look forward to results and feedback from the school districts.

Adjournment

Upon motion by Mr. Brooks, seconded by Mr. Huckstadt, the meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

Joseph N. Adam, Board President

Cheryl Beck, Board Secretary