**RSAI Regional Meeting Agenda**

**RSAI Territory SE**

**Fairfield Community School District Boardroom**

403 S 20th St., Fairfield IA 52556

**RSAI SE District 3-year term expires Sept. 2020**

**Laurie Noll**

RSAI SW District 3-year term expires Sept. 2019

RSAI NW District 3-year term expires Sept. 2020

RSAI NE District 3-year term expires Sept. 2018

At-large positions open in 2019 and 2020

June 28, 2018 4:00 p.m.

Attendees:

* Dan Smith, Harmony CSD
* Laurie Noll, Fairfield
* Pam Ewell, Harmony and Van Buren CSDs
* Sandy Dockendorff, Danville
* Thomas Ward, Danville
* Tim Bower, Muscatine
* Brad Breon, Seymour and Mormon Trail CSDs
* Margaret Buckton, RSAI/ISFIS staff

Noll convened the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

1. Smith moved approval of the agenda. Breon seconded. Approved unanimously.
2. Election of RSAI District Representative to the RSAI Leadership Group. Terms are specified in bylaws. Ongoing office is a 3-year term. No election is necessary this year.
3. Election of RSAI District Liaison representing District SE to the RSAI Legislative Group (Annual Election). Thanks to Kerry Phillips for service in the 2017-18 school year!

Dockendorff volunteered to serve. With no other nominations, the group agreed by consensus.

1. Consideration of Proposed Amendments to RSAI Bylaws, if any (Requires 2/3 majority). No amendments were brought forward.
2. Review of the 2018 Legislative Session and Data Supporting Key Issues Critical to RSAI member districts: Margaret Buckton, ISFIS, reviewed the 2018 Session, priorities that RSAI worked on, including extension of the state penny, extension of the Operational Sharing Incentives, Tax policy, school funding (SSA), transportation and formula equality, expansion of flexibility for dropout prevention and elimination of Praxis test for teacher licensure in Iowa.
3. Establish RSAI District legislative priorities for the upcoming Iowa Legislative Session to forward to the RSAI Legislative Group (Requires simple majority vote). The group discussed each of the 2018 legislative priorities. Discussion included continuation of the transportation/formula equity priority, to build on the start made in 2018. All agreed that the state penny for school infrastructure needs to be extended. Under operational sharing incentives, recent extension means the conversation could change to expanding positions that could be shared to include food service and mental health counselors, in addition to the social worker positions added during the 2018 session. The group agreed that the new flexibility for dropout prevention was welcomed, but additional work with empowerment and DCAT might help districts conceive of services beyond the typical education system response to at-risk issues. Working with the AEA and community mental health center services to provide screeners of mental health needs could help identify those students best served by these programs. SSA – adequate funding continues to be a challenge for districts with declining enrollment but in the current political climate, the group agreed that focus on the issues of flexibility and equity are more likely to result in positive action. In that vein, the group spent the most time on the priority of quality instruction for students in rural Iowa. They talked about the need to loosen up Chapter 12 accreditation requirements. There was a suggestion that a quality of ruralness be considered for eligibility for student loan repayment for teachers in addition to the current teach Iowa Scholar program. Suggested that CTE strands include an education strand to recruit high school students into the field of teaching before they graduate high school. In terms of access to expectations, the group wondered by Project Lead the Way courses don’t automatically count for concurrent enrollment weighting and college credit. They also discussed flexibility to allow students/districts to access concurrent enrollment from any community college, not just those in their region. Lastly, a policy suggestion that if a teacher can pass the Praxis in any content area, that should qualify them for initial licensure. Dockendorff moved approval of the slate of priorities to continue into 2019, with renewed emphasis and priority on the area of quality instruction for rural students. Smith seconded. Approved unanimously.
4. Any other business? Dockendorff suggested that RSAI get a meeting of members and the candidates for Governor to discuss rural education issues.
5. Breon moved that the meeting adjourn, Dockendorff seconded. Unanimous. Adjourned 5:37 p.m.

**Save the date: 2018 RSAI Annual Meeting**

Oct. 24, 2018 4:30-7:00PM (Light working dinner will be served)

FFA Enrichment Center (DMACC Campus)

1055 SW Prairie Trail Parkway, Ankeny, Iowa 50023

Conduct annual business, set Legislative Priorities, and plan for successful advocacy