**RSAI Leadership Group Minutes**

**January 8, 2020 at noon**

GoToMeeting or at ISFIS 1201 63rd Street, Des Moines, IA 50311

*GoToMeeting Board Member Attendees: Bob Olson, Paul Croghan, Laurie Noll, and Nick Trenkamp.*

*ISFIS Staff Attendees: Margaret Buckton, Larry Sigel, Jen Albers*

**I        Call To Order and Introductions**

*Olson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:09 pm.*

**II       Approve Agenda**

 *Croghan moved and Noll seconded approval of the agenda. Approved unanimously.*

**III      Approve Meeting Minutes -** Leadership Committee December 11, 2019

 *Noll moved and Croghan seconded approval of the minutes from the Leadership Committee Meeting on 12/11/2019. Approved unanimously.*

**IV Membership Report**

*Albers shared the membership report. Paid memberships to date stand at 109 members with four new member districts signing up during December.*

**V Monthly Financials**

*Albers reviewed the November 30, 2019 YTD financial statements. Croghan moved approval of the financial report through November 30, 2019 and approval of payment/reimbursement to ISFIS of $637.50. Trenkamp seconded. Approved unanimously.*

**VI      Mission Critical Actions/Updates**

* Governor’s Empower Rural Iowa Initiative adopted recommendations for consideration - <https://governor.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/ERI_Reccomendations_122019%20%281%29.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery>

*Buckton shared information from the Governor’s Empower Rural Iowa Initiative linked above. Discussion ensued. The group discussed considering taking up action in support of these recommendations at the February Leadership Group meeting.*

* School Finance Interim Recommendations and Follow-up re RSAI Priorities - <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/IP/1125817.pdf>

*Buckton discussed the School Finance Interim Committee and reviewed the information linked above. Discussion ensued.*

* Additional RSAI Presence at the Statehouse

*Buckton shared that ISFIS is considering offering a contract to Dave Daughton to supplement the presence at the Statehouse and assist with facilitating discussions of RSAI priorities with districts specifically in the southern tier of Iowa. Discussion ensued. The Board was supportive.*

* Communications plan during the Session: written weekly report, weekly Capitol Recap video update, First 30 day’s focus on funding.

*Buckton reviewed communication plans for the 2020 session which generally will include a weekly written report and video update to members. Buckton indicated the first 30 days of the session will primarily be focused on funding and then will transition to the various policy matters. Discussion ensued and the Board was supportive.*

**VII      Other Business**

*Buckton shared that at least one Community College has expressed interest in becoming members of RSAI and forming a closer relationship with the entity. Discussion ensued around the common issues between rural schools and community colleges. Buckton shared that Affiliate Membership is allowable under the current RSAI Bylaws. The Board requested staff prepare a recommendation with additional details for beginning an RSAI Affiliate Membership option for consideration by the Leadership Group.*

*There being no other business, Croghan moved to adjourn and Noll seconded. Approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:37 pm.*

**VIII. Upcoming Meeting dates:**

Leadership Committee – February 12 at noon

Leadership Committee – March 11 at noon

Leadership Committee – April 8 at noon

Leadership Committee – May 13 at noon

*Regional Meetings* – *meetings held May through July. Regional Director sets date and location – sooner is better than later.*

Leadership Committee – August 12 at noon

*Legislative Group Meeting – August 14 or 21 at 9 am (at ISFIS)*

Leadership Committee – September 9 at noon

Leadership Committee – October 14 at noon

*RSAI Annual Meeting – October 21 or 28 at 4:30 pm*

Minutes respectfully submitted

Margaret Buckton, RSAI Professional Advocate, As of 01/08/2020