**RSAI Leadership Group Minutes**

**February 10, 2021 at noon**

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

*(Contact* [*jen@iowaschoolfinance.com*](mailto:jen@iowaschoolfinance.com) *for Zoom link)*

***Zoom Leadership Group Member Attendees:*** *Dennis McClain (Chair), Paul Croghan (Vice Chair), Laurie Noll (Secretary/Treasurer), Justin Daggett, Dan Peterson, Nick Trenkamp, Scott Williamson, and Lolli Haws, AEA.*

***ISFIS Staff Attendees:*** *Margaret Buckton, Dave Daughton, and Jen Albers*

**I Call To Order/Roll by McClain**

*McClain called the meeting to order at 12:02 pm.*

**II Approve Agenda**

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

**III Approve Meeting Minutes from January 13, 2021**

*Croghan moved and Noll seconded approval of the minutes from the RSAI Leadership Group on January 13, 2021. Approved unanimously.*

**IV Membership Report & Corporate Sponsorships**

*Albers shared the membership report showing FY 2021 memberships received to date at 121 plus 2 affiliate AEA members, which includes 20 new members. Discussion ensued about several pending memberships and additional AEAs interested in affiliate membership.*

*Buckton and Albers previously circulated an application for corporate sponsorship from Carl A. Nelson Construction. Discussion ensued. Noll moved and Croghan second approval of Carl A. Nelson Construction as a new RSAI Corporate Sponsor. Approved unanimously.*

**V Monthly Financials**

*Albers reviewed the YTD December 31, 2020 financial statements. Croghan moved and Noll seconded approval of the financial report through December 31, 2020 and approval of payment/reimbursement to ISFIS of $179.09. Approved unanimously.*

**VI Mission Critical Actions/Updates**

* School Choice: Update on House activities and advocacy actions. Focus area impact on rural schools: Charter schools
* School Funding: Bills introduced and RSAI registration

*Buckton shared the latest RSAI Calls to Action on Vouchers and on School Funding with the group, and discussed the latest actions from the Statehouse. She encouraged districts to adopt a board resolution against funding for charter schools. Discussion also took place about school funding and property taxes.*

* RSAI Presence at the Statehouse: Subcommittees and Bill Tracking/Registrations
  + SF 160 In-person Instruction: Undecided (RSAI Survey of instructional models – 10-20% of school buildings were not in full time in-person learning)
  + DE guidance: Weighed in on 4-days a week (OK to add time to those days to preserve a 5th day for teacher prep time and connection with virtual students)
  + HF 265 transfer of $ from any fund to Student Activities Fund (request from Decorah Board president for us to support)
* Status of RSAI Legislative Priorities
  + Operational Sharing bills
  + Poverty weighting and at-risk – not yet
  + Intent connectivity: HSB 133 and SSB 1089

*Buckton shared a listing of RSAI’s Registrations and discussed the latest updates on these bills moving through the process.*

* NREA Update (Rural School Leadership Academy or presentation at NREA Annual Conference this Fall in Indianapolis)

*Buckton shared information on NREA’s RSLA and Fall Annual Meeting, and asked the group to consider whether they or anyone in their districts would be interested in the RSLA or submitting a presentation for the Annual Meeting.*

* RSAI Regional Meetings

*Buckton shared that we need to begin planning for RSAI Regional Meetings. The group discussed holding these meetings in a hybrid fashion if possible to allow for the most attendance. The four regional representatives will begin looking at calendars for possible dates in May.*

* Leadership Group Member Updates (anything to share with the group?)

*Leadership Group members shared and discussed various additional topics including budget guarantee and property taxes, math curriculum referrals, and mask wearing and vaccinations at local districts.*

**VII Other Business**

*No other business was brought up for discussion.*

**VIII. Upcoming Meeting dates:**

* Wed, March 10, 2021, from 12-1pm via Zoom
* Wed, April 14, 2021, from 12-1pm via Zoom
* Wed, May 12, 2021, from 12-1pm via Zoom
* May/June 2021 – Regional Meetings *(specific dates TBD)*
* Wed, July 14, 2021, from 12-1pm via Zoom
* August 2021 – Bylaws Committee Meeting *(specific date TBD)*
* August 2021 – Legislative Committee Meeting *(specific date TBD)*
* Wed, September 8, 2021, from 12-1pm via Zoom
* October 2021 – Annual Meeting *(specific date TBD)*
* October 2021 – Organizational Meeting *(immediately following Annual Meeting)*

**IX. Adjourn**

*Daggett moved to adjourn and Trenkamp seconded. Approved unanimously. The meeting concluded at 12:54 pm.*

*Minutes respectfully submitted*

*Margaret Buckton, RSAI Professional Advocate, As of 02/10/2021*