**RSAI Leadership Group Tentative Agenda**

**February 16, 2018 Noon**

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

**Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.**  
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/480958549> in attendance via gotomeeting Bob Olson, Dennis McClain, Duane Willhite, Laurie Noll, Pal Croghan, Larry Sigel, Jen Albers and at ISFIS Margaret Buckton.

I        Call To Order: Olson called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

II       Approve Agenda: Croghan moved and McClain seconded approval of the agenda Approved unanimously.

III      Minutes: Willhite moved and Noll seconded approval of the Minutes of Jan. 10, 2018 Leadership Group. Approved unanimously.

IV Membership Report, Monthly Financials: Albers reviewed the membership numbers, including the list of those still pending. Buckton reported that Nodaway Valley has approved joining at their December board meeting, so should be on the pending list awaiting payment of the invoice. Olson reported receiving questions from John Robbins at Iowa Falls. Buckton will send him information. Buckton also reported connecting with a board member from Woodbury Central. The superintendent then followed up with questions. Their February board meeting includes consideration of membership. Albers explained the monthly financial reports through Dec. 31, 2017. Croghan moved approval of the reimbursement to ISFIS of $7,724.29. McClain Seconded. The motion was amended to state approval of the monthly financials including payment to ISFIS of $7,724.29. Approved unanimously.

V Public Records Request Policy: Albers explained the recommended draft policy. Olson suggested adding a link to the RSAI web site to verify contact information for chair and professional advocate. Willhite moved approval of the policy with addition of the website, McClain seconded. Approved unanimously.

V      Mission Critical Actions

* + Rural superintendent representative requested for DE workgroup on indicators for post-secondary readiness to include in ESSA plan. The first meeting will be held on February 23 from 1 to 3 PM in B100 at the Grimes Building. They expect 4 meetings at most, total through the end of this fiscal year. Noll volunteered to represent RSAI. Croghan will serve as back-up if Noll’s schedule has a conflict in the future.
  + Legislative Update, including New House Transportation Plan considerations. Buckton discussed RSAI priorities and other bills receiving discussion during funnel week. Buckton explained the differences in SF 455 from the Senate, which was an RSAI priority and the amendment from the House Appropriations, which provides $11.2 million for school transportation for the districts with the highest costs per pupil enrolled, and the $5 change in the formula based compared to the 10-year phase in process in SF 455. Discussion ensued. Consensus was expressed that RSAI register as undecided/monitor the House proposal. Olson inquired about dropout prevention and the difference in a district’s capacity based on history, whether there was any effort to change that. Buckton explained that issue is not in HSB 650 which deals with district flexibility, but should be revisited in the future. Currently, since dropout prevention is funded with property taxes, entities that opposed property taxes oppose such expansion. The group discussed the failure of the voucher bill, HSB 651, to clear today’s funnel deadline. Issues included rural opposition, lack of accountability, separation of church and state, phase-in of kindergarten eligibility means that within 13 years, all private school student tuition will be funded with tax dollars, and other options for school choice that could be on the table this session (529 plans, increased appropriations to STOs, increased Tuition and Textbook Tax Credit threshold, etc.)
  + RSAI media contacts: RSAI quoted in the Fairfield Ledger re Civics test for high school graduation. Local press from Coon Rapids asked permission to reprint the RSAI weekly newsletter on understanding the numbers. Buckton will draft letters to the editor about transportation and formula equity for RSAI leaders to submit next week.
  + Preparing for June/July Regional Meetings: Director sets date and location. (Bob, Paul, Laurie, Duane) Buckton asked that directors begin to work on this, so during March meeting, we could have dates/locations/times for the four regional meetings.
  + NREA annual conference – Denver CO Oct 11-13, 2018 <http://www.nrea.net/Convention_and_Research>

**VI      Meeting dates for 2017-18 year**

Mar. 14, 2018 (Wed) noon

Apr. 11, 2018 (Wed) noon

May 9, 2018 (Wed) noon

June 13, 2018 (Wed) noon

July – no LG meeting – Regional Meetings (dates and locations TBD)

Aug. 10, 2018 Legislative Group Meeting (at-large + legislative reps) at ISFIS

Aug. 15, 2018 (Wed) noon

Sept. 12, 2018 (Wed) noon

Oct Annual Meeting: Oct. 24 (Discussed start time. At the annual meeting debrief, it was suggested that we start earlier and have a working dinner. Be prepared to discuss next week our start time – is 4:30 or 5:00 better?)

**VII Other Business** none

McClain made a motion to adjourn, Croghan seconded. Unanimous approval to adjourn at 8:48 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Margaret Buckton, Professional Advocate