



## RSAI Regional Meeting Minutes - SE Region

**May 4, 2022 at 1pm** (following the Great Prairie AEA Superintendent's Lunch)

Fairfield Golf & Country Club, 905 E Harrison Avenue, Fairfield, IA 52556

### Attendees:

Laurie Noll, Fairfield  
 Jim Henrich, Keota  
 Joel Pedersen, Cardinal  
 Scott Williamson, EBF  
 Kevin Crall, Albia  
 Larry Achenbach, Chariton (non-members)  
 Mike Still, Wayne  
 Jeff Maeder, Columbus and Winfield Mt Union (non-members)  
 Dan Mart, Keokuk  
 Andy Crozier, Central Lee  
 Cindy Yelick, Great Prairie AEA  
 Greg Ray, Mediapolis  
 John Kerr, (Curriculum Director), Mediapolis  
 Jeremy Hissan, Van Buren County  
 Lisa Beames, West Burlington  
 Margaret Buckton, RSAI  
 Dave Daughton, RSAI

*Laurie Noll, Fairfield CSD, convened the meeting at 1 pm.*

1. Approval of the Agenda: *Andy Crozier moved approval of the agenda, second by Kevin Crall. Vote was approved unanimously. As each attendee introduced themselves, they shared a highlight of rural education.*
2. RSAI Overview and Processes: *Margaret Buckton shared an overview of RSAI including its mission and the history of the organization.*
3. RSAI Regional Representative to the Leadership Group. No election this year for SE Region. Thanks to Laurie Noll!
4. RSAI Regional Representative to the Legislative Committee. Annual Election, representative(s) attend Legislative Committee Meeting in Des Moines during August, attends the Annual Meeting in Ankeny during October, and supports legislative advocacy efforts during the 2023 Session. Thanks to Joel Pedersen, Cardinal CSD, for serving during the 2022 legislative session!

**RSAI SE Region 3-year term  
 expires Sept. 2023**

**(Laurie Noll)**

RSAI SW Region 3-year term  
 expires Sept. 2022

(Paul Croghan)

RSAI NW Region 3-year term  
 expires Sept. 2023

(Justin Daggett)

RSAI NE Region 3-year term  
 expires Sept. 2024

(Nick Trenkamp)

One at-large position  
 expires each Sept.

for election at the Annual  
 Meeting each October

(Dennis McClain)

Nominations: *Laurie Noll nominated Joel Pedersen to continue on the Legislative Committee covering Great Prairie AEA. Second by Kevin Crall. No other nominations were brought forth. Andy Crozier moved that nominations cease and Joel Pedersen be appointed. Second by Greg Ray. Joel Pederson was reappointed to the RSAI Legislative Committee by unanimous consent.*

*Laurie Noll nominated Mike Van Sickel to serve on the Legislative Committee covering Mississippi Bend AEA. Second by Joel Pedersen. Andy Crozier moved that nominations cease and Joel Pedersen be appointed. Second by Greg Ray. Joel Pederson was reappointed to the RSAI Legislative Committee by unanimous consent.*

*By consensus, the group moved a request to the Leadership Group to recruit and appoint another representative from RSAI member districts to cover Central Rivers AEA and Grant Wood AEA. It was discussed to reach out to Caleb Bonjour, Midland CSD. Approved by unanimously consent.*

5. Review of the 2022 Legislative Session and Supporting Data by Margaret Buckton and Dave Daughton, RSAI Professional Advocates. *Margaret Buckton and Dave Daughton reviewed the legislative actions that have taken place thus far during the 2022 Session on each of RSAI's priorities. Discussion ensued.*
6. RSAI Priorities and Services Discussion. *RSAI members split into groups to review the Discussion Guide and prepare recommendations to RSAI leadership for 2022 legislative priorities. See compiled notes in the separate document.*
7. Vote on 2023 Legislative Priorities Recommendation from SE Region. Requires simple majority vote to forward recommendations on to the RSAI Legislative Committee. *Motion by Jeremy Hissan to forward the SE Regional Priorities Recommendations to the RSAI Legislative Committee. Second by Mike Still. Motion approved unanimously.*
8. Other Business: *No other business was brought forth for discussion.*
9. Adjourn: *The meeting was adjourned at 2:19 pm by unanimous consent.*

**Save the Date: 2022 RSAI Annual Meeting**

**Oct. 25, 2022 4:30-7:30PM** (includes working dinner)

FFA Enrichment Center (DMACC Campus)

1055 SW Prairie Trail Parkway, Ankeny, Iowa 50023

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



## RSAI Regional Meeting 2022 (SE Region) RSAI Legislative Priorities & Services Discussion

### 2022 Legislative Priorities:

	2022 RSAI Legislative Priority	Delete	Continue	Amend
1	<b>Adequate School Resources:</b> the increase in SSA should be no lower than 3.75% in FY 2023 due to abundant state surplus, maintain balanced state and local resources, be predictable, and assure adequate time for budget planning and staffing.		X	<i>Is the percentage argument working? Do we keep doing the same thing? Timing? Are they deciding too early? Mechanism that sets the rate based on economic metrics? We need to pay our teachers more so we can fill positions.</i>
2	<b>Educator Shortage and Quality Instruction:</b> maximum flexibility to hire staff to provide great instruction, including several strategies to attract and retain quality staff; flexibility to meet offer and teach requirements, loan forgiveness programs, a special education generalist credential, creation of a Public Service CTE strand, hire retirees without IPERS impact, and elimination of barriers to licensure.		X	<i>Keep it in front of them. Even close to urban center, 4 open positions and only 6 applicants. Mapping of open positions. Or maybe it's easier to measure turn over? What about those we filled with someone who isn't appropriately qualified? Or we went without an elementary music teacher. Special Education certification.</i>
3	<b>Local School Board Authority:</b> locally elected leaders closest to the community are in the best position to determine the interest of students, staff and stakeholders. District leaders need maximum flexibility to provide a great education to all students. The Legislature, the Executive Branch and the courts should follow Iowa Code 274.3 and liberally construe statute to effectuate local control.		X	
4	<b>Quality Preschool:</b> funding of quality PK at the 1.0 per pupil cost for full time or prorated proportionally and formula protections against budget and program impacts of PK enrollment swings (budget guarantee/on-time spending authority).		X	<i>Full day vs. half day program. Give local board authority to fund the last half of the day. Impact on childcare? 0-3 with wrap around care and child care.</i>
5	<b>Opportunity Equity:</b> resources based on at-risk need, in addition to enrollment. All school boards should have 5% dropout prevention funding. School districts should be granted spending authority for FRPL waived fees and Iowa should study the impact of poverty on educational outcomes.		X	

	<b>2022 RSAI Legislative Priority</b>	<b>Delete</b>	<b>Continue</b>	<b>Amend</b>
6	<b>Sharing Incentives/Efficiencies:</b> extension of Whole Grade Sharing, Reorganization and Operational Sharing Incentives. The 21-student cap should expand to allow access to any new flexibility. Weightings should be sufficient to encourage and support sharing opportunities.		X	<i>Continue as we are coming up against the deadline.</i>
7	<b>Assessing and Addressing Staff/Student Social, Emotional and Behavioral Health:</b> access to funded mental health services for children and supports for staff. Address the shortage of mental health professionals and provide resources over the next two years for local districts to train school staff based on a local needs and community capacity to collaborate for a collective solution.		X	
8	<b>Formula and Transportation Equity:</b> formula equity, closing the state and district per pupil gap within ten years and continued transportation equity support without burdensome reporting requirements.		X	<i>Keep it there until it's eliminated. Significant open enrollment – receiving districts access to revenue for students served (not taking money away from sending districts.)</i>
9	<b>Internet Connectivity and Access:</b> expanded access to high-speed Internet for all Iowans including incentives, investments, and creative solutions to close the technology gap for students, businesses and community members in rural Iowa. Low income should not be a barrier to internet access.		X	<i>Governor's on top of this one, it's happening at the federal level. It's happening. Is it like a utility? If you have gas and water hook up, you have internet hook up.</i>

**New Legislative Priorities for 2023:**

- none

**Issues needing more information:**

- none

**What other programs/services should RSAI look into to serve members?**

- none