**RSAI Annual Meeting Minutes**

**Oct. 26, 2021 4:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

FFA Enrichment Center, DMACC Campus

1055 SW Prairie Trail Parkway, Ankeny, Iowa 50023

1. **Call Annual Meeting to Order.** Dennis McClain, Adair-Casey CSD/Guthrie Center CSD and Leadership Group Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.
2. **Approval of the Agenda.** *Paul Croghan, Nodaway Valley CSD and CAM CSD, moved approval of the agenda. Sandy Dockendorff, Danville CSD, seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.*
3. **Introductions of Meeting Attendees.** All meeting attendees introduced themselves, indicated if they were part of the 2021-22 Leadership Group or 2021-22 Legislative Committee, and shared what they believe to be an advantage of rural schools/education.
4. **Annual Meeting Business:** Laurie Noll, Fairfield CSD, and Secretary/Treasurer of the RSAI Leadership Group reviewed the financial reports included in the packet materials.
* **2020-21 Financial Report & Annual Audit.** *A motion to approve the 2020-21 Financial Report & Annual Audit was made by Laurie Noll, Fairfield CSD, second by Dan Peterson, Central DeWitt CSD. The motion was approved unanimously.*
* **2021-22 Budget & Professional Advocate Payment.***A motion to approve the 2021-22 Budget and Professional Advocate payment was made by Laurie Noll, Fairfield CSD, second by Barb Schwamman, Osage CSD and Riceville CSD. The motion was approved unanimously.*
* **2021-22 RSAI Membership Dues.** The dues schedule for 2021-22 was shared with the group by Laurie Noll, Fairfield CSD*.*
1. **Amendments to the RSAI Bylaws.** Paul Croghan, CAM CSD and Nodaway Valley CSD, reviewed the proposed changes to the RSAI Bylaws included in the packet, as well as the process for the review of the bylaws that took place. *A motion to approve the amendments to the RSAI Bylaws was made by Paul Croghan, CAM CSD and Nodaway Valley CSD, second by Sharon Dentlinger, Interstate 35 CSD. The motion was approved unanimously.*
2. **Report Results of Election of Region Representatives to the Leadership Group.** Dennis McClain, Chair, welcomed back Nick Trenkamp, Central CSD, elected at the RSAI NE Regional Meeting as the Leadership Group NE Regional Director serving through September 2024.
3. **Election of RSAI At-Large Representative to the Leadership Group.** The position currently held by Dan Peterson, Central DeWitt CSD, is up for election. Any board member or superintendent in a member district is eligible for the seat. The at-large members also serve on the Legislative Group in addition to their Leadership Group duties.

*Nick Trenkamp, Center CSD, nominated Dan Peterson, Central DeWitt CSD, for another term for the at-large position. Second by Laurie Noll, Fairfield CSD. No other nominations were brought forth.*

*Paul Croghan, Nodaway Valley CSD and CAM CSD, voted to cease nominations and Nick Trenkamp, Central CSD, seconded the motion to cease nominations. Unanimous approval followed to close nominations, with the exception of Dan Peterson, Central DeWitt CSD, who abstained.*

*Results of the election were unanimous approval to re-elect Dan Peterson, Central DeWitt CSD, to serve as the RSAI Leadership Group At-Large representative through 2024, with the exception of Dan Peterson, Central DeWitt CSD, who abstained.*

1. **Status of RSAI 2021 Priorities:** Margaret Buckton, RSAI Professional Advocate, and Dave Daughton, RSAI Grassroots Advocate, provided an update on the status of this past year’s legislative session, the status of the current state budget, and on the RSAI legislative priorities and accomplishments, to help set the stage for tonight’s conversation. The slides are posted on the RSAI Annual Meeting webpage.

A brief break for dinner took place at this time.

1. **Report of Aug. 11 Legislative Committee Meeting**. Paul Croghan, CAM CSD and Nodaway Valley CSD and Chair of the 2021-22 Legislative Committee, introduced himself and the other Legislative Committee members, and discussed the process the Committee went through in their meeting on Aug. 11, to prepare the 2022 recommended legislative priorities being presented tonight.
2. **Establish RSAI legislative priorities for the upcoming 2022 Legislative Session**
* **Adequate School Resources:** 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.

*Dan Peterson, Central DeWitt CSD, moved approval as presented. Brian Johnson, Southeast Webster Grand CSD and Prairie Valley CSD, second. Vote unanimously approved.*
* **Local School Board Authority:** 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.

*Tim Mitchell, Riverside CSD, moved approval of the priority language as presented, along with the direction on strategy. Eric Trager, Audubon CSD and Coon Rapids Bayard CSD, seconded. Vote unanimously approved.*
* **Educator Shortage and Quality Instruction:** 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.

*Barb Schwamman, Osage CSD and Riceville CSD, moved approval as presented. Mark Lane, Decorah CSD seconded. Vote unanimously approved.*
* **Sharing Incentives/Efficiencies:** extension of Whole Grade Sharing, Reorganization and Operational Sharing Incentives. The 21-student cap should expand to allow access to any new flexibility.

*Brian Johnson, Prairie Valley CSD and Southeast Webster Grand CSD, moved approval as presented. Seconded by Barb Schwamman, Osage CSD and Riceville CSD. Discussion ensued. By unanimous consent, the group amended the motion to have the Leadership Group discuss the advantages of expanding the cap vs. reinstating prior weightings, giving the Leadership Group authority to refine the recommendation at their Nov. 19th meeting. Vote unanimously approved the resolution including direction to the Leadership Group.*
* **Assessing and Addressing Staff/Student Social, Emotional and Behavioral Health:** 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.

*Scott Williamson, Eddyville-Blakesburg-Fremont CSD, moved approval as presented. Seconded by Janet Stutz, Grinnell-Newburg CSD. Unanimous approval.*
* **Quality Preschool:** funding of quality PK at the 1.0 per pupil cost and formula protections against budget and program impacts of PK enrollment swings (budget guarantee/on-time spending authority). *Barb Schwamman, Osage CSD and Riceville CSD, moved approval as presented. Nick Trenkamp, Central CSD, seconded. Discussion ensued. By unanimous consent, the group amended the motion to have the Leadership Group discuss the advantages of advocating for 1.0 weighting or a prorated weighting based on PK hours delivered, giving the Leadership Group authority to refine the recommendation at their Nov. 19th meeting.*

*Vote unanimously approved the resolution including direction to the Leadership Group.*

* **Internet Connectivity and Access:** 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.

*Brian Johnson, Prairie Valley CSD and Southeast Webster Grand CSD, moved approval as presented. Seconded by Dan Peterson, Central DeWitt CSD. Unanimous approval.*
* **Formula and Transportation Equity:** formula equity, closing the state and district per pupil gap within ten years and continued transportation equity support without burdensome reporting requirements.

*Tim Mitchell, Riverside CSD moved approval as presented. Seconded by Paul Croghan, CAM CSD and Nodaway Valley CSD. Unanimous approval.*
* **Opportunity Equity:** 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.  *Joel Pedersen, Cardinal CSD, moved approval as presented. Seconded by Sharon Dentlinger, Interstate 35 CSD. Unanimous approval.*
* **Other:** No other priorities were raised by the group.
1. **Focus Area Prioritization:** Margaret Buckton, RSAI Professional Advocate, explained a process whereby each attendee was provided 6 stickers and asked to place them on the various priorities according to their priorities. Results of the prioritization activity are below:
2. **Press Release:** Margaret Buckton, RSAI Professional Advocate, encouraged attendees to submit a press release to their local newspaper regarding the RSAI Annual Meeting and 2022 Priorities. A sample will be provided.
3. **Adjourn:** Dennis McClain, Chair, closed the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

**RSAI Annual Meeting Attendees:**

*Yellow = 2021-22 Leadership Group or Legislative Committee Member; Gray = Non-Members/Guests*

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| **District** | **First Name** | **Last Name** |
| Adair-Casey CSD / Guthrie-Center CSD | Dennis | McClain |
| AHSTW CSD | Darin | Jones |
| Allamakee CSD | Jay | Mathis |
| Anamosa CSD | Larry | Hunt |
| Audubon CSD / Coon Rapids Bayard CSD | Eric | Trager |
| Bedford CSD / Mount Ayr CSD | Jason | Shaffer |
| Cardinal CSD | Joel | Pedersen |
| Carroll CSD | Casey | Berlau |
| Central CSD | Nick | Trenkamp |
| Central Decatur CSD / Lamoni CSD | Chris | Coffelt |
| Central DeWitt CSD | Dan | Peterson |
| Central Lee CSD | Andy | Crozier |
| Clinton CSD | Gary | DeLacy |
| Danville CSD | Sandra | Dockendorff |
| Decorah CSD | Mark | Lane |
| Eddyville-Blakesburg-Fremont CSD | Scott | Williamson |
| Edgewood-Colesburg CSD | Rob | Busch |
| Fairfield CSD | Laurie | Noll |
| Garner-Hayfield-Ventura CSD | Ken | Kasper |
| Graettinger-Terril CSD & Ruthven-Ayrshire CSD | Marshall | Lewis |
| Graettinger-Terril CSD / Ruthven-Ayrshire CSD | Alyssa | Enderson |
| Grinnell-Newburg CSD | Janet | Stutz |
| Harlan CSD | Jenny | Barnett |
| Interstate 35 CSD | Sharon | Dentlinger |
| Keokuk CSD | Dan | Mart |
| Manson Northwest Webster CSD | Justin | Daggett |
| Midland CSD | Caleb | Bonjour |
| Nodaway Valley CSD/CAM CSD | Paul | Croghan |
| Ogden CSD | Pam | Dodge |
| Osage CSD / Riceville CSD | Barb | Schwamman |
| PCM CSD | Michelle | Havenstrite |
| Pekin CSD & Sigourney CSD | Kevin | Hatfield |
| Riverside CSD | Tim | Mitchell |
| Southeast Webster Grand CSD / Prairie Valley CSD | Brian | Johnson |
| Mississippi Bend AEA | William | Decker |

**RSAI/ISFIS Staff Attendees**

RSAI Professional Advocate, Margaret Buckton, margaret@iowaschoolfinance.com

RSAI Grassroots Advocate, Dave Daughton, dave.daughton@rsaia.org

RSAI Accountant, Jen Albers, jen@iowaschoolfinance.com

ISFIS Partner, Larry Sigel, larry@iowaschoolfinance.com

ISFIS Staff, Susie Olesen, susie@iowaschoolfinance.com

*Minutes respectfully submitted, Oct. 26, 2021 by RSAI Staff, Margaret Buckton and Jen Albers*