



## RSAI Regional Meeting Minutes - NE Region

**May 3, 2022 at 12:30** (following the AEA Superintendent's Meeting)

Keystone AEA in Elkader or via Zoom

### Attendees:

Jay Mathis, Allamakee  
 Mark Lane, Decorah  
 Ted Ihns, Howard-Winneshiek  
 Nick Trenkamp, Central  
 Gary Benda, Starmont (non-members) & West Central (non-members)  
 Jay Jurens, New Hampton and Turkey Valley (non-members)  
 Joe Griffith, North Fayette Valley  
 Josh Ehn, Oelwein  
 Kris Einck, South Winneshiek (non-members)  
 Barb Schwamman, Riceville and Osage  
 Shane Wahls, Clayton Ridge (non-members)  
 Dale Crozier, MFL Mar Mac and Eastern Allamakee  
 Margaret Buckton, RSAI  
 Tim Dugger, Postville (Zoom)  
 Dave Daughton, RSAI (Zoom)

*Nick Trenkamp, Central CSD, convened the meeting at 12:40 pm.*

1. Approval of the Agenda & Introductions: *Gary Benda moved approval of the agenda, second by Barb Schwamman. 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 NE Region. Thanks to Nick Trenkamp!*
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 Barb Schwamman, Osage CSD & Riceville CSD, for serving during the 2022 legislative session!

**RSAI NE Region 3-year term  
 expires Sept. 2024  
 (Nick Trenkamp)**

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)

One at-large position  
 expires each Sept.  
 for election at the Annual  
 Meeting each October  
 (Dennis McClain)

Nominations: *Gary Benda nominated Barb Schwamman to continue on the Legislative Committee. Second by Mark Lane. No other nominations were brought forth. Barb Schwamman was reappointed to the RSAI Legislative Committee by unanimous consent.*

*Jay Mathis moved a request to the Leadership Group to recruit and appoint a representative from a RSAI member district to represent the Central Rivers AEA. Seconded by Ten Ihns. Approved unanimously.*

5. Consideration of Amendments to RSAI Bylaws. Amendment recommendations require 2/3 majority vote to move onto the RSAI Bylaws Committee: *No amendments were brought forth by the membership.*
6. 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.*
7. 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.*
8. Vote on 2023 Legislative Priorities Recommendation from NE Region. Requires simple majority vote to forward recommendations on to the RSAI Legislative Committee. *Motion by Dale Crozier to forward the NE Regional Priorities Recommendations to the RSAI Legislative Committee. Second by Josh Ehn. Motion approved unanimously.*
9. Other Business: *No other business was brought forth for discussion.*
10. Adjourn: *Motion to adjourn by Barb Schwamman, second by Joe Griffith. The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 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 (NE 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.		<b>X</b>	<i>Update to consider inflation. Amend % to reasonable amount. Concerns that it doesn't really matter if we set a %, they will ignore it.</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.		<b>X</b>	<i>Shortage is really bad and getting worse. No relief for years in sight.</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.		<b>X</b>	
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).		<b>X</b>	<i>Include 3-5 year olds. Needs to include special education and general education in same room. If you get a student with IEP mid-year, you have to kick out the 4-year-old. Maybe .5 for 3-year-old. 1.0 weighting for 4 and 5-year-olds. We also need quality day 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.		<b>X</b>	

	<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.		<b>X</b>	<i>Restore original levels first priority. Increase ceiling is second priority.</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.		<b>X</b>	<i>Staff mental health is a problem. Financial pressure for education employees are adding to the stress. Keep at it. Issue; may be better to use vans instead of busses for rural kids. 10-passenger vans, can be purchased used? But not new? Should RSAI have a consortium and become a used van dealer?</i>
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.		<b>X</b>	<i>Keep it on the list until it's done.</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.		<b>X</b>	

**New Legislative Priorities for 2023:**

- Teacher support rhetoric: have legislators pass a bill that they shouldn't demoralize teachers with their language.
- Truancy Expectations
- Insurance pool with the state? How do we level the playing field between rural and urban?
- Oppose Vouchers, focusing on election in the Fall.

**Issues needing more information:**

- None

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

- None mentioned beyond the used van pool