**RSAI Regional Meeting Minutes - SE Region**

Fairfield Arts & Conv Center, 200 N Main Street, Fairfield, IA 52556

Or Virtually via Zoom (contact [jen@iowaschoolfinance.com](mailto:jen@iowaschoolfinance.com) for link to join/observe)

May 5, 2021 at noon (or immediately following the Great Prairie AEA Superintendent’s Meeting)

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

**Laurie Noll**

RSAI NW Region 3-year term expires Sept. 2023

RSAI SW Region 3-year term expires Sept. 2022

RSAI NE Region 3-year term expires Sept. 2021

One At-large position expires Sept 2021 (Dan Peterson, Central DeWitt CSD) elected at the Annual Meeting in October.

**Attendees:***15 Member districts and 4 Non-Member district were represented at the meeting*

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| **RSAI Member** | **District** | **Attendee** |
| Yes | Cardinal CSD | Joel Pedersen |
| Yes | Central DeWitt CSD | Dan Peterson |
| Yes | Clinton CSD | Gary DeLacy |
| Yes | Columbus CSD | Jeff Maeder |
| Yes | Davis County | Dan Maeder |
| Yes | Eddyville Blakesburg Fremont CSD | Scott Williamson |
| Yes | Fairfield CSD | Laurie Noll |
| No | Fort Madison CSD | Erin Slater |
| Yes | Keota CSD | Jim Henrich |
| Yes | Louisa-Muscatine CSD | Mike Van Sickle |
| No | Mediapolis CSD | Greg Ray |
| No | Montezuma CSD | Nathan Wood |
| Yes | North Scott CSD | Joe Stutting |
| Yes | Pekin CSD | Dave Harper |
| Yes | Seymour CSD | Brad Breon |
| Yes | Sigourney CSD | Dave Harper |
| Yes | Van Buren County | Jeremy Hissem |
| No | West Burlington CSD | Lisa Beames |
| Yes | Winfield-Mt. Union CSD | Jeff Maeder |
|  | Great Prairie AEA | Cindy Yelick |
|  | Great Prairie AEA | Rich Schulte |
|  | RSAI | Margaret Buckton |
|  | RSAI | Jen Albers |
|  | RSAI | Dave Daughton |

Laurie Noll convened the meeting at 12 pm.

1. Approval of the Agenda & Introductions: *Dan Maeder moved approval of the agenda. Dave Harper seconded. Vote was approved unanimously. As each attendee introduced themselves, they shared a significant issue they are currently facing at their district. Below is a listing of topics that were brought forth by the group:*

* *Staffing concerns around the ability to recruit and retain qualified staff, specifically in certain subjects.*
* *Staffing concerns around hiring and retaining substitutes.*
* *Federal Funds and all the rules and changing guidance on top of everything else.*
* *Services for special needs students.*
* *Handling divisive content issues with media and community while remaining neutral and committed to working on student inequities.*
* *Student behavioral issues.*

1. RSAI Overview and Processes: *Margaret Buckton shared an overview of RSAI including its mission and the history of the organization.*
2. Election of RSAI Regional Representative to the Leadership Group: *Current term expires in 2023, so no election this year. Thanks to Laurie Noll!*
3. Election of RSAI Legislative Committee representative for the SE Region (Annual Election). Thanks to Joel Pedersen, Cardinal CSD, for serving during the 2021 legislative session! (Representative attends Legislative Committee Meeting in Des Moines during August, attends the Annual Meeting in Ankeny during October, and supports legislative advocacy efforts during the 2022 Session.)

Nominations: *Joel Pedersen indicated he wished to continue to serve. No other nominations were brought forth. Joel Pedersen was reappointed to the RSAI Legislative Committee by unanimous consent.*

1. Review of the 2021 Legislative Session and Data Supporting Key Issues Critical to RSAI member districts. *Margaret Buckton, ISFIS, reviewed the legislative actions that have taken place thus far during the 2021 Session on each of RSAI’s priorities.*
2. Establish SE Region’s proposed RSAI Legislative Priorities for the upcoming Iowa Legislative Session to forward to the RSAI Legislative Committee: *The group considered the 2021 platform and did not believe any of the items should be removed from the list for 2022. Additionally, discussion took place among the group about the order of importance of the priorities and suggested Educator Shortage and Quality Instruction be moved as the top priority for FY 2022. Additionally, it was discussed that the poverty factor should also be a higher priority. A motion was made by Jeff Maeder and seconded by Dan Peterson to recommend to the Legislative Committee to keep the current priorities on the list and make Educator Shortage and Opportunity Equity higher priorities. Vote was approved unanimously.*

* *2021 Priorities to Continue: Adequate School Resources; Assessing and Addressing Staff/Student Social, Emotional and Behavioral Health; Educator Shortage and Quality Instruction; Formula and Transportation Equity; Opportunity Equity; Sharing Incentives/Efficiencies; Quality Preschool; School Safety; Bonding Capacity; Internet Connectivity and Access; Remote Learning and Instructional Time; Local School Board Authority.*
* *Move Educator Shortage and Quality Instruction to the top priority.*
* *Move Opportunity Equity as a higher priority.*

1. Consideration of Proposed Amendments to RSAI Bylaws (Requires 2/3 majority vote). Discuss pros and cons of expanded Legislative Committee member appointments by region and goal of one member per AEA: *The group wishes to expand opportunities for leadership and grow RSAI membership and was supportive of the idea of expanding the Legislative Committee as proposed. Mike Van Sickle indicated his willingness to participate if the bylaws change was approved. A motion by Joel Pedersen to recommend moving forward the proposed RSAI Bylaws amendments to the Legislative Committee for consideration. Second by Scott Williamson. Vote was approved unanimously. The group suggested Mike Van Sickle of Louisa Muscatine be considered for such a position should the amendment move forward at the Annual Meeting.*
2. Other Business: *No other items were brought forward for discussion.*
3. Adjourn: *Motion to approve by Brad Breon, second by Jeremy Hissem. The meeting was adjourned at 1:00pm by unanimous consent.*

**Save the date: 2021 RSAI Annual Meeting**

Oct. 26, 2021 4:30-7:30PM (includes working dinner)

FFA Enrichment Center (DMACC Campus)

1055 SW Prairie Trail Parkway, Ankeny, Iowa 50023   
(or virtual via Zoom)

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