



## RSAI 2023 Regional Meeting Minutes NE Region – 04/04/2023

RSAI Region	Meeting Date	AEA Partner	Meeting Location	Meeting Time	Regional Representative
NE Region	04/04/23	Keystone AEA	1400 N 2nd St NW Elkader	11:45 Lunch; 12:30 Meeting	Nick Trenkamp

**Attendees:**

- Jay Mathis, Allamakee
- Nick Trenkamp, Central
- Tim Cronin, Decorah
- Dale Crozier, Eastern Allamakee & MFL Mar Mac
- Sarah Murray, Eastern Allamakee
- Rob Busch, Edgewood Colesburg
- Kris Einck, Howard-Winn & South Winn (non-members)
- Jay Jurrens, New Hampton & Turkey Valley
- Josh Ehn, Oelwein
- Tim Dugger, Postville
- Jay Marley, Tripoli
- Kristen Rickey, West Delaware
- Stan Rheingans, Keystone AEA (host)
- Mandy Reiner, Keystone AEA (host)
- Margaret Buckton, RSAI/ISFIS

**Save the Date: 2023 RSAI Annual Meeting**  
**Oct. 17, 2023 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.  
 Register at: <https://www.rsaia.org/annual-meeting.html>

1. Call to Order and Welcome by RSAI Regional Representative
2. Approval of the Agenda  
*Nick Trenkamp, Regional Representative, convened the meeting at 12:30. Attendees introduced themselves. No changes to the agenda were suggested, and the agenda was approved by consensus.*
3. RSAI Overview and Processes (Margaret Buckton)
4. Election of Regional Representative to the **RSAI Leadership Group**, if term expires Sept. 2023, see chart to the right. Term is 3-years, no term limits. RSAI Leadership Group meets virtually most months for approx. one hour, has responsibilities at the RSAI Annual Meeting in October, sets date/location and hosts this Regional Meeting, assists with staffing the RSAI tradeshow booth at IASB Convention, and supports advocacy efforts throughout the year.
  - a. Nominations
  - b. Election

**No Regional Representative election this year. Nick Trenkamp term expires Sept. 2024.**

**RSAI Region Representatives**

NE Region (Nick Trenkamp)  
term expires Sept. 2024

SW Region (Paul Croghan)  
term expires Sept. 2025

**NW Region (Justin Daggett)**  
**term expires Sept. 2023**

**SE Region (Laurie Noll)**  
**term expires Sept. 2023**

5. Election of Regional Representative to the **RSAI Legislative Committee**, see chart on the following page.  
*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 2024 Session.*
- Nominations
  - Election

**Josh Ehn moved appointment of Barb Schwamman, Osage and Riceville CSD, to represent NE region from Keystone AEA. Kristen Rickey Second. Approved unanimously.**

**Josh Ehn moved appointment of Jay Marley, Tripoli CSD, to represent NE region Central Rivers, Dale Crozier second. Approved unanimously.**

**Rob Busch emailed Caleb Bonjour, Midland, [cbonjour@midland.k12.ia.us](mailto:cbonjour@midland.k12.ia.us) and Mark Dohmen, North Cedar, [mdohmen@north-cedarstu.org](mailto:mdohmen@north-cedarstu.org) both from Grant Wood AEA to see if either was interested in an appointment to the legislative committee. Both replied in the affirmative. Margaret will follow up with them and determine next steps.**

6. Review of RSAI Bylaws (Amendment recommendations require 2/3 majority vote to move onto the RSAI Bylaws Committee)

**Small groups reviewed various parts of RSAI bylaws. The following questions were asked, to share with the Bylaws/Legislative Committee to consider if updates are necessary.**

- Under voting, should we amend after “permitted via internet technologies” and shall be considered in person for purposes of voting.**
- Quorum – is RSAI big enough to consider requiring a quorum for regional meeting business?**
- Agendas – within 7 or 30 days is a long time if there is an emergency or something which must be changed before a group convenes. Consider allowing exceptions for those circumstances?**
- Regional Meetings – April isn’t “Summer” so strike summer and just say “meet annually”.**

7. Brief Review/Update of the 2023 Legislative Session and Supporting Data by Margaret Buckton and Dave Daughton, RSAI Professional Advocates

**Margaret Buckton provided a brief history of RSAI and discussed pending legislation.**

8. Discussion and Vote on Recommendation of 2024 RSAI Legislative Priorities from the Region (Requires simple majority vote to forward recommendations to the RSAI Legislative Committee)  
**Small groups reviewed the 2023 legislative priorities and determined if the priorities should continue or not for the 2024 session, if any changes were needed, and if additional priorities should be discussed. See Discussion Guide attached for compiled summary and recommendation.**

9. Brainstorming/Networking Discussion

10. Other Business

**No other business was brought forth for discussion.**

11. Adjourn

**The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 pm by unanimous consent.**



## RSAI 2023 Regional Meeting

### NE Region Notes: Legislative Priorities & Services Discussion

#### 2023 Legislative Priorities:

	2023 RSAI Legislative Priority	Delete	Keep	Changes/Notes
1	<p><b>Adequate School Resources:</b> the increase in SSA provides the resources for Iowa schools to deliver an educational experience for students that meets the expectations of Iowa parents, communities, employers and policymakers. What schools can deliver is dependent on the level of funding provided, which begins with the 2023-24 school year and requires a consistent and sustainable commitment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>World Class Education:</b> An investment of at least 10% SSA (\$741 per pupil, or \$4.12 per day of 180 days of instruction) would position Iowa schools and AEAs to deliver a world class education, lower class sizes, attract and retain qualified staff, increase and individualize internships and other workforce experiences for students, and provide programs to close achievement gaps. Iowa per pupil expenditures fall \$1,536 short of the national average, which does not meet the standard of Iowa's pride in our foundation of education, as shown on the Iowa state quarter. The 10% investment would be a down payment in closing Iowa's lagging funding gap, unless other states commit even more to their students' education.</li> <li>• <b>Sustain Current Status:</b> An investment of at least 5% (\$371 per pupil, or \$2.06 per day of 180 days of instruction) would position school districts and AEAs to maintain current status with Iowa's competitive economy, recovering <i>partially</i> from high inflation and increased student needs.</li> <li>• <b>Continued Erosion:</b> An investment of 2.5% (\$185 per pupil, or \$1.03 per day of 180 days of instruction) will <i>partially</i> cover expected increased costs of the next fiscal year, including staff salaries and benefits, but will require schools to scale back, provide part-time librarians, counselors and nurses, shift some classes to on-line learning, or take other actions to squeeze more out of the current system in order to set a salary sufficient to retain existing staff (teachers, bus drivers, custodians, paraprofessionals) and provide a rounded course offering and programs.</li> </ul> <p>Iowa's school foundation formula must maintain balanced state and local resources, be predictable, and assure adequate time for budget planning and staffing.</p>		X	<p>Variety of approaches – this got some discussion. What is average cost of 4-year college and average starting wage of teacher. Add some evidence – can't mandate teacher recruitment based on starting teacher pay.</p> <p>Business community/farm bureau talks about the quality of work-force. World class education provides the excellent work force for business success. We will lose citizens to places with quality workforce.</p>

	2023 RSAI Legislative Priority	Delete	Keep	Changes/Notes
2	<p><b>Education Staff Shortage:</b> In addition to sufficient SSA, strategies to rebuild Iowa's education workforce must address two areas during an unprecedented staff shortage:</p> <p><b>Recruitment:</b> to rebuild the pipeline of interest into education, the Legislature, BOEE and DE must provide additional flexibility for school districts to provide hiring incentives, ongoing investment in CTE programs for high school students to study and experience work in education, provide resources for grow-your-own educators and appropriate certifications, provide means-tested tuition assistance and minimize the economic costs of unpaid student teaching, provide more loan forgiveness, and change the culture of political speech to restore education to a respected profession.</p> <p><b>Retention:</b> to slow the out-migration of staff from schools to other professions or retirement, the Legislature, BOEE and DE must provide maximum flexibility to hire staff to deliver great instruction; additional flexibility for retention incentives, flexibility to meet offer and teach requirements, opportunities for teaching expanded courses within existing and/or competency based licensure, institute a special education generalist credential, allow districts to hire retirees without a negative IPERS impact, and maintain the commitment to resources for mentoring, training and supporting staff.</p> <p>In both the short and long term, legislation, policy, and public support will not only provide improved compensation for educators, but must also foster the respect for the education profession that is well deserved. Only when we are able to do this will Iowa be able to have adequate numbers of quality individuals educating our children.</p>		X	<p>Are we asking for too much, everything and the kitchen sink. Do we need to downsize?</p> <p>Tuition assistance – distinguish between sup court is difference than tuition assistance for years served.</p> <p>Minimum teacher pay – needs a sparsity factor or some kind of formula that doesn't disadvantage rural schools with small economy of scale.</p> <p>Discussion about management fund.</p>

	2023 RAI Legislative Priority	Delete	Keep	Changes/Notes
3	<p><b>Public School Priority:</b> Public schools must be adequately funded and supported by the state. Investments in education savings accounts, voucher programs, school tuition organizations or home school, whether by tax credit or direct appropriation, remove resources from public schools in three ways;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Iowa's funding formula is enrollment based. Fewer students results in fewer resources for staff, programs and courses for the vast majority of students remaining in the public school. For rural schools in particular, the loss of students further stresses an already tight economy of scale.</li> <li>2) Carving Iowa's education funding pie into more pieces means a smaller piece of pie for Iowa's public-school students. Rural school leaders, looking ahead to the implementation of the 2022 historic tax cuts, already fear the inability of the state to adequately fund public schools, let alone take on the commitment of a second educational delivery system.</li> <li>3) School choice programs typically start small, but quickly expand eligibility criteria (increased income eligibility, support for home school, or even eventual public support of private tuition for any student at any private school that will take them). Many rural school districts do not have a private school in their community today. In the future, private online academies, the pressure for the state to support homeschooling and the profit motive to expand private schools without the corresponding costs of oversight and compliance, will create lower economies of scale and the inability for small rural schools to survive increased rigorous state accreditation compliance.</li> </ol> <p>RSAI is opposed to all forms of education savings accounts/voucher programs/additional public funds appropriated for private or home school. Such programs traditionally do not include accountability for tax expenditures, are not required to educate and assess all children or provide special education services, and are hidden from the public oversight that accompanies public funding.</p> <p>With recent expansions to unlimited open enrollment to any public school in Iowa, combined with Iowa's current public investment in private religious schools and home school exceeding \$80 million, even small demonstration programs or pilot projects should be resisted; the camel's nose under the tent is soon followed by the humps.</p>			<p>Rewritten because so much has been changed with ESAs and vouchers.</p> <p>Focus in narrative about robust public education system as foundation for democracy. Good for entire state to have an education citizenry.</p> <p>Logical equity things – privates have no spending cap. Private schools can deny access. Public school students have no money to spend on tutors and computers.</p>

	<b>2023 RSAI Legislative Priority</b>	<b>Delete</b>	<b>Keep</b>	<b>Changes/Notes</b>
4	<p><b>Opportunity Equity:</b> resources based on at-risk need, in addition to enrollment. All school boards should have the opportunity to access up to 5% dropout prevention funding. School districts should be granted spending authority for FRPL waived fees. Iowa should study the impact of poverty on educational outcomes and best practice of other states in closing associated achievement gaps, leading toward a significant and urgent update to Iowa's School Foundation Formula in funding programs for Iowa's neediest students. Investments in programs for at-risk students prepare them for full participation in the workforce, improve school safety for all students, minimize tax increases to remediate social costs later and improve outcomes for students and families.</p>		<b>X</b>	
5	<p><b>Quality Preschool:</b> funding of quality statewide voluntary preschool at the 1.0 per pupil cost for full-time or prorated proportionally. Formula protections against budget and program impacts of preschool enrollment swings (budget guarantee/on-time spending authority). Full-day programming increases the opportunity for parent workforce participation, allows Iowa's limited childcare workforce capacity to focus on younger children, prevents later special education consequences, improves literacy and prepares students for learning.</p>		<b>X</b>	
6	<p><b>Sharing Incentives/Efficiencies:</b> extension of Whole Grade Sharing, Reorganization and Operational Sharing Incentives. Expand the 21-student cap to allow access to new flexibility. Weightings should be sufficient to encourage and support sharing opportunities, with a 3-student weighting at a minimum. The addition of new positions over the last few years, such as the work-based learning coordinator and school resource officer, demonstrates the value of continuing sharing incentives for both efficiency and extended opportunities for students.</p>	<b>X</b>		

	2023 RSAI Legislative Priority	Delete	Keep	Changes/Notes
7	<b>Student Mental Health:</b> increased access to funded community mental health services for children. Address the shortage of mental health professionals statewide, provide resources for local districts to train school staff in social-emotional learning awareness and build community capacity to collaborate for a collective solution to the increasing mental health needs of children.		X	Should we add and “staff” mental health. Is “SEL” the right language? Universal constructs in Iowa Core could possibly align. It is so broad. What is the scope and role of schools in solving the global child MH crises. Emphasis on employability? Increased threat assessments. Broaden MH Professional loan forgiveness. Communities need more access to beds counselors and professionals in rural areas.
8	<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, district 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	“let the locally elected school board do their job.” Iowa education is built on local people making decisions with local context. Should this be the first priority?
9	<b>Formula and Transportation Equity:</b> continue investments in formula equity, closing the state and district per pupil gap within ten years and maintain the commitment to transportation equity support without burdensome reporting requirements. General fund directed at transportation is not available to spend on teachers, curriculum and opportunities for students. According to the DE’s <a href="#">2020-21 Annual Transportation Report</a> , transportation expenditures per pupil ranged from \$27 per pupil to \$1,012 per pupil. Thanks to the transportation equity funding commitment, all districts with high expenditures were reimbursed down to the state average of \$353 per pupil. Inequities in the formula, based on no longer relevant historical spending over 40 years ago, must be corrected to support resources for all Iowa students.		??	

**New Legislative Priorities for 2024:**

- Fully funding AEAs to support the needs of students – a life line for districts with students with all kinds of needs. Per pupil basis formula is not reflective of where needs are. Some sparsity or economy of scale formula. Impact of private school legislation with same funding will stretch services needed for public schools.

**Issues needing more information:**

- None brought forth

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

- Corporate Sponsor help with screening libraries?