**RSAI Regional Meeting Minutes - NE Region**

Central Rivers AEA, 1521 Technology Drive, Cedar Falls

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

May 25, 2021 at 1pm

**Attendees:***7 Member districts and 3 Non-Member districts were represented at the meeting.*

**RSAI NE Region 3-year term expires Sept. 2021**

**Nick Trenkamp**

RSAI NW Region 3-year term expires Sept. 2023

RSAI SE Region 3-year term expires Sept. 2023

RSAI SW Region 3-year term expires Sept. 2022

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

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| **RSAI Member** | **District** | **Attendee** |
| No | Allamakee CSD | Jay Mathis |
| Yes | Central CSD | Nick Trenkamp |
| Yes | Edgewood-Colesburg CSD | Rob Busch |
| Yes | Howard-Winneshiek CSD | Ted Ihns |
| Yes | Northeast CSD | Neil Gray |
| Yes | Osage CSD | Barb Schwamman |
| Yes | Postville CSD | Tim Dugger |
| Yes | Riceville CSD | Barb Schwamman |
| No | South Winneshiek CSD | Kris Einck |
| No | Waverly-Shell Rock CSD | Ed Klamfoth |
|  | RSAI | Margaret Buckton |
|  | RSAI | Jen Albers |
|  | RSAI | Dave Daughton |

Nick Trenkamp, Central CSD, convened the meeting at 1:03 pm.

1. Approval of the Agenda & Introductions: *Rob Busch moved approval of the agenda. Barb Schwamman 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, ensuring we are not competing but collaborating with other districts.*
* *Staffing concerns around burn out.*
* *Funding issues, such as priority funding for public education, ability to recruit staff, enrollment impact on funding. Funding trickles down to everything else.*
* *Legislature’s commitment to public education, poverty/minority issues, and local control.*
* *Concerns around families valuing public education.*

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. Thanks to Nick Trenkamp for serving! Term is 3-years. *RSAI Leadership Group meets virtually most months for approx. one hour, has responsibilities at the RSAI Annual Meeting in October, sets date and location for this Regional Meeting, assists with staffing RSAI tradeshow booth at IASB Convention, and supports advocacy efforts throughout the year.*

Nominations: *Neil Gray nominated Nick Trenkamp to continue on the Leadership Group if he was willing to serve. Second by Barb Schwamman. Nick Trenkamp expressed his interest in continuing on the Leadership Group. No other nominations were brought forth. Nick Trenkamp was reelected to the RSAI Leadership Group by unanimous consent.*

1. Election of RSAI Legislative Committee representative for the NE Region (Annual Election). Thanks to Barb Schwamman, Osage CSD & Riceville 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: *Nick Trenkamp nominated Barb Schwamman to continue on the Legislative Committee if she was willing to serve. Second by Ted Ihns. Barb Schwamman expressed her interest in continuing on this committee. No other nominations were brought forth. Barb Schwamman was reappointed to the RSAI Legislative Committee by unanimous consent.*

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 discussed and supported expansion of opportunities for leadership to grow RSAI membership, and was supportive of the idea of expanding the Legislative Committee as proposed. A motion by Rob Busch to recommend moving forward the proposed RSAI Bylaws amendments to the Legislative Committee for consideration. Second by Tim Dugger. Vote was approved unanimously.*
2. 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.*
3. Establish NE 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 discussion of changes. A motion was made by Barb Schwamman and seconded by Nick Trenkamp to recommend the following to the Legislative Committee. Vote was approved unanimously.*

* *2021 Priorities to Continue: Assessing and Addressing Staff/Student Social, Emotional and Behavioral Health; Educator Shortage and Quality Instruction; Opportunity Equity; Sharing Incentives/Efficiencies; Quality Preschool; School Safety; Bonding Capacity; Internet Connectivity and Access; Remote Learning and Instructional Time; Local School Board Authority.*
* *2021 Priorities to be Removed: Transportation Equity.*
* *2021 Priorities to be Combined: Adequate School Resources and Formula Equity;*
* *Add a new priority related to “Equitable Accountability” for charter schools, private schools, and homeschool learning.*
* *Set aside the lobbying efforts around virtual learning for snow days.*
* *Seek opportunities to reduce data/reporting burdens for schools by ensuring whenever a new reporting requirement is added, something is taken away.*

1. Other Business: *Other items discussed include the following topics:*

* *Seek opportunities to get board members more involved in RSAI.*
* *Consider some specific advocacy tools for board members or make sure they are aware of what RSAI already has available.*
* *ESSER Funding and reporting any denied reimbursement requests to staff.*

1. Adjourn: *Motion to adjourn by Rob Bush, second by Ted Ihns. The meeting was adjourned at 2:15pm 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