



## RSAI 2023 Regional Meeting Minutes SE Region – 05/03/2023

RSAI Region	Meeting Date	AEA Partner	Meeting Location	Meeting Time	Regional Representative
SE Region	05/03/23	Great Prairie AEA	Fairfield Arts & Conv Center, 200 N Main St, Fairfield	10 Meeting; 12 Lunch	Laurie Noll

**Attendees:**

- Kevin Crall, Albia
- Joel Pedersen, Cardinal
- Mark Taylor, Centerville
- Andy Crozier, Central Lee
- Brad Baker, Chariton
- Dan Maeder, Davis County/Moulton-Udell
- Scott Williamson, Eddyville Blakesburg Fremont
- Erin Slater, Fort Madison CSD (non-members)
- Jim Henrich, Keota
- Greg Ray, Mediapolis
- Rich Shulte, Montezuma
- John Henriksen, Mount Pleasant
- Chad Wahls, New London (non-members)
- Angela Livezey, North Mahaska
- Mike McGrory, Ottumwa
- Michelle Havenstrite, PCM
- Derek Philips, Pekin
- Brad Breon, Seymour/Mormon Trail
- Kevin Hatfield, Sigourney
- Jeremy Hissem, Van Buren County
- Mike Peterson, Wapello & Morning Sun (non-members)
- Mike Still, Wayne
- Jeff Maeder, Winfield Mt Union
- Cindy Yelick, Great Prairie AEA
- Nathan Wood, Great Prairie AEA
- Craig Huebner, Holy Trinity (non-members)
- Dave Daughton, RSAI/ISFIS
- 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  
*Scott Williamson convened the meeting at 10:03 in the absence of Laurie Noll, Regional Representative. Attendees introduced themselves. Motion to approve the agenda was mad by Derek Philips, seconded by Angela Livezey, and the agenda was approved by unanimously.*

<b><u>RSAI Region Representatives</u></b>	
NE Region (Nick Trenkamp)	term expires Sept. 2024
SW Region (Paul Croghan)	term expires Sept. 2025
<b>NW Region (Justin Daggett)</b>	<b>term expires Sept. 2023</b>
<b>SE Region (Laurie Noll)</b>	<b>term expires Sept. 2023</b>

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

*Brad Breon nominated Dan Maeder for SE Regional Representative, seconded by Kevin Crall. No other nominations came forward. Dan Maeder was elected unanimously as the SE Regional Representative for the October 2023 – September 2026 term. A special thank you was expressed to Laurie Noll for her service during this past term!*
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.*
  - a. Nominations
  - b. Election

*There was a thorough discussion with various volunteers and suggestions. After discussion, the following were elected unanimously to represent the associated AEA and SE Region on the Legislative Committee:*

*Michelle Havenstrite, PCM CSD – from Heartland AEA*

*Mark Taylor, Centerville CSD – from Great Prairie AEA*

*Janet Stutz, Grinnell-Newburg CSD – from Central Rivers AEA (if she wishes to continue) or Rich Schulte, Montezuma CSD.*

*No nominees were put forward from Grant Wood AEA. The Leadership Group will review and determine whether to appoint a SE Member from Grant Wood AEA.*

*Margaret will follow up 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 suggestion was put forth for the Bylaws/Legislative Committee to consider:***
  - ***Remove the word "summer" from Regional Meeting dates.***
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  
***Buckton and Daughton answered questions about the transparency and parents' rights bill and Chapter 12 flexibility changes.***
10. Other Business  
***No other business was brought forth for discussion.***
11. Adjourn  
***Rich Shulte moved and Dan Maeder seconded adjournment of the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 am by unanimous consent.***



## RSAI 2023 Regional Meeting

### SE 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>How do we get this to happen and get success?</p> <p>Should set SSA a year before. Timing for staffing, budgets etc.</p> <p>Not keeping up with inflation – increasing costs.</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>AASA focus groups in FL last week – teacher shortage is all over the nation. We are imploding from the inside. Educators telling their kids not to teach – how do we change that?</p> <p>Work with BOEE and DE – middle school generalist flexibility (we used to teach 2 up and 2 down and that generation came out fine). Advantages of collaboration and teaching different subjects, which improves instruction.</p> <p>Add more opportunities for teacher intern license like RAPPLE</p> <p>Increasing IPERS was a step in the right direction. 4 months is too long a waiting period. MO rule in high-need areas.</p> <p>Promoting the education professional for young kids to promote education when in MS and HS.</p> <p>e.g., HS and college students, when they are open, are assigned to staff classrooms. Para to teacher program. Apprenticeship programs. Central Lee example. Work-based learning program, pay \$10-12 an hour to high school students to get experience in classroom as paras. Afterschool grant – also pay students to have experiences with students.</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>		X	<p>Expansion to home school is really a concern – must keep that from happening. Also for nonaccredited private schools. Stop any expansion.</p> <p>Equal playing field and accountability. Private schools turn away students.</p>

	2023 RSAI Legislative Priority	Delete	Keep	Changes/Notes
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>		X	Foundation formula should be impacted to face poverty. Lead has been taken by athletic organization. Legislature should do the same.
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>		X	Some schools have full day PK. Would like to match it but need the funding to do it. Its not a money making venture. Avoid penalizing the half-dayers. Space can be a problem.
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>		X	Multiple iterations of policy. Keep after it
7	<p><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 <b>social-emotional learning</b> awareness and build community capacity to collaborate for a collective solution to the increasing mental health needs of children.</p>		X	Support is a huge issue. Consider use of SEL language – is that a hot button or do we keep it there to focus on the needs for this kind of support? What was done this session? We encouraged more in therapeutic classrooms. Post COVID behavioral mental health issues. State needs to open up rules for a greater continuum of MH care for students.

	<b>2023 RSAI Legislative Priority</b>	<b>Delete</b>	<b>Keep</b>	<b>Changes/Notes</b>
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.		<b>X</b>	“maximum flexibility” or do we just ask for flexibility? Sometimes bumpers help us. Keep us in our educational lane.
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.		<b>X</b>	Remember to say thank you for transportation policy. All based on expenditures. Where is the control? Takes away the incentive for efficiency. How do we avoid inadvertently inflating transportation costs?  AEA formula equity is outdated and inequitable – should this be part of the formula conversation on equity? ELL Equity? Special education weighting? Other unique student needs?

**New Legislative Priorities for 2024:**

- None

**Issues needing more information:**

- None

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

- Guidance to new board members? Priorities and basics for potential board members if you decide to run. Administrative Costs SF 251 – could we have some type of media campaign or effort, public school wide, help us all defend public schools. A collective effort. Collective voice.