

**RSAI Leadership Group Minutes
March 10, 2021 at noon**

Via Zoom or at ISFIS 1201 63rd Street, Des Moines, IA 50311
(Contact jen@iowaschoolfinance.com for Zoom link)

Zoom Leadership Group Member Attendees: Dennis McClain (Chair), Paul Croghan (Vice Chair), Laurie Noll (Secretary/Treasurer), Justin Daggett, Dan Peterson, Nick Trenkamp, Scott Williamson, and Lolli Haws, AEA.

ISFIS Staff Attendees: Margaret Buckton, Larry Sigel, Dave Daughton, and Jen Albers

I Call To Order/Roll by McClain

McClain called the meeting to order at 12:01 pm.

II Approve Agenda

Croghan moved and Trenkamp seconded approval of the agenda. Approved unanimously.

III Approve Meeting Minutes from February 10, 2021

Croghan moved and Noll seconded approval of the minutes from the RSAI Leadership Group on February 10, 2021. Approved unanimously.

IV Membership Report & Corporate Sponsorships

Albers shared the membership report showing FY 2021 memberships received to date at 122 plus 4 affiliate AEA members. Discussion ensued about several pending memberships and additional AEAs interested in affiliate membership.

No corporate sponsorship applications have been received since the last meeting, however several are in the works and anticipated soon.

V Monthly Financials

Albers reviewed the YTD January 31, 2021 financial statements. Noll moved and Croghan seconded approval of the financial report through January 31, 2021. Approved unanimously.

VI Mission Critical Actions/Updates

- Charter School Bill Update
- RSAI Calls to Action and Testimony at the Statehouse
- Funnel Deadlines: bills in the works
- Funding still on the table

Buckton updated the group on the status on various legislative matters. Discussion ensued around the Charter School concerns and advocacy points, as well as the various bills that are still in the works.

- Status of RSAI Legislative Priorities
 - Operational Sharing bills, Poverty weighting and at-risk – not yet, Online learning and snow days

Buckton also updated the group on the status of these legislative priorities. Discussion ensued.

- RSAI/rural included in Task Force Legislation

Buckton shared information about how this organization has really brought rural issues to the forefront of discussion on various task forces and applauded the work the members of this organization are doing on behalf of Iowa's rural students.

- RSAI Regional Meetings

Regional Meetings are quickly approaching and Buckton shared that we need to finalize dates and location plans at the April Leadership Group meeting so we can promote the dates. The four regional representatives will work on setting dates/location and coordinate with Albers.

- Learning Blade and Backpack app per NREA

Buckton shared information on an electronic backpack vendor promoted by NREA and asked for input on whether they may be a good corporate sponsor. Discussion ensued.

- Thinking ahead to April: Budgets and Planning for FY 2022

Buckton mentioned that at the April meeting we will be discussing RSAI FY 2022 dues, budget inputs, and other planning matters.

- Leadership Group Member Updates (anything to share with the group?)

Leadership Group members shared and discussed various additional topics including ESSER Guidance from the DE, ideas of using funds to close the achievement gap with students, the importance of RSAI being at the table for discussion now on many rural matters, and mask mandates at local districts.

VII Other Business

Buckton mentioned an upcoming opportunity to get on everyone's radar. The Iowa Reading Research Center is applying for a grant from the Regional Education Laboratory (REL) to design PD around writing instruction and provide supports to study impacts with a control group. They have requested to work with RSAI to identify districts interested in participating in the study and with ISFIS to provide supports. Timeline is to begin in the Fall of 2022. Look forward to more information.

No other business was brought up for discussion.

VIII. Upcoming Meeting dates:

- Wed, April 14, 2021, from 12-1pm via Zoom
- Wed, May 12, 2021, from 12-1pm via Zoom
- May/June 2021 – Regional Meetings (*specific dates TBD*)
- Wed, July 14, 2021, from 12-1pm via Zoom
- August 2021 – Bylaws Committee Meeting (*specific date TBD*)
- August 2021 – Legislative Committee Meeting (*specific date TBD*)
- Wed, September 8, 2021, from 12-1pm via Zoom
- October 2021 – Annual Meeting (*specific date TBD*)
- October 2021 – Organizational Meeting (*immediately following Annual Meeting*)

IX. Adjourn

*Daggett moved to adjourn and Williamson seconded. Approved unanimously.
The meeting concluded at 12:50 pm.*

Minutes respectfully submitted

Margaret Buckton, RSAI Professional Advocate, As of 03/10/2021