



RSAI Leadership Group Minutes

July 21, 2025 at 11 am

Via Zoom or at ISFIS 1201 63rd Street, Des Moines, IA 50311

(Contact jen@iowaschoolfinance.com for Zoom link)

Leadership Group Attendees: Caleb Bonjour (Chair), Scott Williamson (Vice-Chair), Justin Daggett, Jeremy Hissem, Ron Lorenz, Barb Schwamman.

Staff Attendees: Margaret Buckton, Dave Daughton and Jen Albers

I Call to Order by Chair Bonjour & Welcome to New LG Members

Bonjour called the meeting to order at 11:04 pm. A quorum of the board was present. All attendees introduced themselves to one another.

II Action on Agenda

Daggett moved and Williamson seconded approval of the agenda. Approved unanimously.

III Appointment of NE Regional Leadership Group Representative

Buckton shared that Nick Trenkamp of Central CSD & Eastern Allamakee CSD and NE Regional Representative, has submitted his resignation from the RSAI Leadership Group. Buckton also shared the staff recommendation to appoint Barb Schwamman of Osage CSD & Riceville CSD to fill his remaining term due to her experience serving many years on the RSAI Legislative Committee. Discussion ensued. Motion was made by Hissem to appoint Barb Schwamman as the new NE Regional Representative through Oct 2027. Seconded by Williamson. No additional nominations were brought forth. Approved unanimously.

IV Action on Meeting Minutes

- NE Regional Meeting in Waverly from May 30, 2025
- Leadership Group Meeting from May 14, 2025

Lorenz moved and Croghan Daggett seconded approval of the meeting minutes as presented. Approved unanimously.

V Review Membership Report

Albers shared the YTD membership report to date for FY 2026. Discussion ensued.

VI Action on Financial Matters

• Monthly Financials

Albers reviewed the financial statements through May 31, 2025 and bill pay listing. Discussion ensued. Schwamman moved and Daggett seconded approval of the financial statements and bill pay list as presented. Approved unanimously.

• Corporate Sponsors

Buckton shared a request for new corporate sponsorship by Invision. Discussion ensued. Hissem moved and Williamson seconded approval of Invision as a new RSAI Corporate Sponsor for FY 2026. Approved unanimously.

VII Mission Critical Actions/Updates

- **Election of RSAI Secretary/Treasurer for the remainder of 2025-26**

With the resignation of Trenkamp, RSAI has a vacancy in the officer role of Secretary/Treasurer. Buckton reviewed the responsibilities of the position. Hissem offered to serve. Lorenz moved to elect Hissem as Secretary/Treasurer for the remainder of the term ending Oct 2025. Second by Williamson. No additional nominations were brought forth. Approved unanimously.

- **Discussion of RSAI Legislative Committee 2025-26**

- **Members & Action on Appointments for Vacancies**
- **Member Survey of Legislative Issues**
- **Committee Meeting – August 14, 2025**

Buckton reviewed the list of legislative committee members and remaining vacancies, a reminder to complete the legislative issues survey circulated to members, and reviewed the plans for the committee meeting on August 14th. Discussion ensued. Schwamman moved the appointment of Erik Smith of New Hampton CSD and Turkey Valley CSD to represent Keystone AEA in the NE Region on the Legislative Committee, and to direct staff to fill the vacancy for Grant Wood AEA in the NE Region for ratifying at the August Leadership Group Meeting. Second by Hissem. Approved unanimously.

- **Discussion of RSAI Bylaws Committee – Aug 2025 Via Zoom (Bonjour, Hissem, Lorenz and Williamson)**

Buckton shared an overview of the purpose of the Bylaws Committee and indicated a meeting date would be shared very soon.

- **Discussion of RSAI Annual Meeting – October 9, 2025**

- **Date/Location**
- **Logistics & Responsibilities**

Buckton and Albers reminded the group to mark the date for the RSAI Annual Meeting on calendars and reviewed the Leadership Group responsibilities as well as discussed the new location at Solution Tree Learning Center in Des Moines, for the Oct 2025 meeting.

- **Update on Legislative Matters – Final 2025 Session & Interim Session Actions**

Buckton and Daughton discussed the DE Report to the Field circulated recently, the RSAI Call to Action on Federal Funds and contact information, and the group discussed issues around property taxes.

- **Update on TPRA Grant**

Buckton and Albers shared that the Spring 2025 reimbursement request has been submitted on behalf of the Cherokee Consortium and that WGU was working on pulling together information and possible resources for participants who will not have

finished their teaching degree by the time the TPRA 1.0 grant program concluded on 12/31/2025. Discussion ensued.

- **Updates from Leadership Group Members (anything to share with the group?)**
Leadership group members shared updates from their local area including a discussion around open positions and how districts were addressing those, competition for staff around compensation with private businesses, the North Iowa Consortium which facilitates sharing of staff, the deficit of college graduates going into education v. those retiring from education, declining numbers of applicants for not just teachers but also administrators.

VIII Other Business

No other business was brought up for discussion.

IX Upcoming Meeting Dates:

- August 13, 2025
- August 14 2025 – Legislative Committee
- August (TBD) 2025 – Bylaws Committee
- September 10, 2025
- October 9, 2025 – RSAI Annual Meeting & Leadership Group Organizational Meeting to follow
- October 13-16, 2025 – NREA Annual Meeting

X. Adjourn

The meeting concluded by unanimous consent at 11:58am.

Minutes respectfully submitted

Margaret Buckton, RSAI Professional Advocate, As of 7/21/2025