



RSAI Regional Meeting Agenda - SW Region

Exira-Elk Horn-Kimballton School, 4114 Madison Street, Elk Horn, IA 51531
Or Virtually via Zoom (contact jen@iowaschoolfinance.com for link to join/observe)
May 21, 2021 at 4pm

1. Approval of the Agenda
2. RSAI Overview and Processes
3. Election of RSAI Regional Representative to the Leadership Group.
Terms are specified in bylaws. Ongoing office is a 3-year term. No election this year for SW Region. Thanks to Paul Croghan!
4. Election of RSAI Legislative Committee representative for the SW Region (Annual Election). Thanks to Tim Mitchell, Riverside 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.*
 - a. Nominations
 - b. Election
5. 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.
6. Review of the 2021 Legislative Session and Data Supporting Key Issues Critical to RSAI members by Margaret Buckton, RSAI Professional Advocate
7. Establish SW Region's proposed RSAI Legislative Priorities for the upcoming Iowa Legislative Session to forward to the RSAI Legislative Committee (Requires simple majority vote)
8. Other Business
9. Adjourn

RSAI SW Region 3-year term expires Sept. 2022

Paul Croghan

RSAI NW Region 3-year term expires Sept. 2023

RSAI SE Region 3-year term expires Sept. 2023

RSAI NE Region 3-year term expires Sept. 2021

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

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



<http://www.rsaia.org/legislative.html>

2021 RSAI Legislative Priorities

Adequate School Resources: the increase in SSA should be no lower than anticipated growth in state revenue, not lower than 3.75% in FY 2022 due to abundant FY 2020 state surplus, maintain balanced state and local resources, be predictable, and assure adequate time for budget planning and staffing.

Assessing and Addressing Staff/Student Social, Emotional and Behavioral Health: access to funded mental health services for children and supports for staff. Address the shortage of mental health professionals and provide resources over the next two years for local districts to train school staff based on a local needs and community capacity to collaborate for a collective solution.

Educator Shortage and Quality Instruction: maximum flexibility to hire staff to provide great instruction, including several strategies to attract and retain quality staff; flexibility to meet offer and teach requirements, loan forgiveness programs, a special education generalist credential, creation of a Public Service CTE strand, hire retirees without IPERS impact, and elimination of barriers to licensure.

Formula and Transportation Equity: formula equity, closing the state and district per pupil gap within ten years and continued transportation equity support without burdensome reporting requirements.

Opportunity Equity: resources based on at-risk need, in addition to enrollment. All school boards should have 5% dropout prevention funding. School districts should be granted spending authority for FRPL waived fees and Iowa should study the impact of poverty on educational outcomes.

Sharing Incentives/Efficiencies: extension of Whole Grade Sharing, Reorganization and Operational Sharing Incentives. The 21-student cap should expand to allow access to any new flexibility.

Quality Preschool: funding of quality PK at the 1.0 per pupil cost and formula protections against budget and program impacts of PK enrollment swings (budget guarantee/on-time spending authority).

School Safety: school safety investments, including additional funding for security personnel and training to protect against emergency situations.

Bonding Capacity: a simple majority, 50% plus 1, voter approval for school bond issues and calculation of debt limit excluding debt backed by the SAVE.

Internet Connectivity and Access: expanded access to high-speed Internet for all Iowans including incentives, investments, and creative solutions to close the technology gap for students, businesses and community members in rural Iowa. Low income should not be a barrier to internet access.

Remote Learning and Instructional Time: local authority to determine when school should close, for emergency situations/safety, counting instructional time toward minimum instructional days or hours as long as engagement in virtual learning is required and needs of all students are anticipated and met.

Local School Board Authority: locally elected leaders closest to the community are in the best position to determine the interest of students, staff 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.