**RSAI Leadership Group Minutes**

**Jan. 11, 2017 Noon**

Noon via gotomeeting or at ISFIS 1201 63rd Street, Des Moines, IA 50311

**January RSAI Leadership Meeting**  
Wed, Jan 11, 2017 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM CST   
In attendance via gotomeeting: Bob Olson, Dan Smith, Dennis McClain, Lee Ann Grimley, Paul Croghan, Kevin Fiene, Jeff Herzberg, Jen Albers, Larry Sigel, Margaret Buckton.

**I        Call To Order** Olson called the meeting to order at 12:04.

**II       Approve Agenda** – Croghan moved approval of Agenda, Smith second. Motion approved unanimously.

**III      Approve Minutes of Dec. 8, 2016 Leadership Group**  McClain moved approval of Dec. 8 minutes. Smith Second. Motion approved unanimously.

**IV Membership Report, Monthly Financials, Annual Documents Update**  Fiene moved approval of November 30 financials and Reimbursement to ISFIS. Smith second. Motion approved unanimously. Albers will redistribute conflict of interest forms to those who have not yet signed. Buckton will send RSAI analysis of governor’s budget to leads.

**V      Mission Critical Actions**

* + RSAI Legislative Priorities video (use for advocacy and member recruiting) was discussed. Margaret explained plan for weekly short videos will provide legislative update.
  + Prefiled bills – Group discussion about RSAI registration and lobby strategy for SSB 1001 assessment. Group decided to support SBAC assessment, although defiantly preferring state funding, but support SBAC even if it is an unfunded mandate. Will require flexible use of categorical funds if the state doesn’t have an adequate appropriation. Other bills will be shared with the leadership group when assigned to committee.
  + Solar legislative changes that could benefit RSAI schools. Members discussed legislative changes necessary for schools to reap energy cost savings from solar energy. A few additions to the list were made and Buckton invited board members to email with additional thoughts. General consensus to support this line of legislation to promote flexibility and cost savings for rural schools.
  + Brainstorm flexibility and freedom from regulation issues. Discussed the political pros and cons of supporting flexibility. Several members expressed concerns that flexibility will be instead of adequate SSA. Buckton asked for input on suggested flexibility to lobby for regarding individual categorical fund balances.
  + Collective Bargaining and Chapter 20: range of likely activity and what should RSAI support? Herzberg shared document from last sups meeting on proposed changes. He said it was reported that changes were likely to happen quickly. Buckton proposed a values-based lens to evaluate RSAI legislative positions: does this idea help attract and retain great staff to rural school districts? This issue of staff pay and benefits relates to RSAI priority of rural teacher quality and shortages.
  + Class action lawsuit filed by Davenport attorney (not school district) regarding CCPP. Olson updated the group on the lawsuit which his focused on students, not schools. He will report back after talking to the attorney who might be looking for other plaintiffs around the state.
  + Schools with negative spending authority – target for RSAI membership with dues waived. (Probably need to include Davenport in the group for next year for continued membership.) Sigel reported we should have the list in a couple of weeks. Discussed various methods of contacting these districts and inviting them to join RSAI.
  + List of RSAI membership benefits local school districts. Buckton shared a list of RSAI benefits. Will email out to the leadership group members and get it posted on the RSAI site.

**VI      Meeting dates for 2016-17 year**

Feb. 8, 2017 (Wednesday) noon

Mar. 8, 2017 (Wednesday) noon

Apr. 6, 2017 (Thursday) noon

May 4, 2017 (Thursday) noon

June 8, 2017 (Thursday) noon

July – no LG meeting – Regional Meetings (dates and locations TBD)

Aug. 9, 2017 Legislative Group Meeting (at-large + legislative reps) at ISFIS

Aug. 11, 2017 (Friday) noon

Sept. 13, 2017 (Wednesday) noon

Oct Annual Meeting: TBD

**VII Other Business** Croghan moved adjournment, Smith second. Motion passed unanimously, meeting adjourned at 1:05.