



RSAI Regional Meeting Minutes - NW Region

April 5, 2022 at noon (following the AEA Superintendent's Meeting)

Prairie Lakes AEA in Pocahontas or via Zoom

Attendees:

Jeff Kruse, East Sac (non-members) and Ar-We-Va (non-members)
Joe Carter, Algona
Kevin Wood, Clay Central Everly, Laurens Marathon and Sioux Central
Tara Paul, Estherville Lincoln Central
Marshall Lewis, Graettinger Terrill and Ruthven Ayrshire
Justin Daggett, Manson Northwest Webster
Brian Johnson, Prairie Valley and Southeast Webster Grand
Stacey Cole, Storm Lake
Jeff Dicks, Newell Fonda (non-subscribers)
Susie Meade, Prairie Lakes AEA
Dana Schone, SAI
Pam Spangler, Iowa Department of Education
Margaret Buckton, RSAI
Dave Daughton, RSAI (via ZOOM)

Justin Daggett, Manson NW Webster CSD, convened the meeting at 12:21 pm.

1. Approval of the Agenda: *Brian Johnson moved approval of the agenda, second by Joe Carter. Vote was approved unanimously. As each attendee introduced themselves, they shared a highlight of rural schools.*
2. RSAI Overview and Processes: *Margaret Buckton shared an overview of RSAI including its mission and the history of the organization.*
3. RSAI Regional Representative to the Leadership Group. *No election this year for NW Region. Thanks to Justin Daggett!*
4. RSAI Regional Representative to the Legislative Committee. 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 2023 Session. Thanks to Brian Johnson, Prairie Valley CSD & Southeast Webster Grand CSD, for serving during the 2022 legislative session!

**RSAI NW Region 3-year term
expires Sept. 2023
(Justin Daggett)**

RSAI SE Region 3-year term
expires Sept. 2023
(Laurie Noll)

RSAI SW Region 3-year term
expires Sept. 2022
(Paul Croghan)

RSAI NE Region 3-year term
expires Sept. 2024
(Nick Trenkamp)

One at-large position
expires each Sept.
for election at the Annual
Meeting each October
(Dennis McClain)

Nominations: *Justin Daggett nominated Brian Johnson to continue on the Legislative Committee. Second by Tara Paul. No other nominations were brought forth. Brian Johnson was reappointed to the RSAI Legislative Committee by unanimous consent.*

Brian Johnson moved, Joe Carter seconded, that the Leadership Group appoint a representative from NW AEA to represent the region on the Legislative Group. Approved unanimously.

5. Review of the 2022 Legislative Session and Supporting Data by Margaret Buckton and Dave Daughton, RSAI Professional Advocates. *Margaret Buckton and Dave Daughton reviewed the legislative actions that have taken place thus far during the 2022 Session on each of RSAI's priorities. Discussion ensued.*
6. RSAI Priorities and Services Discussion. *RSAI members split into groups to review the Discussion Guide and prepare recommendations to RSAI leadership for 2022 legislative priorities. See compiled notes in the separate document.*
7. Vote on 2023 Legislative Priorities Recommendation from NW Region. Requires simple majority vote to forward recommendations on to the RSAI Legislative Committee. *Motion by Brian Johnson to forward the NW Regional Priorities Recommendations to the RSAI Legislative Committee. Second by Joe Carter. Motion approved unanimously.*
8. Other Business: *No other business was brought forth for discussion.*
9. Adjourn: *Motion to adjourn by Kevin Wood, second by Joe Carter. The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 pm by unanimous consent.*

Save the Date: 2022 RSAI Annual Meeting

Oct. 25, 2022 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



RSAI Regional Meeting 2022 (NW Region)

RSAI Legislative Priorities & Services Discussion

2022 Legislative Priorities:

	2022 RSAI Legislative Priority	Delete	Continue	Amend
1	Adequate School Resources: the increase in SSA should be no lower than 3.75% in FY 2023 due to abundant state surplus, maintain balanced state and local resources, be predictable, and assure adequate time for budget planning and staffing.		X	<i>Update for current year. Legis. Committee discuss %. Eliminate reference to surplus, use needs based rationale since surplus is considered "one-time" money.</i>
2	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.		X	<i>Strike IPERS unless we want to focus on bona fide retirement. Change law – perhaps allow teaching license at 20 instead of 21?</i>
3	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.		X	
4	Quality Preschool: funding of quality PK at the 1.0 per pupil cost for full time or prorated proportionally and formula protections against budget and program impacts of PK enrollment swings (budget guarantee/on-time spending authority).		X	<i>Use of general fund to expand PK programs. Relax rules for PK teacher to have an elementary certification, especially since we need sped teacher in small schools.</i>
5	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.		X	<i>Add local control language</i>

	2022 RSAI Legislative Priority	Delete	Continue	Amend
6	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. Weightings should be sufficient to encourage and support sharing opportunities.		X	<i>Expand the cap but maintain local control to decide (not SBRC process.)</i>
7	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.		X	<i>Note: We're not sure what this is or what we are asking for. Margaret: we use this direction to lobby for expanded MH professionals and to avoid unfunded mandates to deferral to school districts for things that shouldn't be an education responsibility.</i>
8	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.		X	
9	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.		X	

New Legislative Priorities for 2023:

- *Add to teacher shortage, the flexibility to have teachers teach a course for two different credits simultaneously (e.g., Ag in the classroom Finances for CTE credit and for math Credit – teacher can teach both but student picks one.)*
- *Also, allow elementary credentialed teachers to teach PK.*

Issues needing more information:

- *None*

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

- *Help with networking. Find experts among our membership will to help others in rural schools.*