

RSAI Leadership Group Minutes

September 10, 2025 at 12pm

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, Brent Jorth, Ron Lorenz and Barb Schwamman.

Staff Attendees: Margaret Buckton, Dave Daughton and Jen Albers

I Call to Order by Chair Bonjour

Bonjour called the meeting to order at 12:07 pm. A quorum of the board was present.

II Action on Agenda

Jorth moved and Schwamman seconded approval of the agenda. Approved unanimously.

III Action on Meeting Minutes

- Leadership Group from August 13, 2025
- Legislative Committee from August 14, 2025

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

IV Review Membership Report

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

V Report/Action on Financial Matters

- Action on the Monthly Financials

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

- Report on the Internal Audit by the Treasurer

Albers reported that the 2024-25 internal audit by Hissem is concluded and shared his memo that will be presented at the upcoming RSAI Annual Meeting.

VI Mission Critical Actions/Updates

- Report from the August 14th RSAI Legislative Committee Meeting

- Review RSAI 2026 Draft Legislative Priorities

Buckton reviewed the discussion items from the legislative committee meeting and the resulting draft 2026 legislative priorities to be presented to the membership at the annual meeting. Discussion ensued, including additional concerns about implementation timelines in recent legislative actions. The group requested Buckton expand on the local control priority language to highlight the distraction immediate implementation of new legislation causes without rules or guidance, as well as the importance to include school leaders in development of those rules and guidance.

- Action to establish a Workgroup to study the RSAI Mission, Vision, Values and Goals

Buckton shared the recommendation from the Legislative Committee that the Leadership Group establish a workgroup to study the Mission, Vision, Values and Goals. Lorenz, Bonjour and Schwamman volunteered to serve on that workgroup. Staff will pull the group together for discussion after the Annual Meeting.

- Discussion of RSAI Annual Meeting – October 9, 2025
 - [Invitation & Registration](https://www.rsaia.org/annual-meeting.html) - <https://www.rsaia.org/annual-meeting.html>
 - Agenda, Speaker & Leadership Responsibilities
 - At-Large Election (*Brent Jorth Term Appointment Expires Sept. 2025*)
 - Audit & Financial Report
 - Outreach & Recruitment
 - Leadership Group Meeting to Follow

Buckton reviewed the agenda for the upcoming Annual Meeting and responsibilities of the Leadership Group members. LG members were encouraged to invite their neighboring districts to attend. Discussion ensued.

- Update on Legislative Matters – Interim Session Actions

Buckton and Daughton walked through updates on various legislative matters, including: the DE Special Education Task Force, the DE Survey on a statewide Student Information Systems, the DE Proposed Iowa Uniform Allocation Plan, and ISFIS's Memo to the SBRC on UAB. The group also discussed staff shortages and sharing with legislators how they are addressing these staff shortages in ways other than promoting open positions on Teach Iowa and the implications for local districts and students.
- Update on TPRA Grant

No update on TPRA at this meeting.
- Updates from Leadership Group Members (anything to share with the group?)

Leadership group members shared updates and discussed other topics including: how to quantify the number of new rules/mandates and related appeals and the distraction this causes to the work of school leaders with students; the number of superintendents in Iowa that are sharing at two or three districts; the growing shortage around principals; the lack of direct educational experience by staff at the DE and the impact that could have on developing rules and guidance; COSA data requests, and recent visits by Director Snow to the various AEA Superintendent Meetings.

VII Other Business

The group discussed a likely change to Leadership Group meeting dates for the upcoming cycle, away from the second Wednesday of the month to allow for those who serve on both RSAI and SAI leadership to have fewer conflicts. Staff will circulate some options for input.

No other business was brought up for discussion

VIII Upcoming Meeting Dates:

- October 9, 2025 – RSAI Annual Meeting & Leadership Group Organizational Meeting to follow
- October 13-16, 2025 – NREA Annual Conference

IX. Adjourn

The meeting concluded by unanimous consent at 1:17pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted

Margaret Buckton, RSAI Professional Advocate, As of 9/10/2025