



## **RSAI Leadership Group Organizational Meeting Notes November 8, 2023 at 12 pm**

Via Zoom or at ISFIS 1201 63<sup>rd</sup> Street, Des Moines, IA 50311  
(Contact [jen@iowaschoolfinance.com](mailto:jen@iowaschoolfinance.com) for Zoom link)

**Leadership Group Attendees:** Paul Croghan (Chair), Scott Williamson (Vice-Chair). AEA representative – Jason Plourde.

### **Call to Order by Chair Croghan**

*Croghan called the meeting to order at 12:04 pm. A quorum was not present, therefore, no action took place during this discussion.*

### **Priority Language in Support of AEA's**

*Buckton shared the draft priority language (below) in support of the AEA's for feedback from those in attendance. Discussion ensued around the need to finalize this language ahead of the next scheduled RSAI Leadership Group meeting. Staff will share language via email for feedback and an electronic vote.*

*Iowa schools are critically reliant on Iowa's Area Education Agencies (AEAs), rural schools in particular, not only for special education services to students and training and support to staff, but also for instructional and media services. In many instances, if it wasn't for the AEAs, rural schools would not be able to find or afford specialists to meet student needs or assist staff with the curriculum and materials necessary for student learning. In addition, the economies of scale of the AEAs provide savings which schools would not otherwise be able to achieve. The AEAs also provide many needed services for schools, just to name a few: emergency support when a district loses a superintendent or school business official mid-year, virtual learning content, printing of materials at affordable fees, training when districts undertake new instructional math or literacy initiatives, crisis/emergency supports and mental health services, among many others. The Legislature should work closely with schools and AEAs in updating expectations and changing the funding or structure of AEA services, in order to fully understand the impact on students and schools before any changes are made that will negatively impact services to rural students, schools, and communities.*

### **Subsequent Action on Priority Language in Support of AEA's**

*Following the meeting, the proposed priority language above was circulated via email to the Leadership Group. A motion was made via email by Dan Maeder to approve the priority language as circulated. Second by Justin Daggett. Votes to approve the priority language as written are below and approved unanimously.*

Yes - Paul Croghan (Chair)  
Yes - Scott Williamson (Vice-Chair)  
Yes - Dan Peterson (Secretary/Treasurer)  
Yes - Justin Daggett  
Yes - Brent Jorth  
Yes - Dan Maeder  
Yes - Nick Trenkamp

*Notes respectfully submitted*

*Margaret Buckton, RSAI Professional Advocate, As of 12/08/2023*