

## **RSAI Legislative Group Meeting Agenda**

**August 18, 2015**

**10:30 – 2:30, ISFIS Office**

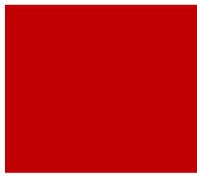
**1201 63<sup>rd</sup> Street, Des Moines, IA 50322**

### **Group Members in attendance:**

Dennis Phelps (Tri-county and Pekin)  
Tara Paul (Estherville-Lincoln Central)  
Willie Stone (Villisca and Corning)  
Nick Trencamp (Central)  
Kevin Fiene (I-35)  
Brian Rodenberg (Midland)

Staff: Margaret Buckton, Larry Sigel

1. Approve agenda (Fiene moved, Stone second, all voted aye)
2. Legislative news: Reviewed priorities from the 2015 session, particularly transportation, PPEL flexibility, at-risk flexibility. Also talked about the state BOE rulemaking on SBAC, the interim committee on equity which specifically mentions transportation, poverty and formula equity. Larry reviewed the commercial industrial property tax phase in and impact on the revenues. Also discussed the impact of poor agricultural economy on school budget.
3. Review RSAI Key Values document: Suggested changes will be forwarded to the Leadership Group for their approval. Paul moved, Phelps seconded, approved unanimously.
4. Report of RSAI District Meetings – reviewed all resolutions and categorized into whether they were core values, priorities, things that need to be communicated to legislators, or if they fall into some other category. #2 & #7 (ICC standards, assessment and tech) was added as a new priority. #4 (dropout prevention disparity ceiling) was included in funding and flexibility for at-risk students.
5. Set priorities to recommend to Leadership Board and Annual Meeting: Phelps moved and Stone seconded, the group unanimously approved the following platform of legislative priorities:



- **Transportation Equity:** Supports a mechanism that covers school transportation costs with state and/or local funding that does not unreasonably disadvantage property tax payers in property poor districts or compete with general funds otherwise spent on providing education to students.
  - **Funding and Flexibility for At-risk Students:** Resources for serving at-risk students should be based on need, such as the number/percentage of students eligible for Free and Reduced Price Lunch, rather than enrollment of the district. The current disparity in dropout prevention capacity ceiling, with some districts held to 2.5% and others allowed to access up to 5% of regular program district cost is unfair, arbitrary, and based on old history no longer relevant to supporting student needs. Districts should be given flexibility in determining the expenditure of at-risk resources to support students to graduate college/career ready for success.
  - **State Supplemental Assistance 6%:** RSAI supports a goal to get Iowa's investment in education to the national average. Iowa was \$1,612 per pupil below the USA average level of expenditure in FY 2014. Funding per pupil for the 2015-16 school year was both too low and too late in the 2015 Session. Funding for the 2016-17 school year must be determined ASAP as the 2016 Session convenes and set at an adequate level, no lower than 6%. Per Iowa law, funding for the 2017-18 school year must be set within 30 days of the Governor's budget announcement in the 2015 Session although RSAI would support changing the timing mandate to allow the legislature access to the March REC estimate to set the out year per pupil level. RSAI supports a per pupil increase for 2017-18 no lower than 6%.
  - **Operational Sharing Incentives:** Opportunities to achieve efficiencies, share capacity to operate, and redirect resources to educational programs, should be maintained and expanded to provide additional capacity to school districts to improve educational outcomes for students.
  - **State Penny for School Infrastructure Extension:** RSAI calls on the Iowa Legislature to repeal the sunset of the state penny for school infrastructure.
  - **Standards, Assessment and Technology:** RSAI supports the Iowa Core Content Standards, including an aligned assessment and supports for the technology and bandwidth required to adequately administer the assessment.
6. Information and supports needed? Home school threshold for participation in activities. Other states open enrollment policies. RSAI legislative group responsibilities. Advocacy army building plan.
  7. Select Leadership roles for priorities: Willie and Dennis on transportation, Brian and Nick on Sales Tax extension
  8. Adjourn