**RSAI Regional Meeting Minutes - SW Region**

Exira-Elk Horn-Kimballton School, 4114 Madison Street, Elk Horn, IA 51531

Or Virtually via Zoom (contact [jen@iowaschoolfinance.com](mailto:jen@iowaschoolfinance.com) for link to join/observe)

May 21, 2021 at 4pm

*6 Member districts and 0 Non-Member districts were represented at the meeting.*

**RSAI SW Region 3-year term expires Sept. 2022**

**Paul Croghan**

RSAI NW Region 3-year term expires Sept. 2023

RSAI SE Region 3-year term expires Sept. 2023

RSAI NE Region 3-year term expires Sept. 2021

One At-large position expires Sept 2021 (Dan Peterson, Central DeWitt CSD) elected at the Annual Meeting in October.

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| **RSAI Member** | **District** | **Attendee** |
| Yes | Adair Casey CSD | Dennis McClain |
| Yes | Exira-EHK CSD | Trevor Miller |
| Yes | Guthrie Center CSD | Dennis McClain |
| Yes | IKM Manning CSD | Trevor Miller |
| Yes | Nodaway Valley CSD | Paul Croghan |
| Yes | Riverside CSD | Tim Mitchell |
|  | RSAI | Margaret Buckton |
|  | RSAI | Jen Albers |
|  | RSAI | Dave Daughton |

*Paul Croghan, CAM CSD & Nodaway Valley CSD, convened the meeting at 4:06 pm.*

1. Approval of the Agenda & Introductions: *Tim Mitchell moved approval of the agenda. Trevor Miller seconded. Vote was approved unanimously.*
2. RSAI Overview and Processes: *Margaret Buckton shared an overview of RSAI including its mission and the history of the organization.*
3. Election of RSAI Regional Representative to the Leadership Group. *Current term expires in 2022, so no election this year. Thanks to Paul Croghan for serving.*
4. Election of RSAI Legislative Committee representative for the SW Region (Annual Election). Thanks to Tim Mitchell, Riverside CSD, for serving during the 2021 legislative session! *Representative attends Legislative Committee Meeting in Des Moines during August, attends the Annual Meeting in Ankeny during October, and supports legislative advocacy efforts during the 2022 Session.*

Nominations: *Trevor Miller nominated Tim Mitchell to continue on the Legislative Committee if he was willing to serve. Second by Dennis McClain. Tim Mitchell expressed his interest in continuing on*

*the Legislative Committee. No other nominations were brought forth. Tim Mitchell was reappointed to the RSAI Legislative Committee by unanimous consent.*

1. Consideration of Proposed Amendments to RSAI Bylaws (Requires 2/3 majority vote). Discuss pros and cons of expanded Legislative Committee member appointments by region and goal of one member per AEA: *The group discussed and approved of the collaboration between RSAI & the AEAs. Participants wish to expand opportunities for leadership and grow RSAI membership, and expressed support for the idea of expanding the Legislative Committee as proposed. The group recommend by unanimous consent to move forward the proposed RSAI Bylaws amendments to the Legislative Committee for consideration.*
2. Review of the 2021 Legislative Session and Data Supporting Key Issues Critical to RSAI member districts. *Margaret Buckton, ISFIS, reviewed the legislative actions that have taken place thus far during the 2021 Session on each of RSAI’s priorities.*
3. Establish SW Region’s proposed RSAI Legislative Priorities for the upcoming Iowa Legislative Session to forward to the RSAI Legislative Committee: *The group considered the 2021 platform and discussion of changes. A motion was made by Trevor Miller and seconded by Tim Mitchell to recommend the following to the Legislative Committee. Vote was approved unanimously.*

* *2021 Priorities to Continue: Adequate School Resources; Assessing and Addressing Staff/Student Social, Emotional and Behavioral Health; Educator Shortage and Quality Instruction; Formula and Transportation Equity; Opportunity Equity; Sharing Incentives/Efficiencies; Quality Preschool; School Safety; Bonding Capacity; Internet Connectivity and Access; Remote Learning and Instructional Time; Local School Board Authority.*
* *Make Local School Board Authority the top priority, followed by Adequate School Resources and Educator Shortage and Quality Instruction, as the top three items.*
* *Revise Formula and Transportation Equity to remove the Transportation Equity portion.*
* *For Sharing Incentives/Efficiencies, expand to include Tech Directors and other positions.*

1. Other Business: *Other items discussed include the following topics:*

* *Ensure RSAI is involved in the rule making specifics resulting from the 2021 Session.*
* *RSAI Leadership Group should consider if it’s appropriate to send a letter to the Governor requesting extension of continuity of services.*
* *ESSER Funding challenges, including the request by staff to report any denied reimbursement requests.*
* *General consensus that public education is really taking a hit with the legislature so we need more people involved in telling the good things happening in schools. RSAI should encourage more districts, more board members, more parent groups and stakeholders to engage with legislators and the Governor around public education.*
* *If each RSAI district identified 2-3 parents or staff advocates within each building in their district and created a parent/advocacy group, we could help drive those messages.*
* *Need to continue building partnerships with other advocacy organizations (not just educational advocacy organizations) around the importance of funding public education.*
* *Suggested an additional meeting of the Legislative Committee after the Annual Meeting and before the Legislative Session, in November/December/January, to collaborate and strategize.*
* *We need to thank legislators but also make sure they understand the impact of some of the legislative actions that took place during 2021 Session. Help them understand the action and the effect of the action on students/districts/communities.*

1. Adjourn: *Motion to adjourn by Tim Mitchell, second by Trevor Miller. The meeting was adjourned at 5:16pm by unanimous consent.*

**Save the date: 2021 RSAI Annual Meeting**

Oct. 26, 2021 4:30-7:30PM (includes working dinner)

FFA Enrichment Center (DMACC Campus)

1055 SW Prairie Trail Parkway, Ankeny, Iowa 50023   
(or virtual via Zoom)

Conduct annual business, set Legislative Priorities, and plan for successful advocacy