



RSAl Leadership Group Minutes

August 13, 2025 at 12 pm

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), Jeremy Hissem (Secretary/Treasurer), 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 12:02 pm. A quorum of the board was present.

II Action on Agenda

Hissem moved and Lorenz seconded approval of the agenda. Approved unanimously.

III Action on Meeting Minutes

- Leadership Group Meeting from July 21, 2025
- Bylaws Committee Meeting from July 31, 2025

Hissem moved and Jorth 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 July 31, 2025 and bill pay listing. Discussion ensued. Lorenz moved and Williamson seconded approval of the financial statements and bill pay list as presented. Approved unanimously.
- Report on the 2025 Session Lobby Report Filing
Buckton reported and shared the 2025 Legislative Session Lobby Report filed and explained the allocation of expenses for lobbying and other support services provided by ISFIS.
- Report on the status of the Internal Audit by the Treasurer
Albers reported that the 2024-25 internal audit by Hissem is underway and will be completed ahead of the reporting deadline for the Annual Meeting.

VI Mission Critical Actions/Updates

- Report of the Bylaws Committee (Bonjour, Hissem, Lorenz and Williamson)
Buckton recapped the activities and discussion from the August RSAl Bylaws Committee meeting, and members shared their reflections. Discussion ensued.

- Discussion of RSAI Legislative Committee 2025-26 – Meeting August 14th
 - Action on NE Grant Wood AEA Appointment: Autumn Pino, Springville CSD & Lisbon CSD
Schwamman moved appointment of Autumn Pino from Springville CSD and Lisbon CSD as the Legislative Committee representative for Grant Wood AEA in the NE Region. Seconded by Jorth. Approved unanimously.
 - Results from the Legislative Issues Survey
Buckton reviewed the responses compiled from the RSAI Legislative Issues Survey of the membership conducted this summer, which is one of many pieces of information available to inform the Legislative Committee as they work on priorities for the 2026 Session. Discussion ensued around topics including how to determine what is most important from among the priorities; coalition building among those in the education field and among community leaders; concerns around possible changes from the legislature to IPERS and performance-based pay as suggested by Iowa's DOGE committee; flexibility; and effective language and legislative strategy.
- Discussion of RSAI Annual Meeting – October 9, 2025
 - [Invitation](https://www.rsaia.org/annual-meeting.html) & [Registration](https://www.rsaia.org/annual-meeting.html) - <https://www.rsaia.org/annual-meeting.html>
 - Leadership Group Responsibilities
Buckton reminded the group to save the date for the Annual Meeting, reviewed the responsibilities of the Leadership Group members around attendance, recruiting, and activities during the meeting, as well as shared that the National Rural Education Association (NREA) new Executive Director will be an outside speaker this year. There will be the Leadership Group's October board meeting (organizational meeting and short agenda) immediately following the Annual Meeting. Discussion ensued.
- Update on Legislative Matters – Interim Session Actions
Buckton walked through a number of updates on legislative matters which were included in the packet, including: RSAI's Call to Action on federal funding; proposed changes to Perkins Funding and the split of community college/K12 funding; those individuals currently running for Governor in Iowa; a couple of studies and resources on property tax reform in Iowa; AASA legislative resource info with impactful language; and details of those currently running for Congressional House and Senate seats.
- Discussion of Iowa Perkins Plan Funding Fix Changes for School Districts and Community Colleges - Contact the State Board of Education
Buckton requested the group review the information in the packet and share input and impact on local districts around this topic.
- 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 from their local area including a discussion around the DE Special Education Expenditures presentation to schools earlier today, as well as the DE update at SAI Conference last week.

VII Other Business

No other business was brought up for discussion

VIII Upcoming Meeting Dates:

- August 14 2025 – Legislative Committee
- September 10, 2025
- October 9, 2025 – RSAI Annual Meeting & Leadership Group Organizational Meeting to follow
- October 13-16, 2025 – NREA Annual Meeting

IX. Adjourn

The meeting concluded by unanimous consent at 1:16pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted

Margaret Buckton, RSAI Professional Advocate, As of 8/13/2025