

**ISOA Executive Board Meeting
September 7, 2022
Minutes**

Present

Dansville	Mike Kapp	Stockbridge	Keven Numinen
East Lansing	Monica Fink	Waverly	Mary Ann Martin
Haslett	Cammy Wheeler	Williamston	Sarah Belanger
Holt	Rob Halgren		
Holt	David Hornak		
Ingham ISD	Jason Mellema		
Mason	Michael Kelly		
Lansing	Nino Rodriguez		
Okemos	Melanie Lynn		

Absent

Ingham ISD	John Wolenberg
Leslie	Mary Crowl
Webberville	Amy Coe

President Melanie Lynn called the meeting to order at 8:05 am.

MASB Legislative Update

De’Shondria Bedenfield, MASB Assistant Director of Government Relations, gave an update on legislative issues.

The legislature is currently on summer recess. Waiting to see if there will be a supplemental budget but it does not appear likely. There is seven billion dollars in surplus funds, but they would like to reserve that money due to unknown inflation costs. This means that the tax breaks which were discussed are on hold for now.

Ballot Initiatives:

[Raise the Wage](#)

The goal is to raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour by 2024. The initiative is currently with the State Board of Canvassers. The group missed the June 1 deadline to submit so it would go to the 2024 ballot.

[MI for Fair Lending](#)

This would cap payday loan interest rates. There were not enough signatures on the petitions so they will have to restart.

[Secure MI Vote](#)

This would enact strict voter ID rules. Currently with the State Board of Canvassers and waiting to be approved.

[Promote the Vote](#)

To preserve and protect voting rights in Michigan and make voting a right in the constitution. The State Board of Canvassers denied for the November ballot. It has been moved to the Michigan Supreme Court who have until Friday, September 9 to approve or deny.

Ingham School Officers Association

[Reproductive Freedom for All](#) Provide access to a broad range of reproductive health care, including abortion. This is currently going through the courts and not approved for November ballot.

[Let My Kids Learn](#) This is the school voucher initiative that establishes a tax credit to fund scholarships to cover educational expenses, including private school tuition. They are waiting for approval from the Michigan Bureau of Elections and the State Board of Canvassers before it advances to the Legislature.

[For My Kids](#) and MASB are against this proposal. There is a MASB board resolution for local school boards to pass that is against the voucher initiative. The resolution has been updated to say that if the Let My Kids Learn initiative goes before the legislature that they will reject it. If a local board has already passed the resolution in its previous form, it does not have to be passed again. All completed resolutions should be emailed to [MASB](#).

Current polling shows that Governor Whitmer is ahead of Tudor Dixon. Polling also shows the possibility of the House going to the Democrats. The Senate and Congressional seats are still unknown especially with redistricting.

Upcoming MASB Events:

- MASB Legislative Priority Setting Meetings – September/October – [In Person](#)
- Election Forecast and What it Means for Our Schools – September 20 – [Webinar](#)
- Members Matter – September 21 - [Webinar](#)

Superintendents' Round Table Update

Dr. David Hornak, Holt Public Schools Superintendent, provided an update from the August 4 superintendent meeting:

- Legislative Update – Section 81 language was passed into law which states that Public School Academies must be included in all ISD events/meetings. Ongoing discussion on this issue.
- Debrief of the recent School Safety Roundtable – This was a countywide meeting that included legislators, school leaders and law enforcement. A follow up meeting will be held in November.
- Guest speakers from MSU - Mark Largent, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education and Dean of Undergraduate Studies, and Janet Lillie, Assistant VP for Community Relations discussed changes to the MSU teacher education program. This change will reduce their five-year teacher education program down to four years – three years of coursework and one year of student teaching. In addition, student teachers and mentor teachers will be paid a stipend from the state. The need for more mental health professionals in the pipeline for students and staff was also addressed.
- A Special Education update was given.
- Recommitted to the Mid-Michigan Literacy Impact Network (MMLIN) – This is the Reading Now Network work that was started before Covid and works to improve literacy.

Ingham School Officers Association

There was discussion on the teacher shortage in Michigan. The shortage is not from a lack of certified teachers, but certified teachers who are no longer teaching/left the profession. People are choosing to not be in education due to a variety of reasons; pay, respect given the profession, the political climate etc.

Challenge given to ISOA members – To start a process of supporting and valuing educators monthly in local papers and advertising. Help educators feel valued, appreciated and the education field supported.

Legislative Candidate Breakfast Forum

The ISOA Legislative Candidate Breakfast Forum will be held on Wednesday, October 5 at the Okemos Event Center, 2187 University Park Drive, Okemos. This is an event that ISOA hosts during election years. The Michigan House of Representatives and Michigan Senate candidates from the Ingham ISD service area are invited to the meeting for breakfast and a question-and-answer period focused on educational issues. It is always a well-attended and informative event that allows board members to learn more about the candidates running to represent their districts.

Invitations have been mailed to all board members, superintendents, and legislators. Additional invitations will be sent to your district for ISOA board members to hand out to fellow board members. Please remember to RSVP to the event by emailing bweathers@inghamisd.org

District Updates

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| Lansing | School started August 25. The football field was dedicated to the former Eastern High School coach, Gil Saucedo. During construction of Mt. Hope school, students will be located at the former Woodcreek school. The changes in transportation for high school students went well. Open house was well attended. |
| Holt | Off to a good start to the school year. Bond work is getting done but experiencing work cost increases and delays in deliveries. |
| Williamston | Staff opening day was on August 16 and all new staff were introduced. Open house is scheduled for students and parents. NWA testing going on in buildings. |
| Stockbridge | The education foundation held an ice cream social for staff. The district has started a new alternative education program. The high school has moved from a block schedule to a six-period day. |
| Waverly | Bond work continues but cuts have been made due to cost increases. Open houses were held. Nice to have these events in person again post-covid. |
| Haslett | Great start to the school year. The district had many retirees which means a lot of new hires, but all is going well. |
| Okemos | Going well at Okemos. Interested in the challenge to promote public education and our educators. This will be a discussion item at a future ISOA meeting. |