

**ISOA Executive Board Meeting
May 3, 2023
Minutes**

Present

Ingham ISD Jason Mellema
Ingham ISD John Wolenberg
Lansing Nino Rodriguez
Leslie Dominic Ambroggio
Okemos Jayme Taylor
Williamston Sarah Belanger
Waverly Alicia Guevara Warren

Absent

Dansville Mike Kapp
East Lansing Monica Fink
Haslett Monica Del Castillo
Holt Rob Halgren
Mason Michael Kelly
Webberville Amy Coe
Stockbridge Keven Numinen

Sarah Belanger, ISOA President, called the meeting to order at 8:06 am.

Superintendents' Round Table Update

Jason Mellema, Ingham ISD Superintendent, gave an update from the April Round Table meeting:

- The meeting was hosted by Leslie Public Schools and took place at Leslie High School.
- Highlighted - the Dansville STEAM [scenario room](#) and [Regional Teacher](#) of the Year – Nicole Minor, Lansing Eastern HS Math Teacher.
- Continued discussion on the importance of preschool inclusion classrooms.
- School safety discussion – The ISD, with interested districts, will partner with Secure Education Consultants (SEC) to create a countywide plan of support for security/school safety issues. Work will include tabletop safety exercises, administrator training and work on Emergency Operation Plans (EOP).
- Special education funding – The superintendent sub-committee focused on special education finance has begun work on updating the SE funding system for the ISD service area. Next steps include reviewing SE funding systems from like sized ISDs.
- Talent Together – A collaboration of 48 ISDs and nine colleges/universities who have come together to address the teacher shortage issue.
 - Talent Together is a federally registered apprenticeship program.
 - Current district staff members with a desire to become teachers are encouraged to apply.
 - Following an interview, and with a letter of recommendation from their district. accepted candidates would have all college coursework expenses paid.
 - They would continue to work in their school district as they work on their coursework. Classes would be offered at night and online to accommodate working schedules.
 - The application for the program is live, with the first cohort set for the fall of 2023.
 - Complete information is available on the [Talent Together](#) website.

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Ingham ISD Budget Presentation

The Ingham ISD General Education Budget was presented. Districts have until June 1 to return their support/non-support budget resolutions to the ISD.

District Updates

- Leslie The district recently held an awards banquet for several of the athletic teams - had a great turnout from the community/parents. The top ten high school students will be honored today at a luncheon. The facility upgrades are ongoing.
- Waverly The district celebrated reading month with several board members reading/visiting in classrooms. The bond work is ongoing. Recently had a ribbon cutting, in conjunction with Delta Township, for the community pool facility. Baseball fields are open and work on the softball field continues. Getting ready for graduation, prom, and all the end of the school year activities.
- Okemos The board continued the discussion on start times which included a sleep studies presentation from a professor at MSU. Results from a community survey indicate support for start time changes. The annual spaghetti dinner fundraiser, which supports K-12 student musicians, had a huge turnout. There was a successful student led drive to place feminine products in all MS bathrooms. Community forum held on the potential of adding a school resource officer. Jason Russell from SEC led an active crisis response workshop which was well received by staff. The board had a presentation from the FBI on “sextortion” which will be presented to HS students. Early childhood presentation on preschool inclusion in GE classrooms.
- Lansing The Regional Teacher of the Year video was shown at the last board meeting. Several banquets celebrating student successes have taken place as the school year winds down. The board had a presentation from the Everett Robotics Team - they demonstrated their robot which was used in a recent competition. The bond work continues. Celebrations for staff who have been with the district for five, ten and twenty-five or more years. Suggestion that ISOA sponsors a breakfast event with legislators every year, not only during election years, to build relationships and discuss education related issues.
- ISD The Wilson Talent Center Student Showcase is on May 11. This is a student-led event where the students present what they have been working on during the school year. There will be a car show on June 10 at the WTC.
- Williamston The recent art festival had an attendance of over one thousand people. The festival also included musical art with band and choir performances. Students and teachers are preparing for the M-STEP and NWEA testing. The new playground in the preschool area is a hit with students. The PTSA ice cream social will take place on May 4. This will be the first one post covid. “Be Nice” games are scheduled for the soccer and track teams. Teacher appreciation events next week. Graduation is June 4.

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Reminders:

- ISOA board members will receive an end of the year survey via email. The survey will seek input regarding the meeting format and speaker topics for 2023-24. Surveys need to be completed by May 31.
- Schools Cannot Do it Alone - Author Jamie Vollmer will be speaking on October 2 at Holt High School. This engagement is open to all superintendents, board members and community members. More information will be available as the event nears, please inform your board and plan to attend in October 2023.

2023-24 Meeting Schedule

September 6, 2023
October 4, 2023
November 1, 2023
December 6, 2023
January – No Meeting
February 7, 2024
March 6, 2024
April – No Meeting
May 1, 2024

