

Ingham School Officers Association

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ISOA Executive Board Meeting May 6, 2026 Minutes

Present

East Lansing	Abbie Tykocki
Holt	Matea Caluk
Ingham ISD	Jason Mellema
Ingham ISD	John Wolenberg
Lansing	Cirea Strode
Leslie	Eric Isham
Mason	Lacy Harding
Okemos	Leeni Shrestha

Webberville	Joshua Rockey
Williamston	Sarah Belanger

Absent

Dansville	Dave Lilly
Haslett	Amy Clark
Stockbridge	Carrie Graham
Waverly	Alicia Guevara

Ingham ISD General Fund Budget Review

Jason Mellema reviewed the 2026-27 Ingham ISD Proposed General Fund Budget with the ISOA representatives. The proposed budget includes approximately \$60.1 million in revenue and \$59.2 million in expenditures, with projected excess revenue of approximately \$835,000.

- Conservative proposed budget at the ISD.
- Revenue projected to decrease slightly from 25-26 due to reduced early childhood grant funding. The proposed budget also reflects continued uncertainty related to state funding.
- Reviewed programs and services supported through the General Fund, including early childhood programs, instructional and mental health supports, the regional substitute system, date/software/AI Initiatives, technology, transportation and business services.
 - Reviewed the new system for playgroup registration.
 - Mental Health referrals have grown significantly across all 12 local districts.
 - There are many director groups that meet regularly that your district has access to regarding AI.
 - Current substitute system is only K-12. There is a possible need to expand into GSRP considering the growth of that program as we look to the future.

Programs and services Supported:

- Early College – Possible reimbursement for Dual Enrollment in the State Budget
- Early Childhood Programs (GPGS, GSRP, EC)
- Data, Software & Analysis – Data, AI, Student Software, DSA, Student Data and Assessment
- Other: StarNET, Transportation, Tech Services, Business Services

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Jason discussed the historical use of School Aid Fund revenue to support higher education, noting that this practice has increased since 2009 and totals approximately \$11 billion. He shared that approximately \$1.3 billion was directed to higher education last year and that the Governor's current proposal would increase that amount to approximately \$1.8 billion.

The issue continues to be a significant topic in current state budget and candidate discussions.

Superintendents' Round Table Update

Jason Mellema provided an update from April 29, 2026, Round Table Meeting, including:

- Met at the Wharton Center for the Arts Breakfast
- Conversation on Truancy and while it is typically directed towards students we are noticing an increase in Adult/Staff absentee rates increasing too.
- Hannah Sweeney, CARES Collaborative Director, came and gave an overview
- Thank you for your advocacy, conversations, and community connections throughout the Bond campaign.

District Updates

East Lansing – experienced two swatting incidents in the last week, creating concerns for staff and students, particularly as one call was made directly to the school. A staff meeting was held this morning (May 6) to review the response and identify opportunities to strengthen procedures moving forward.

Holt – Successful in hiring Hal Heard III who will begin in early July. Dr. Hornak will remain through December to assist with the transition and onboarding process.

Lansing – A shooting occurred on school property last week; thankfully, no injuries were reported. Interim Superintendent Jessica Benevides hosted a town hall meeting to help communicate the district's vision for the district. Sexton High School implemented a new program providing 500 cell phone pouches to help keep phones secure during the school day. Lansing also announced a reduction of 60 positions for the 2026-27 school year.

Leslie – Shared several exciting student opportunities and accomplishments, including student performances in New York, an upcoming international trip to Germany next spring, and a student winning the Sheriff's Art Competition. A teacher also developed an aquaponics project involving plants, fish, and ducks. The district continues utilizing the BridgeCare App, with data showing strong and repeated student engagement.

Mason – Hosted a successful Art night. The district also managed several recent medical emergencies, with staff and students responding appropriately and supportively.

Okemos – No update provided.

Webberville – No update provided.

Williamston – Held a groundbreaking for new grades 3-5 building on May 5, with an anticipated opening in fall of 2027. The district also hosted a successful PreK–12 Art Fest last week, drawing more than 1,000 attendees for the art show, choir, and band performances. A small student group performed *Mouse Trap*,

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which was very well received. A reminder shared about the importance of checking in with staff and buildings during May, which can be an especially busy time of year.

Ingham ISD – Bond proposal passed successfully. The Wilson Talent Center Student Showcase was held May 7.

2026-27 ISOA Meetings

September 2, 2026 - Virtual

October 7, 2026 – Legislative Breakfast

November 4, 2026 – Tour

December 2, 2026

January – No meeting

February 3, 2027

March 3, 2027

April – Mo meeting

May 5, 2027

