

**ISOA Executive Board Meeting
February 5, 2020
Minutes**

Present

Haslett Cammy Wheeler
Ingham ISD Jason Mellema
Ingham ISD John Wolenberg
Leslie Mary Crowl
Okemos Dean Bolton
Stockbridge Larry Ostrander
Waverly Mary Ann Martin
Webberville Amy Coe
Williamston Jeff West

Absent

Dansville Mike Kapp
East Lansing Nichole Martin
Lansing Nino Rodriguez
Holt Laura Colligan
Mason Michael Kelly

ISOA Annual Review of By-laws, Election of Officers

Dean Bolton led a review of the by-laws. If there are questions about the by-laws, please bring them to the March meeting. The floor was then opened for nominations for President, Vice-President and Secretary/Treasurer.

Cammy Wheeler, supported by Amy Coe, moved the nomination slate of Dean Bolton for President, Jeff West, for Vice President and Mary Ann Martin, for Secretary/Treasurer as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Superintendents' Round Table Debrief

Jason Mellema, Ingham ISD Superintendent, reviewed the January Superintendents' Round Table meeting:

- Headlee Restoration Millage – Discussion of additional information regarding the March 10, 2020 vote.
- Literacy Update – Leadership from all the districts have been participating in instructional rounds.
- Discussion on the process for the Good Cause Exemptions for the Third Grade Reading Law.
- MSU presentation from Janet Lillie, MSU Assistant VP for Community Relations and Mark Largent, MSU Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education and Dean of Undergraduate Studies. The presentation was on the collaborative vision to reshape the institution to better support undergraduate student learning and success.
- School Safety Letter – A collaborative letter from the district superintendents, the Ingham County Prosecutor and law enforcement that will be sent out to all families within the Ingham ISD service area.
- Also discussed were the changes to district provided professional development requirements and the Michigan Kindergarten Entry Observation, Kindergarten Readiness Assessment.

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MASB – Grassroots Advocacy

De'Shondria Bedenfield, MASB Policy Analyst-Grassroots Coordinator

The [MASB Grassroots Advocacy](#) program is for board and community members who want to learn techniques related to involvement in education policy and having a voice in state politics. The goals for the program include:

- Increasing awareness surrounding K-12 public education policies.
- Strengthening members' advocacy efforts in their community and within the Legislature.
- Creating and/or strengthening board member relationships with legislators.
- Building regional district coalitions through grassroots networking with community members.

Upon invitation from a district board, De'Shondria leads local board and community members through two workshops.

- First Workshop (Building Phase) – This would include the board members and administrators. The group would walk through how to be engaged in policy and how to voice opinions to politicians. The workshop would also review how to recruit parents, community members, chamber groups and business members for inclusion in the group.
- Second Workshop (Whole Group Work) – This workshop would include the recruited community members Et al., in addition to the administration and board members, and would be focused on interactive work, policy strategy and personal action items.

For more information, contact De'Shondria Bedenfield at: dbedenfield@masb.org

MASB – Legislative Update

Jennifer Smith, Director of Government Relations

Jennifer Smith gave a brief update from her recent trip to Washing D.C. for the [National School Boards Association's Advocacy Institute](#). The institute had over 800 board members from across the country.

Senator Debbie Stabenow talked to the group about “being loud” and talking to legislators about education and the concerns of local districts.

Some of the budget cuts we could be seeing at the federal level could include teacher preparedness grants, education funding and teacher loan forgiveness. A lot of discussion on partisan politics and the inability to move things forward.

Senators Peters and Stabenow discussed fully funding IDEA (Individuals with Disability Education Act). Districts are using their general education fund to fund special education because IDEA isn't fully funded.

Governor Whitmer's State of the Union Response – Focused on infrastructure and what the Democrats are doing in individual states. The Michigan focus was on; fixing the roads, expanding healthcare and the third grade reading law and good cause exemptions. The budget comes out on February 6, 2020.

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There are rumors of another supplemental budget this year. Remind your legislators that schools budget earlier and need the budget numbers by July 1.

MMC – The overhaul of the Michigan Merit Curriculum is not moving at this point.

Gas Sales Tax – 73% of the 6 cents collected goes to schools (\$700 million). If they want to take that away, that money has to be replaced from somewhere. We are 11 billion dollars below what we can collect in taxes as a state.

District Updates:

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| Okemos | The no homework policy over winter break was well received by students and staff. It allowed for a mental health break for everyone. |
| Waverly | They have started the negotiations process. Talking about renovations in the near future. |
| Leslie | Talking about extension of the existing bond and spending the sinking fund dollars. Great conversations happening about linking the K-12 curriculum. |
| Ingham ISD | The ISD Board recently went through the process of appointing a board member to the Williamston Board of Education. If a local board has a vacancy, and an appointment isn't made within thirty days, it falls to the ISD to appoint someone. |
| Stockbridge | Superintendent Karl Heidrich is retiring. MASB has been hired to conduct the superintendent search. |
| Webberville | Choir program did very well at competition. Two girls went to states for wrestling; for one it was her first year wrestling and she took fifth place in the state. |
| Haslett | Recently experienced the loss of a special education teacher and the high school principal within a few weeks of each other. It's been very difficult time for the community. |
| Williamston | Thank you to the Ingham ISD Board for their assistance filling the Williamston Board of Education vacancy. Also thinking of the Haslett community during this difficult time. |

2019-20 Meeting Schedule:

All ISOA meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month from 7:30-9:00 am at Ingham ISD.

March 4, 2020 Wilson Talent Center Tour

May 6, 2020