

**ISOA Executive Board Meeting  
December 4, 2019  
Minutes**

**Present**

Dansville	Mike Kapp	Stockbridge	Larry Ostrander
East Lansing	Nichole Martin	Webberville	Amy Coe
Ingham ISD	John Wolenberg	Williamston	Jeff West
Ingham ISD	Jason Mellema		
Lansing	Nino Rodriguez	<b><u>Absent</u></b>	
Leslie	Mary Crowl	Haslett	Cammy Wheeler
Okemos	Dean Bolton	Holt	Laura Colligan
Mason	Michael Kelly	Waverly	Holly Nester

**Superintendents' Round Table Debrief**

Dr. Adam Spina, Williamston Community Schools Superintendent, reviewed the November Superintendents' Round Table meeting:

- The Headlee Restoration Millage supports special education funding. It has been approved by the ISD board and will be on the March 2020 ballot. The ISD is managing the communication materials and will be sending it to the districts.
- Calendar Committee – Review of the common calendar and the timing of spring break and Christmas break. The recommendation was made to move spring break up one week, to the last week in March, as this allows students a full week back from break before the state assessments start. The change to spring break will begin in the 2021-22 school year (March 2022).
- Discussion on creating a collaborative parent letter from the prosecutor, law enforcement and the districts regarding student threats, the seriousness of the issue and the consequences. The ISD will head up putting the letter together.
- Discussion on being proactive in telling our story and the story of public education. Each month a superintendent will submit an article to the LSJ regarding the successes and concerns of public education. It's not promoting one district over another, but issues that all the superintendents have discussed and support.

**Presentation – National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)**

Jason Mellema, Superintendent, Ingham ISD  
<https://nces.ed.gov/NationsReportCard/nqt/>

Mr. Mellema had the board members take a sample NAEP test for 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading comprehension (hard level) and then discuss the difficulty of the test and their impressions regarding the ability of a fourth grader to pass.

# Ingham School Officers Association

The National Assessment of Educational Progress is voluntary, but if a district doesn't take it, they will lose Title 1 funding. NAEP considers itself to be the "Nation's Report Card." It provides a common measure of what U.S. students know and can do in various subjects.

- **Evaluate** student achievement by states and as a nation based on statistical sampling.
- **Evaluate** academic improvement as a state relative to other states and the nation.
- **Not** evaluative of school, teacher or student achievement or growth.
- **Not predictive** of college or career success.
- **Not instructional** reports intended to inform curriculum or instruction of a school or a teacher.

Perception is reality with public education.

- Concerns from the business community
- Concerns from legislators with scores not good enough
- Perception in the media influencing the way people see public education

What has happened to education in Michigan?

- Proposal A – change to school funding
  - Added approximately 300 charter schools (not comprehensive districts)
  - Schools of Choice
- Federal Legislation – NCLB to ESSA
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Reading legislation
- Candidate pool/teacher prep
- Societal view towards education

4<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Scores Reviewed – The scores were discussed and how public perception is skewed toward the results.

What has changed in Michigan in education?

- Significant spending – 80 million has been spent to improve literacy
- NAEP is not able to determine growth as it's a shot in time test, and students only take a portion of the test due to matrix sampling.
- For 2019, 28 states/jurisdictions have a percentage that is not significantly different from the national average (rankings 18<sup>th</sup> through 46<sup>th</sup>)

In spite of the challenges Michigan faced... Michigan has scored almost the same throughout.

- During the Great Recession:
  - 15% unemployment
  - Loss of approximately 180,000 people
  - 88% reduction in housing permits
- Median Household Income dropped from peak of \$69,680 (1999) to low of \$52,691 (2013) and is currently at \$60,449 (2018)

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## Teacher Shortage Discussion

- Certified teachers in the classroom
- Teacher surplus – We are told it's 106,489 - but 52% are 65 or older and number also includes administrators or specialists in the field and those with Lifetime Certificates.
- Actually have less than 40K
- Teacher prep programs enrollment versus completers of the program is down dramatically.
- Nationally versus Michigan – we have a larger problem in the state compared to other states.

## Why are the teachers leaving the profession?

- Work conditions (lack of support etc.)
- Compensation
- Other job opportunities
- Happy doing what they are doing (teaching certifications but never when into education)
- Professional requirements (SCECHS, certs)
- Teacher preparation

## Other Issues

- Teacher preparation tests
- Public perception of education
- Retirement – significant change from defined benefits to 401K
- Geographical issues
- Importance of clinical experience
- Graduates being hired in other states (20% left Michigan)

## Potential Solutions

- Lifting up the profession
- ISD Cadet Programs
- Alternative certification route
- Certification structure revision
- MASA Educator Shortage Tool Kit
- Potential Legislation
  - Critical Shortage, STEM, special education vs other subject areas
  - Retirees

The ISOA Board felt strongly that the NAEP presentation should be done as a countywide board meeting.

## **District Updates:**

Time limitations, due to the NAEP presentation, didn't allow for district updates.

## **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.

*No January Meeting*

February 5, 2020

March 4, 2020

*No April Meeting*

May 6, 2020