

**ISOA Executive Board Meeting  
February 3, 2021  
Minutes**

**Present**

Dansville	Mike Kapp	Lansing	Nino Rodriguez
Leslie	Mary Crowl	Williamston	Jeff West
Okemos	Dean Bolton	Waverly	Mary Ann Martin
Webberville	Amy Coe		
Haslett	Cammy Wheeler	<b><u>Absent</u></b>	
Holt	Rob Halgren	East Lansing	Monica Fink
Ingham ISD	John Wolenberg	Mason	Michael Kelly
Ingham ISD	Jason Mellema	Stockbridge	TBA

**MASB Legislative Update - Jennifer Smith, Director of Government Relations**

Jennifer discussed the following topics:

- HS Sports – Committees hearing testimony regarding a return to contact sports. The “Let Them Play” parent group spoke, students and a superintendent – all advocating for contact sports to resume.
- Mental Health- Committee will turn its focus to mental health issues in schools.
- Dr. Rice, State Superintendent – spoke to the need of eliminating student testing and subsequently student growth in teacher assessments this year. Testing cannot be face-to-face this year and benchmark assessments are a better way to view student growth.
- The House is passing their supplemental appropriations budget today – working on distributing the ESSER Funds (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) and the GEER Funding (Governor’s Emergency Education Relief). Looking at creating a summer school program for K-8. Teachers would get \$1000 stipends and support staff \$250.
- Return to Learn Incentive – District must be in school five days a week beginning February 15 until the end of the school year to qualify. Questions - what happens if districts must close due to an outbreak, will the money need to be returned? Districts would only receive money for students who attend in person.
- Working on a bill that would remove authority from MDHHS – they would not be able to close schools or stop sports. The power to make that decision would move to the local districts. The Governor will not sign a bill that lessen the power of MDHHS.
- Some in the legislature feel that schools have been given their budgeted amount this school year and do not need/require the federal money. They are tying the federal and state money together when it should be dealt with separately.
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# Ingham School Officers Association

- MASB Resolutions – Two resolutions are available; to allow in-person board meetings and to allow contact sports to resume.
- In-person board meetings – boards are still prohibited from meeting in person. MASB is pushing for hybrid meetings to be allowed through March (currently can only be virtual) and would like it to be through the end of the year. Starting in April, board members can claim a medical exemption to attend virtually. Starting in 2022 the only reason allowed to attend a meeting virtually will be due to military duty.
- Direct any additional questions to Jennifer Smith at [jsmith@masb.org](mailto:jsmith@masb.org)

## **ISOA Annual Review of By-laws, Election of Officers**

Dean Bolton asked if there was any discussion of the by-laws, there were none. The floor was then opened for nominations for President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer.

Nino Rodriguez, supported by John Wolenberg, 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.

## **Introduction**

Sandee Donald, Ingham ISD Deputy Superintendent of Instruction, was introduced to the group. Sandee has joined the ISD from Columbus, Ohio. She will be overseeing all areas of instruction at the ISD.

## **Superintendents' Round Table - January Update**

Jason gave an update on the following items:

- LCC Early College Director Dr. Barry Hall is leaving. His last day is February 19.
- Antigen Testing – The state has designated ISDs to distribute antigen tests to local districts. Districts who are interested have been given contact and training information.
- Superintendents and the Lansing Chamber of Commerce/business leaders will meet on February 24 to discuss collaborative strategies to assist families/students post-pandemic.
- The superintendents have formed committees to focus on student interventions and calendar issues for the upcoming school year.
- Superintendents spent time sharing district plans regarding the return to in-person education.
- Linda Vail from the Ingham County Health Department joined the meeting and gave an update on the vaccination effort.

## **District Discussion**

**Webberville** In discussion to return the MS and HS to four days of in-person instruction. The elementary is currently at four days of in-person. Only 15 elementary students are virtual. Likely more HS students will remain virtual as they have jobs and have been able to make remote learning work around their work schedules.

**Dansville** Teachers that wanted the vaccination have been vaccinated. The goal is by mid-February to offer in-person for all students five days per week. There will still be a virtual option.

**Waverly** K-4 return on March 1. The MS and HS will return after spring break.

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- Haslett K-5 started February 1 with four half-days a week with AM/PM cohorts. February 8 the secondary will return with two half days a week of in-person instruction. 60+% of staff are vaccinated.
- Leslie Staff morale was boosted with the opportunity to get vaccinated. Students are in-person four days a week with Wednesdays virtual. The district has some teachers who are dedicated full-time online instructors.
- Lansing Parent survey showed 2/3 of parents want their children back in the buildings. The Board will hear a plan from administrators regarding the return to face-to-face instruction. Teachers will need to be prepared to handle the mental and emotional impact the pandemic has had on the students. The district continues to distribute food to students, is having discussions on bi-lingual education and approved a new Social Studies textbook.
- ISD The Board just had a special meeting to view the projected budgets for next year. Jason has submitted an op-ed to the Lansing State Journal addressing the need for students to be back in the classroom.
- Williamston Elementary students have been face-to-face since November. The Board recently approved a plan that offers all elementary students a choice to be full days in March. The MS started in January and HS started back last week. MS/HS using a cohort model with one week 2 days of in-person, and the next week 3 days. HS has 35% of students who are remote. The goal is to have MS/HS students go to a block schedule starting in March with students in the building full time. Vaccinations are going well with many teachers getting their second shot this week.
- Okemos The district will start offering in-person instruction on March 8. Currently conducting a parent survey to determine the number of students who want to return. The results of the survey will determine the mode of instruction. There will be at least four half-days of instruction per week. The district will have a sinking fund initiative on the May ballot.

## **Remaining Meetings**

March 3, 2021

May 5, 2021