

**ISOA Executive Board Virtual Meeting
November 4, 2020
Minutes**

Present

East Lansing Nichole Martin
Holt Rob Halgren
Ingham ISD John Wolenberg
Ingham ISD Jason Mellema
Lansing Nino Rodriguez
Okemos Dean Bolton
Williamston Jeff West
Williamston Nancy Deal
Williamston Sarah Belanger

Absent

Dansville Mike Kapp
Haslett Cammy Wheeler
Mason Michael Kelly
Stockbridge Larry Ostrander
Waverly Mary Ann Martin
Webberville Amy Coe

Social and Emotional Supports

Michael Zivsak – School Social Worker, Ingham ISD
Sarah Winslow – Director, Transition and Itinerant Services, Ingham ISD

Discussion on the physical (housing, electricity, food) and mental health care assess for our families during the pandemic. A lot of people are isolated from family and friends and the resources they used to have access to are no longer available. There is a lot of grief and nervousness in staff and students.

Child Protective Services (CPS) referrals are down in Michigan. This is due to students’ exposure to mandated reporters (teachers, school staff) has decreased significantly. School districts will need to deal with the trauma for these students in the future.

School social workers are doing the same work, but in a new way. Many are still working with students but doing it remotely. The mode of social/emotional support has changed, social workers are connecting with kids and allowing them to talk about what they are experiencing.

Social Workers are also supporting teachers and parents. Some supports mentioned were:
Dial [211](#) – A United Way clearing house with comprehensive resources.
[Community Mental Health](#) – Intervention Programs for crisis and mental health services.
[New Oakland Family Center](#) in Okemos – Mental health care

Ingham ISD 31N Grant Provider – A state grant that funds three mental health specialists at the ISD to provide clinical mental health services for general education students.

- Crisis services – supporting children who are at risk and in crisis/cannot regulate to learn. Providing clinical help until the families can connect to help outside of school.

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- Support Groups – for those students who need additional help with certain topics i.e. depression, anxiety.

Trauma and Traumatic Stress – There is a true misunderstanding of the physiological effects of trauma in kids. The spike of behaviors we are going to see are vital for teachers and district administration to understand. It's going to take time for kids to get through their trauma and teachers will need to be aware how this will impact their ability to learn.

Community Advocate Program coming to Ingham County – when there is a CPS referral, the advocate will work with the parent to reach resources. They will help the parents figure out their needs and help them make positive steps beyond CPS. (Contact Nichole Martin for more information)

Trauma related clinical consultations was one of the top interests of districts before Covid. If you had trauma before Covid, now there is an extra level of it. Support will be in high demand and will require a different level of support. Many staff members are not necessarily equipped to deal with the trauma.

Action:

- Have conversations at the board level to encourage the use of funds toward mental health supports.
- MASB needs to hear your voice. When they ask board members “what are the topics” we need to talk about social/emotional needs in districts. They need to consistently hear about the mental health needs of students.

Superintendents' Round Table Debrief

- The superintendents continue to meet two times a month. Much of the superintendents' time is spent on Covid related matters which is pushing other priorities to the back burner.
- Linda Vail from the Ingham County Health Department met with the superintendents to give an update.
- Districts are starting to put plans in place to bring students back with some face-to-face instruction. Students are enjoying being back in the buildings.
- Athletics – Discussion on winter sports and district plans for athletics. Wrestling is a concern. Many districts are waiting on MHSAA guidance.
- Enrollment – As an ISD we are down over 1000 students from last year due to the pandemic. Some families are not participating in educational opportunities or are homeschooling. Because of the funding formula that is being used this year, it will not impact financially, but the academic impact will be huge.
- Discussion on the [Michigan Learning Channel](#).

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District Updates

- East Lansing Currently conducting a parent survey. The Board did approve remote instruction until January 4 pending health considerations. ASD and ELL programs started this week. Covid updates on the website. Buildings still under construction. Extended the TRAILS programs to start at the MS in addition to the HS. Once a week virtually for mental health supports.
- Williamston Lower elementary students starting back today with cohorts in AM/PM. The middle and high school plan will be a hybrid of virtual and in person instruction – 5 days a week with a cohort schedule. Planning to allow winter sports.
- Ingham ISD The district has posted for a Deputy Superintendent and starts interviews next week.
- Holt The Board has replaced two school board members in the last few months due to resignations. They will have a bond proposal to board soon.
- Okemos The district return to school plan is being worked on. The plan has specific teachers for virtual learning and for in person. The district will stay remote until the region is in Phase 5 (also identifying new metrics to use since the phases are in question). No date established as to when the district will move to the new plan. Still deciding on winter sports.
- Lansing Will be virtual until the beginning of second semester. Winter sports will start. Providing special services to address the social emotional needs of students. Serving 1000 meals every day for students. The new motion capture studio was opened in partnership with Great Lakes Virtual Reality Lab.

2020-21 Meeting Schedule

September 2, 2020
October 7, 2020
November 4, 2020
December 2, 2020
January – No Meeting
February 3, 2021
March 3, 2021
April – No Meeting
May 5, 2021