

**ISOA Executive Board Meeting
September 3, 2025
Minutes**

Present

Dansville	Mike Kapp
East Lansing	Abbie Tykocki
Haslett	Amy Clark
Ingham ISD	Jason Mellema
Okemos	Leeni Shrestha
Stockbridge	Carrie Graham
Webberville	Joshua Rockey
Williamston	Sarah Belanger
Waverly	Alicia Guevara

Absent

Lansing	Deyanira Nevarea Martinez
Leslie	Eric Isham
Mason	Lacy Harding
Holt	Rob Halgren
Ingham ISD	John Wolenberg

Legislative Update

Jennifer Smith, MASB Government Relations, gave a legislative update:

- The House passed their budget last week with little funding for Medicaid, SNAP, local governments, the state police, DNR, SOS and with reduced money in the school aid fund - rolls up Categoricals. The budget is miles away from the Governor and Senate budget versions.
- Districts are leaving positions unfilled and not signing contracts until there is more clarity.
- Some districts started the year without universal free meals due to budget uncertainty.
- This is a different situation than the budget issues in 2007 or 2009 because the school aid fund has money. The issues are different priorities between the Governor, the Senate and the House and a manufactured crisis – not a lack of money. A state shutdown will occur if there is no budget by September 30.

School Aid is sent to districts 11 out of 12 months as there is no payment in September – districts borrow from the state to make payroll in September. If there is no budget in time, it means districts could miss their October payments. Districts will eventually get the payments, but it will not come in time to cover payroll.

State education organizations, regional ISDs and local districts will start sending out information to families and community members explaining what the budget stalemate means to districts and explain the “why” behind what is happening.

Cell phone bill – the vote failed – Republicans did not have fifty-six people and needed the Democratic votes. The bill will come back again, delayed but not stopped.

Jennifer will follow up on the standing of the School Safety Commission that is supposed to be seated. Districts are required to have common terminology in their EOP plans, but that guidance must come from the Commission.

SAT Essay and Scores – The essay will no longer be required, and scores will not be on high school transcripts like other states.

Ingham School Officers Association

Superintendents' Round Table Update

Jason Mellema provided discussion highlights from the Superintendents 'Round Table Retreat including:

- Increasing costs of district insurance and options to address it
- Superintendent contracts and ORS retirement rules
- Legislative Update – the financial impact of federal Medicaid changes on the state
- No state budget and the impact on free school meals
- Emergency operations and shared language in EOPs
- Review of the SE monitoring updates for each district
- Mental Health support across districts
- Review of district cell phone policies

District Updates

Dansville	The district had a facility study done over the summer for the development of a maintenance plan. A cell phone ban in classrooms was implemented. Fully staffed and off to a good start to the school year.
Webberville	The district implemented a cell phone ban across the district. Behavior issues have been down substantially and there is a noticeable increase in positive student interactions. The district has a new secondary principal who is off to a great start with staff and students.
Waverly	The Board spent the summer interviewing and hiring a new superintendent. Great engagement from the community during the hiring process. Bond and sinking fund projects are ongoing, with a delay in opening some buildings due to construction. GSRP classrooms have increased.
Okemos	The Board and the superintendent held a retreat during the summer. A new principal was hired for the Montessori school. The Board was introduced to the new teachers and staff at the last board meeting.
Haslett	All sports and activities have started with the new school year. The district's Imagine 2030 Initiative strategic plan work continues.
East Lansing	The E.L. Deputy Superintendent is the new Waverly Superintendent. The construction of the new administration building is ongoing with a completion goal for November or December. Construction at the high school continues with security updates. Contract negotiations continue with all the unions.
Williamston	The district is a year ahead in the completion of the new softball complex. The tennis courts are done. The district is welcoming new staff, working on the Superintendent evaluation, and held a "Be Nice" week of events that included all buildings. Discussion on neighboring school districts sending advertisements to encourage students to enroll.
Ingham ISD	The November 5 ISOA meeting will be an in-person tour of the Beekman Center in Lansing. The ISD assumed control of the center in 2024, and the tour will highlight some of the needs in the building.