

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

**Present**

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

**Superintendents' Round Table Debrief**

Webberville Superintendent Brian Friddle reviewed the August Superintendents' Round Table Retreat:

- Matt Kurta from Karoub Associates, and Senator Curtis Hertel, updated the group on the state budget stalemate, and other education focused legislative items.
- Received an update on the Ingham ISD Strategic Plan.
- Andrew Rable discussed MDE Special Education Determination process updates.
- Joe Liberato lead discussion on mentoring and central office instructional leadership.
- Information on the 31N grant funds and instructions on how districts can apply.
- Review of the information for the new Early Childhood funding.

**Legislative Update – Jennifer Smith, MASB**

Jennifer Smith, MASB Director of Government Relations, discussed current legislative issues:

- No budget from the state and no agreement on a budget in the foreseeable future.
- The State Budget Director has indicated that contingency plans for a shut-down are needed.
- A continuation budget could be passed. This would be the budget from last year moved forward with no change in payments.
- MASB sent a letter in support of the budget as presented by the Governor.
- Legislators met yesterday and the Senate passed a shell budget. A shell budget has gone through all of the required processes so when they have an agreement, the actual budget numbers are inputted, and they only have to vote once before moving it to the Governor.

## Ingham School Officers Association

- Speaker Lee Chatfield's Plan– Remove the sales tax on gas which would be a 7-8 million dollar hit to the school aid budget. MASB suggests to keep schools whole, remove universities from the funding.
- Senate has suggested extending the debt on MSPERS. This would add billions as we move forward. MASB is against bonding for the debt as it locks in the debt payment for the bond.
- The Governor doesn't support the MSPERS changes and cutting schools to pave the roads.
- Worst case scenario – The government shuts down and there is no payment in October.
- ICBO survey shows that 80% of districts have budgeted for an increase of \$100, which could cause a lot of financial woes if there is no budget increase.
- Third Grade Reading Law – There is a bill to get rid of mandatory retention, but it has not had a hearing. The chair of the committee is interested in looking at it, but there has been no movement.

How do local districts react and get the word out about funding?

- We don't want to cry wolf with funding cuts; say they are cutting funds and then it doesn't happen at the state level.
- Each district will need to consider what they want to say to parents and at board meetings.
- Business officials need to know the numbers for their district, and know what to do in the event of a shut-down or a flat budget with no increase.
- Until legislators hear from their local community, it isn't their problem. We need the locals to start advocating to their legislators about funding and funding strategies.
- Send a letter asking to protect the school budget – to all who represent the districts. It can also be sent to Representative Aaron Miller and Senator Lana Theis of the Education and Career Readiness Committee.
- MASB Grassroots Advocacy Program – De'Shondria Bedenfield - [dbedenfield@masb.org](mailto:dbedenfield@masb.org). Works with districts on grassroots advocacy.

Nino Rodriguez, supported by Dean Bolton, moved to support a letter being sent from ISOA to legislators encouraging a budget and no cuts to the school aid fund. Motion passed unanimously. Jennifer Smith will email talking points for the letter.

### **District Updates:**

- Lansing: It was a great summer for the students with many activities provided by the district. Eastern High School is officially open, and the remodeling of the other buildings continues. The Board conducted a retreat where they worked on the district strategic plan. The new student handbooks are now available online. Yvonne Caamal Canul announced her retirement. Her last day is September 13. The interim superintendent will be Dr. Mark Coscarella.
- Williamston: The district has hired many new teachers; some are former students. Summer projects included a new entrance at the high school, a new commons area, and tables and chairs. There is also a new gym floor with the district logo and the middle school gym was repainted. In total over a million dollars in upgrades and renovations.
- Haslett: All of the parking lots are completed. There are now separate drop-off areas for the parents vs. the busses at the middle and elementary schools. The new multi-plex stadium is now in use for football, soccer and lacrosse. The district now offers personalized parking spaces. Students pay for a parking spot and are allowed to use paint to personalize it.

## Ingham School Officers Association

- Webberville: The district has reached an agreement with the teacher's union on the contract. The elementary offices have been moved to allow for better visibility and security. There was some flooding in the elementary due to some roof issues, which has been repaired. Overall it's been a good start to the school year.
- East Lansing: Two of the five new elementary schools are up and running. Two of the building sites now have two elementary buildings on one site as the old elementary building hasn't been taken down yet. This is causing some parking issues, but staff and families are adjusting. Student count has gone up in both the middle and high school.
- Waverly: Contract negotiations start in January. The district has moved to a closed campus for lunch. They are working on a five-year strategic plan. Discussion on public comment at board meetings: the first public comment opportunity is for agenda related items only, the second section for public comment is only for Waverly schools related items. Mary Ann will email the public comment wording that Waverly uses on their board agendas.
- Okemos: The district is starting to work on updating their strategic plan as their current one is now eight years old. They passed a bond in May which will fund work on an addition to an elementary school, technology and a flexible learning space.
- Ingham ISD: The Wilson Talent Center continues to experience high enrollment numbers. The Culinary students will be presenting at the next MDE Board of Education meeting. The Heartwood playground is now open.
- Dansville: The building projects are almost done. The athletic fields will be done this year and available for student use. The district enrollment is up for the first time in ten years.
- Stockbridge: They are finishing the work funded by the bond from three years ago. They have finished a new maintenance building, windows and upgrades to the HVAC system. Next year they will focus on new busses and technology. The district attendance policy has been revised.
- Holt: The district has had a smooth start to the school year. This year grades 7 and 8 football is now a part of the district athletic program instead of a community recreation program.

### **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.

- September 4, 2019
- October 2, 2019
- November 6, 2019
- December 4, 2019
- January – No Meeting
- February 5, 2020
- March 4, 2020
- April – No Meeting
- May 6, 2020