

**ISOA Executive Board Virtual Meeting
September 2, 2020
Minutes**

Present

Dansville	Mike Kapp	Williamston	Nancy Deal
Haslett	Cammy Wheeler	Williamston	Sarah Belanger
Holt	Laura Colligan		
Ingham ISD	John Wolenberg	Absent	
Ingham ISD	Jason Mellema	East Lansing	Nichole Martin
Lansing	Nino Rodriguez	Okemos	Dean Bolton
Mason	Michael Kelly	Stockbridge	Larry Ostrander
Waverly	Mary Ann Martin	Webberville	Amy Coe
Williamston	Jeff West		

Legislative Update – Jennifer Smith, MASB

Budget Update

The Revenue Estimating Conference was held in August. The estimates have come in higher than expected.

- School Aid Fund – Expected to have a 1.04-billion-dollar surplus which will roll over into next year and allow for the foundation cut to be restored.
- General Fund – Expected to have a 1.5-billion-dollar surplus which will roll over to help balance the budget but will still end the year with 385K deficit for 2020-21.

Concerns – Worst case scenario would be a flat budget, but still good news. Districts should be conservative in budget planning. Lawmakers could look to fill the general fund deficit with SAF dollars. Still waiting on the federal government to act.

Timeline – Lawmakers appear anxious to get a budget done. May have a budget mid to late September (22-24), but before September 30.

How will lawmakers do it?

- New bills – go through the appropriation process (Traditional way – 10 days)
- Use existent bills – Two senate bills in house committee. Drop budget deal into bills already in the house. Skips conference committee and a 5-day layover for new bills. (Existent bills - 2 days)

Return to Learn

MASB, MAISA, MASA was not in the room when the plan was developed, which was disappointing. If districts have major and/or minor issues with the plan, please email Jennifer at jsmith@masb.org

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New - Extended Continuity of Learning Plan

This is a separate plan, but can build off the current district COL. Right now, it must be approved every 30 days by district boards. MASB is asking that the language be changed to once a month, or quarterly, so special board meetings do not have to be scheduled.

Districts must send their COL plan to their ISD by October 1 – and the ISD needs to submit the plans on October 1. MASB is asking the deadline for ISDs be changed to October 8 to allow some time for plans to be reviewed.

Requirements of the Extended Continuity of Learning Plan:

- Due October 1, 2020
- *The Necessity of the Plan* - A statement of why the ECOL plan is “necessary to increase student achievement for the 2020-21 school year”.
- *Educational goals* – Educational goals to address student achievement or growth as measured by use of benchmark assessments aligned to state standards. (Adopted by the Board by September 15)
- *Mode of Instruction* - Description of how instruction will be delivered (in-person at school, online, digitally, or any other remote means or a hybrid of these options) and expose students to core academic standards comparable to in-person instruction.
- *Re-certification* – The Board of Education must re-certify the plan every 30 days.
- *Academic Standards* - Description of how student progress will be graded or reported.
- *Equitable Access* - Description of how equitable access will be provided to: students with disabilities for instructional accommodations and all students for technology and internet connectivity.
- *Health and Safety Guidelines* - It also requires school districts to coordinate with their local health department to develop district-wide guidelines and metrics from local data to inform their plan ongoing.
- *K-5 Prioritization* - Prioritize K-5 for in-person instruction.
- *Two-way Interactions* - Ensure two-way interactions take place between students and instructors weekly.
 - Assignment, test, Zoom class, email, text, phone call, instant message, face-to-face
 - More to come on the explanation of two-way interaction. The interpretation may not line up with the intention of the legislation with MDE vs. the state.

Goals can be tied to school improvement plans. If a district plan can reach educational goals, districts are not required to have 180 days/1098 hours. (Considered a broad seat-time waiver)

Count day is still October 7. If districts are fully face-to-face, the normal pupil accounting rules apply. If a district is hybrid or all virtual, count requirements will fall under the new rules. Membership FTE will be 75% from the October 2020 count and 25% from February 2021.

Emergency Powers of the Superintendent

MASB supported the Emergency Powers of the Superintendent policy suggestion. This was encouraged back in the spring when it was advantageous for districts to be able to move quickly when there was a need to change board policy (i.e. Graduation, PPE, technology purchases). Now that boards are regularly meeting again, this policy might not be necessary.

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MASB Priority Setting Meeting

Michigan will have a new Legislature in January which means MASB needs to update their legislative priority list with assistance from board members. Regional meetings will be hosted remotely across the state. MASB will send out information soon.

MASB Advocacy Webinar

Tuesday, September 15. The webinar will include a legislative update, budget update, a grassroots presentation and small group discussion opportunities for board members. Watch for registration information.

Superintendents' Round Table Debrief

Jason reviewed the bi-monthly superintendent meetings that have taken place since the last ISOA meeting. Superintendents have been working to support each other and do what is best for kids. The stress level has been high, the situation has been fluid and districts are inundated with new information daily. Jason gave a brief review of the focus of the group:

- April District Continuity of Learning (COL V1) plan required
- June 30 Return to Learn plan required a second COL be approved (COL V2)
- August 16 Extended COL plan required (COL V3)
- September 15 Education goals established and approved by the Board
- October 1 District COL V3 submitted to ISD for approval

First 9 weeks of school – Districts must have K-8 assessments done.

Prior to the last day of school – District must have a board meeting to determine if the educational goals were accomplished.

Heads Up:

Negotiations – The Detroit Public Schools settled recently and gave teachers an increase, unlimited sick days, bonuses to teach in person, and the ability for teachers to bring their children into the classroom. Negotiations for districts this year could be interesting.

Food Service – The USDA just changed the requirements for food service again. All students were made eligible to receive free food in the spring, and then the rules reverted to the normal free & reduced requirements in the fall. Now they have been reverted to the spring rules again. Ingham ISD districts served over 1.2 million meals in the spring/summer. This was a huge undertaking for districts.

Q: What happens if districts go back to face-to-face and students/teachers get sick?

A: Each district/building will be looked at individually per the Ingham County Health Department (ICHHD). The ICHHD will be involved and provide layers of support.

Q: Was there discussion between districts to have a uniformed plan for all districts across the county?

A: There was discussion and the superintendents have supported and worked together, but each district was responsible for developing their own COL plan that worked for their students and community.

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Bringing students back to districts for face-to-face instruction will be a process, but Boards need to be discussing this with their communities. All students should not be coming back to buildings at the same time, but stair-stepping (cohorts) students back. The suggestion is to bring back early elementary students and work up from there – in conjunction with the ICHD and the data.

District Updates

Leslie: The district has brought students back for face-to-face learning and it is working. Many in the community do not have access to the internet.

Mason: Every district must formulate a solution that works for their community and meets the needs of all families. All options should be looked at and evaluated as to providing the best options for students.

October Meeting

The October 7 meeting will be held virtually and will be 8:00-9:30 am.

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

