

**ISOA Executive Board Meeting
September 4, 2024
Minutes**

Present

| | | | |
|--------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Dansville | Mike Kapp | Waverly | Alicia Guevara Warren |
| East Lansing | Gary Holbrook | Williamston | Sarah Belanger |
| Haslett | Amy Clark | Williamston | Adam Spina |
| Ingham ISD | Jason Mellema | | |
| Ingham ISD | John Wolenberg | | |
| Lansing | Nino Rodriguez | | |
| Mason | Michael Kelly | | |
| Okemos | Tom Buffett | | |

Absent

| | |
|-------------|-------------------|
| Holt | Rob Halgren |
| Leslie | Dominic Ambroggio |
| Stockbridge | Keven Numinen |
| Webberville | Amy Coe |

MASB Legislative Update

Jennifer Smith, MASB Director of Government Relations, gave an update on legislative and budget issues including:

- The legislators have not met since July. Only expect the House to meet one time and the Senate two times before the election in November.
- MASB Behind the Scenes at the Capital will be on September 18. The legislature will not be in session but there is still a full schedule of events for the day. [Registration](#) is now open.
- Working on the MPSERS issues.
 - The state lowered the MPSERS rate districts pay to 5.75% for one year only so the rate is not guaranteed beyond this school year.
 - Staff hired before 2012 have been paying 3% of their pay toward unfunded liabilities in retirement healthcare, those liabilities are now paid at 140%. Per the State, districts will have to reimburse staff 3% based on last year’s payments, while at the same time, continue to withhold the 3% this school year. It is a confusing situation for all involved. The MSBO website is a useful resource for more information on this issue.
 - SB 911 – if the senate bill passes, the 3% paid by staff will be discontinued permanently. The bill does include a section that states if the fund goes into deficit again, districts will pay the 3% and not the employees.
 - The bill codifies the MPSERS rate. Also allows the senate and governor to spend the extra money in the OPEB fund. The hope is that the legislators do not take out the MPSERS rate codification and just pass the part that allows the government to spend the money.
 - MPSERS met obligations for OPEB (Other Post Employment Benefits)
 - Pension Fund – still on track to be paid off by 2038.
 - OPEB Fund – separate fund – funded at 140% (fund where the 3% was going)

Ingham School Officers Association

Three Points to remember:

- Staff hired before 2012, still must pay the 3%.
 - This is not raiding the pension fund.
 - Not switching the 3% to districts – only a fall back if the fund goes into debt again.
-
- No per pupil increase for districts this year.
 - Mental health and safety slashed from 300 million to 25 million. There is still money that could be put toward mental health and safety, but the legislature is not saying if any of that money will go toward districts. The supplemental budget is still up in the air.
 - Proposed Changes on Sex Education – MASB has supported making it medically accurate, allowing more flexibility in what schools teach without telling them how to do it. No current information from the legislature, may do something in lame duck, but not sure.
 - Start time for High Schools– no information coming from the legislature.
 - MASB Priority Setting Workshops – The annual MASB priority setting workshops are being scheduled across the state. Each region hosts a workshop and invites board members and others from the region to discuss/brainstorm priorities for the legislature this year. No session set for Region VII yet – Location and date will be announced.

Superintendents' Round Table Update

Dr. Adam Spina, Williamston Community Schools Superintendent, provided an update from the August 7 superintendent retreat:

- Early College Program – Due to the fact that the state is now funding community college, but districts would have to pay for the credits for students to attend the Early College with LCC, the program will not be restarted at this time.
- Truancy Data – Review of the truancy data for the ISD service area and discussion on how to collaborate on attendance and truancy procedures.
- School Safety- Continued discussion on school safety and recaps of district safety tabletop exercises. Disappointment in the state severely cutting the school safety and mental health funding after saying it is a priority following the MSU shooting incident.
- State Budget - Discussion and review of how districts will fair with the new budget and the inequitable distribution of the funds per district.

Williamston Update

- Both ballot initiatives passed in August.
- Be Nice initiative in the district – “Be Nice” Spirit Week ends with a “Be Nice” football game on Friday at which they will provide mental health information to the community.
- Calming Room/Student Lounge at the HS – The space gives high school students a place to decompress and seek mental health support if needed. Collaborative effort with HS students.

Question regarding the high school start time change and how it was implemented: Per the research, the earliest start time recommendation is 8:30am for high school students. Williamston moved slowly toward the 8:30am start time by increments each year. The district will do a survey this year or next to get input from families/staff regarding the change.

Ingham School Officers Association

District Updates

| | |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Williamston | A successful first few weeks of school. The district is using a new dismissal procedure via the " Pikmykid " app. Designed to connect parents and the school as it allows parents to alert what is different with dismissal time for their student: bus change, doctor appt etc. The app sends a message to the building administrative assistant, who acknowledges the request. It streamlines the dismissal procedures. |
| Waverly | Good start to new school year. A lot of construction on school campuses and the surrounding area. The bond projects fell behind during the summer which caused a delayed start to the school year. The district engaged in discussion over the summer regarding cell phone policies, the strategic planning process, and addressing absenteeism and tardiness. |
| Dansville | Good start to the school year with all staff positions filled. The Board of Education will have two partial terms and two regular terms for the board election in November. The Title IX changes were prohibited from being enforced for some districts, but Dansville was not one of them. |
| Haslett | The district welcomed staff and students back and everything is getting into full swing with classes, athletics etc. The district welcomed a new superintendent this year. The Board of Education will have three board positions open with the election with three running uncontested. |
| East Lansing | The professional development provided by the ISD and focused on AI was a success. The district will be breaking ground with the bond work next year, currently in the design phase. Three unions are bargaining this year on contracts. |
| Lansing | Successful graduation ceremonies for all Lansing programs. The Board had their retreat at Hope College and had training on the new requirements for the superintendent evaluation. Two buildings remain under construction: Willow and Mt Hope. The district has a new center to welcome refugees and acclimate them to the area/district. The board is focused on attendance, continued increases in the graduation rate and student number increase. |
| Okemos | The district broke ground on the new middle school. The start of the new school year went remarkably well with all the changes due to construction. The Board will have a retreat at the end of September with board operating procedures to be developed. High school start time is still a conversation – Okemos will be hosting a fall event focused on the research regarding start times and will include an invite to the districts in the service area. |
| Mason | The district finished the capital improvement projects at the MS and HS. Another bond will be in the future. A three-year contract with the teachers was completed and had successful negotiations with other bargaining groups. Title IX changes are ongoing within the district. |
| Ingham ISD | The Beekman Center in Lansing is now under the ISD. The transition was a lot of work for the ISD and Lansing staff but was successfully completed by the start of the school year. Working hard with staffing positions in mental health and speech. |

Ingham School Officers Association

ISOA Legislative Candidate Breakfast Forum

The Ingham School Officer Association's executive board members are extending an invitation to all area school board members, superintendents, administrators, and other interested individuals to attend a special, complimentary breakfast forum to meet candidates who are running for Michigan House of Representative seats in districts 73, 74, 75, 76 and 77. This is a chance to meet the candidate and have questions about educational issues answered.

Please register by September 24, 2024, at: <https://forms.gle/41Ya5XsunkAPAWMj9>

Upcoming Meetings

- October 2, 2024 – Legislative Candidate Breakfast
- November 6, 2024 – Tour of the Wilson Talent Center
- December 4, 2024 - TBA
- February 5, 2025 – Legislative Update
- March 5, 2025 – Evaluation Changes – Brad Banasik, MASB
- May 7, 2025 – End of the Year Wrap-up/ISD Budget Discussion

