

**ISOA Executive Board Meeting
February 5, 2025
Minutes**

Present

Dansville Mike Kapp
Haslett Amy Clark
Ingham ISD Jason Mellema
Ingham ISD John Wolenberg
Mason Lacy Harding
Okemos Leeni Shrestha
Stockbridge Carrie Graham
Webberville Joshua Rockey
Williamston Sarah Belanger

Absent

East Lansing Abbie Tykocki
Holt Rob Halgren
Lansing Deyanira Nevarea Martinez
Leslie Eric Isham
Waverly Alicia Guevara

MASB Legislative Update

Brenda Pilgram, Assistant MASB Director of Government Relations, gave an update on legislative and budget issues including:

- MASB has been talking to legislators about funding, transportation, and the gas tax. \$700 million comes to schools from the gas tax and there is talk of moving that money to roads.
- Nancy DeBoer is the Chair of the Education and Work Force Committee – a new name for the committee to include the work force focus.
- Bathroom Usage – There are a couple of Senate bills that are in play right now regarding student bathroom usage and how students identify. MASB is looking at these bills and will provide updates.
- School funding should not be affected by recent executive orders from Washington:
 - Head Start should be ok for now – concerns with the future budget – expecting cuts
 - Department of Education – The new director is not in place yet. There will be 180-day request from the President as to how the department works and recommendations on how to dismantle it.
 - School Voucher Program – There will be a school voucher proposal that may include using Title 1 money. Students will be able to attend a public, private, charter or home school program.
 - Funding looks stable right now – but not sure what the future holds with the current political climate.
- The Governor’s budget is set to be released - expect to see a bump in per pupil and more mental health and safety money in this budget.
- Medicaid funding – Six million goes to local districts for reimbursement for medical services that students are receiving i.e., PT, OT, etc. The fear is that Medicaid will be reduced or dismantled. These are funds that cannot be cut, they are a MUST service for special education students – reduced funding will have to be made up by districts. This would be for 2025-26 as the 2024-25 Medicaid funds are already on hand. Head Start and Medicaid have always been on the hit list – there will be definite changes.

Ingham School Officers Association

- Meal funding is uncertain at this point for 2025-26 - not codified into law so the free meals could change.
- Board Policies, FERPA, HIPAA maintain a great pathway to put students first.

Superintendents' Round Table Update

Dori Leyko, East Lansing Public Schools Superintendent, provided an update from the January 22, 2025, Round Table Meeting:

- What Boards Can Do – The ELPS Board passed a resolution to confirm the district will continue to provide a safe and supportive environment for all students.
- ALICE Community Impact Update – An update provided on the county data for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed – families working but below poverty level.
- Family and Community Engagement Grant – New grant focused on improving literacy and engaging families.
- Legislative Updates – Districts are watching and waiting on PA 152 - legislation that regulates public employee health care costs which will impact budgets. It was passed in Lane Duck but has not been presented to the Governor.
- Discussion on inclement weather days and expectations for administrators when the district is closed.
- Discussion on district suspension policies and related board policies.
- East Lansing has developing protocols and communications regarding protecting student information and how staff should legally respond to requests from law enforcement and/or immigration. Responsibilities were charted for office staff, building staff, administration, and the superintendent in consultation with district attorneys. ELPS centralized duties in the central office.

District Updates

- Williamston Mental Health and Wellness Specialist gave a board presentation on support provided for staff and students – both individual and group supports. Students preparing for the MSTEP. Williamston will host a “Be Nice” Basketball game with Haslett on February 14. This is a student-led community event.
- Haslett Looking forward to the “Be Nice” Basketball with Williamston – an event focused on growth, social awareness, and kindness. Collaborating with the new superintendent on a new vision and goals for the district. The board is moving from Neola to the Thru policies.
- Mason Liz Evans elected as board president. The Mason superintendent sent a letter to parents that explained building access, access to students, board policies, FERPA and a student’s right to education.

Ingham School Officers Association

Stockbridge The district is working with PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) to deal with emotional issues and struggles with student behavior – starting to see positive results in behavior. Using Beyond Basics to improve literacy and Spring Math to support students and increase proficiency.

Okemos There are three new board members. Tom Buffet is the new board president. The organizational meeting included a budget review and an overview of the budget process for new board members. Discussion on protocol with ICE visits. The bond work continues.

Ingham ISD The Lansing School District transitioned operation of the Beekman Center to the ISD in July 2024. The ISD now oversees Heartwood School and the Beekman Center which offers programming for students in the ISD service area with moderate and severe cognitive impairments, multiple impairments, and ASD. At the Wilson Talent Center, Gina Rios-Smith, Instructor of Educational Careers, was recently named the 2024 Michigan Association of Career & Technical Education (MI ACTE) Teacher Educator of the Year.

Upcoming Meetings

- March 5, 2025 – Evaluation Changes – Brad Banasik, MASB
- May 7, 2025 – End of the Year Wrap-up/ISD Budget Discussion