

**ISOA Executive Board Meeting
March 1, 2023
Minutes**

Present

East Lansing Monica Fink
Haslett Monica Del Castillo
Ingham ISD Jason Mellema
Ingham ISD John Wolenberg
Lansing Nino Rodriguez
Leslie Dominic Ambroggio
Okemos Jayme Taylor
Okemos John Hood
Williamston Sarah Belanger
Waverly Alicia Guevara Warren

Absent

Dansville Mike Kapp
Holt Rob Halgren
Mason Michael Kelly
Webberville Amy Coe
Stockbridge Keven Numinen

Jason Mellema called the meeting to order at 8:05 am.

Schools Cannot Do It Alone

Jason reviewed the book *Schools Cannot do it Alone* by author Jamie Vollmer. All ISOA board members received a copy of the book. Mr. Vollmer is a business executive who moved from criticizing public schools into a public-school supporter.

An excerpt of the book: No generation of educators in history has been asked to do what Americans now demand of their public schools. Each year the burden grows, and each day millions of teachers and administrators give everything they have got to meet the challenge. Their record of achievement is remarkable. But no matter how hard they work, or how often they are criticized, they cannot produce the results our nation needs. Not because they are arrogant, overpaid, or unionized. America’s educators cannot “teach all children to high levels” because they work in a system designed to do something else: Select and sort young people for an industrial society that no longer exists.

The Great Conversation - Flipping the conversation with public schools going to the public to start to shape the conversation about making changes. Public perception of schools is one of the biggest issues schools face.

Nostesia – The authors created this term to refer to the people who do not think schools need to change. Nostesiacs are certain that the grand temples of learning that existed in their golden past were far superior to the dreadful schools we have today - 50% nostalgia and 50 % amnesia.

The ISOA is one of the sponsoring organizations bringing Jamie Vollmer in to speak to educators, board members and the community on October 2 (**note the date change** – it was originally scheduled for October 3) and the Lansing Regional Chamber on October 3. The community event will take place in the Holt High School Auditorium. As a sponsoring organization for this community event, ISOA members will be encouraged to invite fellow board members and their community to hear Mr. Vollmer speak.

Ingham School Officers Association

Superintendents' Round Table Update

John Hood, Okemos Public Schools Superintendent, gave an update from the February Round Table meeting:

- StarNet Consortium costs review – Annual fixed costs for WAN and Internet are shared across the consortium.
- Student perception survey – Kent ISD presented on a student survey that measures student wellbeing, social emotional health, engagement, and the mental health of students. It is free for Ingham ISD districts to participate.
- The Lansing School District and Ingham ISD have begun meetings to discuss Lansing's request to transition oversight of The Beekman Center programs to the ISD.
- School of Choice Discussion – SOC and non-resident students – East Lansing will be moving away from allowing non-resident students to attend ELPS with a release. In the future, non-resident students will have to go through the SOC process and if there are no openings, they will have to attend their home district.
- School Safety Debrief – Discussion on the recent swatting hoax at Okemos High School and what was learned from the incident:
 - There is a need for a countywide response plan for all districts in coordination with law enforcement. Having a common plan would make the response more efficient and safer. To that end, first steps will be working with Jason Russell from Secure Education Consultants.
 - Once law enforcement is on scene, they will be in charge of the situation, not district administration.
 - Communication is never fast enough for parents and the community. But you want accurate communication vs getting something out quickly.
 - Cross-district collaboration – There is a need to have assistance from outside of the district. Okemos administration was helping students or in lock-down. Having the ISD staff coming to help was essential.
 - Reunification point – The Okemos reunification point was too close and caused a huge traffic problem. Pick a spot far away from the district and large enough to allow for traffic flow.
 - Radios were critical for communication. Depending on how long the incident lasts, cell batteries will fade, lines are jammed with phone calls etc. Having radios allowed for communication across the district.
 - Law enforcement was familiar with the building because they had used it for active shooter training in the past.
 - District staff and students will need trauma support after the incident. Another area to bring in outside help (ISD staff assisted Okemos) You don't want your district social workers to have the responsibility as they have also gone through the trauma.
 - Debrief with law enforcement – this was a hoax, but a debrief allowed everyone to learn from the situation.

Okemos is working with preventative safety, threat assessment and workplace violence expert [Dr. Margaret Coggins](#).

Ingham School Officers Association

Bylaws and ISOA Officer Election

Following discussion, the ISOA Bylaws will be changed to have officers include a President and Vice President. The position of Secretary/Treasurer will be eliminated as the duties are handled by administration at the ISD.

Sarah Belanger, supported by Dominic Ambroggio, proposed the slate of Sarah Belanger for President and Monica Fink for Vice President and the bylaw change. Motion passed unanimously.

District Updates

- Williamston Awarded the MI school resource officer grant. SRO started February 1. Emotional support dog started in the district in all buildings. All busses have external cameras – increasing student safety with pictures of cars who run the stop sign. Solo and Ensemble achieved numerous rating 1 score. Educator of the Year from the Chamber – Bob Duffy, HS Teacher.
- East Lansing Donley Elementary second and third grade students have artwork of “inspirational women throughout history” on display at Impression 5 Museum through March. Seventh grade band earned top ratings at band festival. The MMS Science Olympians competed at Holt and brought home numerous awards. Kindergarten Round Up will take place in March. The district had a board member resign and a new member, Mr. Chris Martin, has been appointed to finish the term.
- Okemos The Okemos board work session to discuss school start times has been delayed due to current events. Working with Meridian Township regarding the Senior Center due to it being located inside Chippewa School and that school will be rebuilt. OPS was awarded the grant for an SRO officer. The English department adopted a textbook tool to evaluate novels in classrooms through an equity lens. OPS joined the JUUL lawsuit, and a settlement has been offered. Okemos Music Patrons hosting a spaghetti dinner on March 9. Dr. Margaret Coggins presented on the district behavior threat assessment. District is using the NWEA Assessment tool focusing on individual student growth. Adopted a new board policy related to gender identity. [Advocacy Committee](#) has a website to see updates.
- Lansing Promise Scholarship group working on how to help with remediation and better prepare students. The district approved the policy on cell phones during testing and how they can be used and not used. Celebration for Black History month all over the district. [The Ebersole Center](#) received a donation of eighty-four acres to increase the overall acreage to 235. LSD board members attended the MASB conference and heard from Jason Russell from SEC. Building construction is ongoing.
- Leslie The district, along with local law enforcement, hosted a student and family mental health night, and had a good response from the community. They also hosted a career fair with fifteen different trades represented for students.

Ingham School Officers Association

Haslett The Board of Education has appointed Amy Clark to fill the vacant seat. The district was awarded the Security Resource Officer (SRO) grant that will allow them to expand the current responsibilities of the officer they have. Through an Art Foundation, Ralya Elementary School was chosen to have a multi-cultural art display at the school. The exhibit exposes students to different cultures and people.

Ingham ISD The annual Wilson Talent Center Wall of Fame and Scholarship Dinner will take place on March 14 at the Ingham County Fairgrounds. Past graduates of the WTC will be inducted into the Wall of Fame and current students will receive their scholarships.

Upcoming Meetings

There is no April meeting. The last meeting of the year will be on May 3. The meeting will be in-person and will take place at the ISD in the Thorburn Education Center.

