

**ISOA Executive Board Meeting
September 1, 2021
Minutes**

Present

East Lansing	Monica Fink	Stockbridge	Keven Numinen
Haslett	Cammy Wheeler	Waverly	Mary Ann Martin
Holt	Rob Halgren	Williamston	Jeff West
Ingham ISD	John Wolenberg	Williamston	Nancy Deal
Ingham ISD	Jason Mellema	Williamston	Adam Spina
Ingham ISD	Nancy Stanley	<u>Absent</u>	
Mason	Michael Kelly	Leslie	Mary Crowl
Lansing	Nino Rodriguez	Dansville	Mike Kapp
Okemos	Melanie Lynn	Webberville	Amy Coe

Vice President Jeff West called the meeting to order at 8:05am.

MASB Legislative Update

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

- School Aid budget – signed June 30. The budget eliminated the long-standing funding gap between districts, giving each a basic per-pupil amount of \$8700.
- Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) – Funding increased to match the foundation allowance. GSRP has not had a funding increase in over 10 years.
- Pupil Accounting - No flexibility with the 75% attendance requirement, 180 days, and 1098 hours. MASB is working with MDE and the legislature to try to get some flexibility in the law.
- Virtual Learning - 21-F, seat time waivers, 5-O-D all have limitations. MASB wants MDE to approve seat time waivers if students are out due to a Covid related issue. The option to educate under “medically homebound student” doesn’t apply because the teacher must be physically present in the home. If a district has students home due to quarantine, and they are educating them virtually, they should be able to include them in the daily count.
 - Board members need to talk to their legislators about flexibility with virtual learning. They need to hear from their constituents now, and not wait until a crisis.
- Board Meetings – several hot topics like mask mandates and critical race theory are making board meetings, and board members, a target. If MASB can help with meetings or ideas for board members, please contact them.

Ingham School Officers Association

- State budget – the goal is to have the budget done by September 21. The MDE budget includes money for school board member training (up to \$100 for a class).
- ESSER 3 Funds – The question to the federal government is if the Covid Relief Funds can be used to make ESSER 3 payments to those districts, who because of the funding formula, didn't qualify for a payment.
 - The minimum payment is \$1093 per student. Currently not allowed to use the relief funds under federal rules, but MDE has appealed.
 - Districts impacted by the withholding of the funds: Dansville, East Lansing, Haslett, Holt, Okemos, and Williamston for a total of 11 million dollars outstanding to those districts.
 - ESSER 3 funds were distributed using the Title 1A funds formula. Title allocation does not follow the student, but is a representation of where the student lives, not where they go to school.
- Masks – Six counties are requiring masks for K-5/6. (Note: Ingham County instituted a mask mandate on 8/2/21 for all Ingham County schools)
 - General feeling among board members – the decision to mask/not mask has been pushed down to school boards members because the Governor and MDHHS won't mandate it due to re-election concerns.
 - If the state, county, and MDHHS have decided that this is a local decision, then they need to respect that this is a local decision and not disparage the districts that don't mandate.
 - Board members are viewed as dividing the community, are being threatened and questioned why they are imposing a mandate when the county and state won't.
 - Feeling is that there isn't a mask mandate because there isn't a state budget yet and a mandate might threaten a budget agreement.
 - Communities want a better understanding of the inconsistencies of the policies and directives across the counties. Districts need to be looking at all mitigation strategies, not just masks.

Superintendents' Round Table Update – Dr. Adam Spina

Dr. Spina provided an update from the August 6 superintendent meeting:

- The superintendents met on Friday, August 6 for an all-day in-person retreat.
- It was the first opportunity to meet as a group since February 2020 and provided formal and informal opportunities to be together.
- Representatives Brixie, Hope, and Anthony attended to discuss educational hot topics such as the educator shortage, flexibility with virtual learning, funding, and other issues.
- Reading Now Network – literacy initiative started pre-covid. The group recommitted to the RNN work during the 2021-22 school year.

District Updates

Lansing Lansing students are back in school. The current count is around 10,000 students with the virtual school and pre-K students helping to reach that number. They have 250 enrolled in pre-K and another 250 completing paperwork. No issues with the masks.

Holt School has started in Holt - already had delays due to the heat and a power outage on Monday.

Ingham School Officers Association

- Waverly The start of the school year has gone well. Like all districts, they are working on filling open positions.
- Ingham ISD An FYI in the news: A lawsuit was filed against Grand Ledge Public Schools because the board required audience members to fill out a form to speak at a board meeting. Something to watch as the lawsuit plays out and the possible implications for boards in the future.
- Mason The district lost power at the Harvey Center two times already, so a snow day had to be used. A vice principal has been appointed to a student support position to address learning loss, emotional support, and DEI initiatives. The board will begin the search for a new board member after a board member resigned at the last meeting. DEI goals and priorities will be a part of teacher PD this year. Construction continues at Steele Elementary.
- Williamston Summer projects are completed, and school is off to a good start. Opening day for teachers included a murder mystery as a team building opportunity. It continues to be a difficult time for boards of education as decisions made may not be popular in local communities.
- Haslett School has gotten off to a good start. The floor of the new performance gym was destroyed during heavy rains and rainwater getting into the gym. The floor must be replaced. The district has had a few covid cases and a few quarantined, but overall, it's been good.
- East Lansing School has started with two positive Covid cases and a few quarantines so far. The board will hold a special meeting this Thursday to approve new hires.
- Okemos and Stockbridge – Representative needed to leave due to time constraints. The meeting was adjourned at 9:41am.

2021-22 Meeting Schedule

August 11, 2021
September 1, 2021
October 6, 2021
November 3, 2021
December 1, 2021
February 2, 2022
March 2, 2022
May 4, 2022