

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

Present

Dansville	Mike Kapp	Webberville	Andy Smith
East Lansing	Monica Fink	Williamston	Sarah Belanger
Haslett	Cammy Wheeler	Waverly	Alicia Guevara Warren
Haslett	Monica Delcastillo		
Ingham ISD	Jason Mellema	<u>Absent</u>	
Ingham ISD	John Wolenberg	Holt	Rob Halgren
Lansing	Nino Rodriguez	Leslie	Dominic Ambroggio
Okemos	Jayne Taylor	Mason	Michael Kelly
Stockbridge	Keven Numinen	Webberville	Amy Coe

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

New ISOA Representatives were recognized:

- Dominic Ambroggio – Leslie Public Schools
- Alicia Guevara Warren – Waverly Community Schools
- Monica Delcastillo – Haslett Public Schools

Legislative Update – Jennifer Smith, MASB

Jennifer Smith, MASB Government Relations, gave an update from the Capitol:

- We have a Democratic majority in house and senate. It is only a two-person majority so the slim margin will make things interesting.
- Joe Tate, First black House Speaker, Winnie Brooks, first female Senate Majority Leader.
- Michigan currently has 8-9 billion on the books – one time revenue from the federal government and a big increase in sales tax revenue that hasn't been spent.
 - Economy will slow down – some predicting a big fiscal cliff in 2024
 - ESSER funding must be spent by September 2024
- Up to a 30% increase in the Earned Income Tax Credit will be coming – equal to half billion dollars.
- Pension tax repel – half a billion dollars – will raise the school aid percentage higher so as the pension tax goes away, school revenue should stay the same. Twenty-four percent of income tax goes to school aid fund currently.
- Supplementals – trying to close the books and spend the money.
 - If revenues are higher than expenditures – it will trigger an income tax roll back and that is expected to happen. They are currently trying some creative accounting to avoid the trigger of the roll back.

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- Senate committee looking at the third-grade reading law to remove mandatory retention. Changes would require additional help for students who are not reading at grade level when they enter fourth grade.
- House wants to repeal the state A-F grading system for schools and stay with federal accountability system only.
- Presidential primary change – Democrats looking to change the primary to the last Tuesday of February instead of the second Tuesday in March. Republican rules are different and won't allow them to move the primary – might not be recognized by national party.
- Two Democratic members are running for mayor – if they both win – then it will be 54 to 54 and nothing will move.
- Universal Pre-K – long-term project that will have to be phased in over multiple years to give districts time to get the infrastructure developed.
- [Grassroots CBA](#) – 3-hour class – contact [Jennifer Smith](#) for information.
 - Can be reimbursed up to \$100 for CBA classes from the state.
 - Take advantage of the money so that it stays in the budget
 - Close to half of the classes are reimbursable.
- Collective Bargaining – Prohibitive subjects of bargaining may be back on the table. Changes to the tenure law, 80/20 and the hard cap for health care. Changes the unions have wanted for years. Right to Work – will not affect schools if they appeal it – does not apply to public employers, only the private sector union jobs.
- Not sure if there will be funding for DEI initiatives in the budget.

Superintendents' Round Table Update

Andrew Smith, Webberville Community Schools Superintendent, provided an update from the January Superintendent Round Table meeting:

- Preschool Inclusion Workshop – Special education support for students, grant opportunities for districts.
- Special Education Student Management System - Proposal is for the ISD service area to move to MiPSE (Michigan PowerSchool Special Education System)
- Academic failure and graduation deficiency following Covid – discussing ways to get students back on track following Covid - blended learning, summer classes, evening classes, sharing resources across districts.
- Homeschool Enrollment Policies – discussion on the various policies around the county.
- Talent Together Program – Adult learners who are interested in becoming educators. Non-traditional track for support staff to find a pathway to become a teacher. Apprenticeship program through the federal government
- MI Career Quest at the Lansing Center in May - 70 businesses have registered – gives students the opportunity to learn about different careers.
- State of the State review
- School safety conversation – ongoing discussion of a coordinated and collaborative system in the county
- Minimum wage legal action is being monitored for budgeting purposes
- Dysregulated students – Discussion on supporting kids who are struggling behaviorally and emotionally to get them back on track academically.

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Bylaws and ISOA Officer Election

Due to new representatives joining for their first meeting, the bylaw review and election of the ISOA officers will take place in March.

Countywide Speaker

ISOA will help to sponsor a countywide speaker on October 3, 2023. Jamie Vollmer, author of “Schools Cannot Do it Alone” will speak to the Lansing Regional Chamber. He will also present to superintendents, board members, and community members during a special evening meeting at Holt High School.

ISOA board members will receive Jamie’s book prior to the March 1 ISOA meeting. Jason Mellema will further discuss the book, the gathering on October 3 and the need to promote this to all district board members.

District Updates

Lansing The new Mt. Hope school construction continues, A group of dancers from Everett High School performed during the inauguration of Senator Sarah Anthony. Approved the strategic plan in December. Developing special programs to support students who have fallen behind academically.

Okemos Okemos now has emotional support service dogs - the dogs will be in several of the schools with the goals to have one in each building. The bond work will start this summer with work on secure vestibules and updates to the Montessori school. The grant for school nurses was extended through 2024. The district opened a flu/covid testing facility at a local church. Additional GSRP classroom added. Security threat assessments and workplace violence work continues. Community survey on start times - the board will use the data to reevaluate start times across the district. OHS philharmonic performed at the Devos Performance Hall.

Williamston Report cards sent out over the weekend. The board held their organizational meeting a few weeks ago and received an update from Dr. Spina regarding the many projects that were completed over winter break. New addition to staff – emotional support safety dog. Next week partnering with Haslett for a “Be Nice” basketball event.

Haslett The district had a new board member pass away suddenly right before Christmas. The appointment process is underway to get a new school board member on board. Finalists from the middle school represented Haslett at the MLK celebration lunch in Lansing. Monica Delcastillo will be the new ISOA representative from Haslett.

Waverly Organizational meeting held in January – welcomed two new members. The bond projects are moving along. Softball complex work continues – dugout and fields are under construction. The district held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the East Intermediate School. In December, the board approved the proposal to hire a School Resource Officer and have begun the hiring process.

ISD Washington Close-up field trip – board received an update from the students.