

**ISOA Executive Board Meeting
February 2, 2022
Minutes**

Present

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

The meeting was called to order at 8:06 am.

ISOA Officer Election

ISOA officers are elected every year in February. This allows for board member changes that may have taken place in January. The following slate of officers were presented:

- Melanie Lynn, Okemos – President
- Jeff West, Williamston – Vice-President
- Monica Fink, East Lansing – Secretary/Treasurer

Nino Rodriguez, supported by Rob Halgren, moved to approve the slate of officers as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Legislative Update – Jennifer Smith – MASB Director of Government Relations

Budget - The Governor’s budget should be presented on February 9 with the House and Senate budget coming around the beginning of April. The final numbers should be known around the second week of May and hopeful for a budget in early June. There is a lot of money to spend, and it’s an election year, so a June budget deal is probable.

There will be 3.6 billion left at the end of this fiscal year which will roll over to next year. A good majority of that money is federal money which must be spent in certain areas.

There is a lot of talk regarding tax cuts – there is caution as cutting taxes too much could be dangerous for the budget long term. Other areas under consideration include:

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- Paying down the MPSERS rate
- Looking at how pupil count is done
- Investment in special education (caution with SE – anything invested can't be cut in the future)

State of the State – The Governor's speech was short and didn't lay out a lot of proposals for the new year. Some highlights included a focus on community/school mental health and in-person learning.

MASB initiative – Changing the attendance threshold for districts. Currently districts must meet a 75% attendance rate to count a day of instruction. If they don't meet 75%, the day must be made up or funding lost.

- Districts encouraged to contact their legislators and inform them how many days they have been under 75% attendance due to Covid, staff shortages and the weather.
- Contact [MASB](#) with the number of days your district has had to cancel school this year. MASB is keeping track for the entire state.
- If districts only have 74% of students on a particular day, the day doesn't count. It puts districts in a difficult place.
- Support to have required attendance rate reduced to 60% - this is the acceptable attendance rate for days that must be made up in the summer - so there is precedence for the 60%.
- MASB is asking for the state to waive the 75% if the district is offering in-person instruction. Currently SB664 has the ability to address the attendance rate. It has passed the House but no hearing scheduled.
- There is an MASB board resolution boards of education can pass to support lowering the required attendance rate: <https://masb.org/state-activities.aspx>
- ISOA will create a letter to legislators in support of lowering the attendance rate. Jason will discuss doing the same thing with the Superintendents.

Student Teachers – There will be a house hearing on a bill for student teachers to be able to teach before they have their certification.

Pupil Accounting Manual – There is a bill that focuses on the pupil accounting manual – if the manual needs to change due to a change in the law, then the legislators would have to approve the manual change. Questions on legality with this bill.

Special Education Maintenance of Effort – If money is spent on special education this year, next year the same money or more must be spent, there can't be any cut in the budget. If millions of extra funds are put into the SE budget this year, the same must happen every year. Caution on using one time funds and not being able to sustain it in the future.

Substitute Teachers - Retired teachers should be allowed to come back to work with no penalties. There should be a path developed for staff who want to come back and teach without losing their pension. Looking at changes to the Critical Shortage Law – retired teachers can only work three years, and then must retire again.

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Superintendents' Round Table Update

Jason Mellema, Ingham ISD Superintendent, gave an update on the issues discussed during the January Superintendents' Round Table meeting:

- Agreement on consortium StarNet internet service
- Ongoing issues with the Teacher Shortage
- Teacher Negotiations
- Launch Michigan Update
- Challenges with Covid – Test to Stay and Contact Tracing
- Special Education Compliance work – sub group of superintendents working on this issue
- Student wellbeing consortium – invitation from Kent ISD to become involved in a consortium to understand overall student health and wellbeing.

District Updates

- Williamston Band and winter concerts went well. The district got a CDC grant for a school health liaison who now handles all of the contact tracing and the Test to Stay program. Williamston also is participating in the MI Backpack Program which sends Covid tests home for use. The Board participated in a training through MASB.
- Ingham ISD Today is the bid opening for the construction project.
- Okemos Okemos schools, following work with the community and students, has selected the Okemos Wolves as their new mascot.
- Lansing Lansing held a celebration of 50 years of Everett High School and highlighted all recent renovations. The board retreat will be in February - they will work on updating the strategic plan. The team of administrators, teachers and nurses working with the ICHD to combat Covid have done an amazing job.
- Holt Holt is in the first phase of their bond work.
- East Lansing Elementary students wrote letters to workers at Sparrow thanking them for their hard work. Wind ensemble performed in Grand Rapids. The absences at the high school due to a positive Covid has decreased. ICHD held a booster shot clinic at the high school and the district will have additional partnerships with MSU for booster shots. KN95 and KF94 masks for adults and students are available in the offices.
- Mason The district continues to focus on social emotional learning – allocating resources and developing plans for credit recovery and support for students and families. Districts need to continue to look at all mitigation strategies. Parent concerns about the amount of time their kids are spending online which makes staying in person more important.
- Leslie Struggling with staffing shortages due to Covid – caused the district to close on January 14. The district now has a nurse handling Test to Stay. The district borders Jackson County who has no mask mandate. Regularly have public comment at board meetings regarding getting rid of masks. Sinking fund money will be used to rebuild the track. Hosted vocal association event at the district and that went great.

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March and May ISOA Meetings

Per consensus from the group, the March and May meetings will be held virtually with no in-person option.

Instead of the scheduled tour of Heartwood School in March, Greater Lansing Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense will present their program *Be Smart 4 Kids* that provides guidelines for safe storage of guns and gun safety conversations.

2021-22 Meeting Schedule

August 11, 2021

September 1, 2021

October 6, 2021

November 3, 2021

December 1, 2021

January 2022 – No Meeting

February 2, 2022

March 2, 2022

April 2022 – No Meeting

May 4, 2022

