



## **IARSS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

January 6, 2010

1:00 – 4:00 PM

Northfield Inn, Springfield

### **MINUTES**

#### **I. Call to Order and Opening Activities**

A. Pledge of Allegiance – Led by Superintendent Larry Pfeiffer

B. Attendance Sheets were distributed

C. Approval of Minutes

Motion to Approve: Superintendent Jim Widdop

Seconded: Superintendent Larry Fillingim

Motion carried

D. The Treasurer's Report was presented by Treasurer Louise Bassett.

Motion to Approve: Superintendent Terri McDowell

Seconded: Superintendent Jodi Scott

Motion carried

#### **II. Vendor Presentation**

Larry Maden from One Call Now provided an informational session on the services provided by the company.

#### **III. Business**

A. President Morrison asked members to contribute to the IARSS Monument (recommended contribution: \$150 per ROE)

B. The Executive Committee discussed the benefits of having area meetings in conjunction with general meetings. Area chairs may elect to do this if they choose to do so.

C. Assistant Superintendent Lori Fanello gave a report on the Raising Student Attendance Conference (RSAC). The conference made a profit this year. Pheasant Run is reserved for next year's conference.

#### **IV. President's Report**

A. Assistant Superintendent Tatia Beckwith gave a presentation on the Race to the Top application.

B. President Morrison attended AESA Conference in Austin and shared his experiences

C. Superintendent Bob Daiber provided a summary of the IARSS Triple I Booth

D. Budget Discussion – Legislative Support – President Morrison was told by State Superintendent Chris Koch that IARSS is welcome to attend budget hearings and provide input to the budget-making process. President Morrison encourages

members to approach their local legislators and share with them our budgetary needs and budgetary concerns and use a personal approach to explaining the repercussions of ISBE's budget cuts. IARSS members should work to cultivate positive relationships with legislators and help them understand the impact of budgetary actions.

- E. President Morrison reported on an Educational Round Table meeting held at IMSA with Representatives Pritchard, Chapa LaVia, and Froelich.
- F. Superintendent Jim Widdop shared information he received from Cinda Meneghetti at ISBE concerning new laws in Illinois regarding school transportation. A list of the new laws was provided to attendees.
- G. Superintendent Brookhart gave a report on the Illinois Virtual School. Funding is available to maintain IVS through the Spring and Summer.
- H. A motion to postpone the January 7<sup>th</sup> Professional Development sessions was made by Superintendent Fillingim and seconded by Superintendent Mark Jontry. The motion carried. The Professional Development committee will reschedule the program for the March 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> IARSS meeting dates.
- I. Superintendent Marc Kiehna reminded the membership of the upcoming Alaska cruise, which is available for all IARSS members and ROE staff.

#### **IV. Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Mike McCreery reported on the following items:

- A. ROE #14 Update
- B. State Budget Issues

During his report, Executive Director McCreery invited members of the Legislative Committee to come forward to participate in a round table discussion.

#### **VI. Round Table**

Members of the Legislative Committee participated in a round table discussion concerning the IARSS legislative agenda. A slate of legislative topics was presented to the membership for consideration and discussion.

#### **VII. Committee Reports**

Members are asked to mail their reports to Secretary Mark Drone. Committee reports will be appended to the business meeting minutes.

#### **VIII. Other Business / Announcements**

#### **IX. Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn:  
Superintendent Steve Breese  
Second: Superintendent Brad Harriman

**Next General Membership Meeting – March 3-4, 2010 – Hilton Hotel – Plaza III**

## IARSS Committee Reports - January 6, 2010

### TAOEP/RSSP Committee Meeting Summary:

- Reminder that ICEARY conference is March 11 & 12 in Bloomington
- So far, only 1 TAOEP/RSSP program is making cuts this current year due to funding. Many expected for next year.
- Discussion on teachers, seniority and dismissal in grant programs. Different positions presented by different lawyers. No real answer known until trial tested. Best practice discussed was to sign contracts annually with out clause and if a portion of teachers are dismissed, portion should be determined by seniority.
- Committee recommended that the Apex company be allowed to present at our next IARSS meeting.

Those attending were: Julie Wollerman, Cheryl Reifsteck, Nik Groothuis, Matt Snyder, Jean Anderson, John Glimco, Paul Nordstrom, Larry Fillingim, Janet Ulrich, Bob Daiber, Brad Harriman

### Health Life Safety Committee Meeting Summary:

The HLS committee met with Karen Shoup who started with ISBE in the life safety area a few months ago. Karen is an architect that worked on school construction at the Capitol Development Board and worked with the Office of the Budget to get the capital bill passed. She was joined by Eric and Susan. Karen reports to Deb Vespa. She told us that they are reviewing the 94 districts that had approved construction grants in 2003 to update them and make sure they still meet the criteria of the grant. Over 30 have already completed the construction project. Karen also let us know that the rules for energy conservation grants are done and comment period has expired, \$50,000 school maintenance matching grants are coming out. These have been passed but no funding source has been found.

Karen is checking annual reports from the ROEs. She stressed that this report needs to be filed to show that we are doing what is required and the districts are also doing what is required. We talked to Susan about getting a training set up for this report sometime this spring.

It was brought up that the only paper ISBE needs for the amendment process is the certificate of need signed and stamped by the architect. 3 originals should be sent to the ROE which forwards one to ISBE. Some architects are sending one directly to ISBE and they will accept it. If they receive a call they let the caller know that all 3 originals should go through the ROE.

2009 International code was adopted for new construction as of January 1, 2010. If a project was given to the architect to design before that date it would fall under IBC 2006 but the district would have to have something to prove that the architect had permission to start such as board minutes. If you anticipate new construction you should get copies of the new codes.

If you received a report from ISBE stating that 10 year surveys were needed for certain facilities check to see if the facility listed is not student occupied that they don't have a 10 year survey so you just need to send Agnes an email letting her know.

The broad definition of school facilities also includes playgrounds as well as any building owned by the district. I sent out information on this.

We have conflicting reports on whether HLS money can be used for non student occupied facilities. I would let your district know that the architect can try but I wouldn't count on approval.

That's the way it is until everything changes with the next meeting.

### **Compliance Committee Meeting Summary**

Members in attendance – Brian Guthrie (#13), Jeff Stephens (#46), Jim Carlson (#35), Chuck Shonkwiler (#39), John Harlin (#30), Doug Johnson (#31), Marie Joy (#10), Angie Zarvell (#28), Bob Gound (#27), Kelton Davis (#45), Cheryl Reifsteck (#54), Chair.

Guests in attendance – Patrick Murphy and Gail Johnson , ISBE.

The compliance committee met at 11:00 –12:15 a.m. on January 6, 2010. General discussion included concerns regarding compliance and changes in the 2009/10 probe document. It was the general consensus to review the current probe document at the March committee meeting. Chairman will request from President Morrison to hold the March 3rd committee meeting at 10:00- 12:00 to allow adequate time to review the probe. Committee members will seek input from their areas for discussion at this meeting.

The recognition email from Patrick Murphy regarding interim superintendents and bullying policy was discussed. Patrick Murphy did state that districts with “pending further review” status due to not submitting their bullying policy to ISBE, could have this status revised by submitting it.

Gail Johnson, ISBE, provided the group with information and a handout about the Administrator and teacher salary and benefits report and its implementation. This will be submitted by school districts through the IWAS system. Information will be provided to districts by February 2010 on specific information on data elements and the submission process. This is a requirement of school districts only.

A question was asked of Patrick Murphy about the possibility of ISBE being interested in exploring a national accreditation option in lieu of the compliance process for public schools. Some private schools currently are utilizing this process. Patrick Murphy said that ISBE is continuously seeking ways to improve student achievement and some discussion has occurred about this topic.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Cheryl Reifsteck, Compliance Committee Chairperson

### **Audit Committee Meeting Summary:**

All Areas were represented. Kelly Middlestadt (OAG) was unable to attend.

The Data Collection Sheets in preparation for GASB 45 was distributed and discussed. The totals for all areas combined excluding Area II indicated that 17 ROEs provide insurance independent of other entities, 18 cooperate with the county for insurance, 3 cooperate with a school district and 2 ROEs use CMS. We will add the Area II numbers when we receive them. The 17 may need further assistance in training or understanding their obligation under the law.

We are waiting for some contact information from Kelly to investigate whether it will be cost effective for the 17 to work together for the actuarial calculations. We do not know for sure what the “finding” might be if GASB 45 is not implemented this year.

The committee went through the mandates which had been identified at our previous meeting to determine what, if any action, we should recommend. Would like to suggest to Legislative Committee that 5/13A-3 (Safe Schools) statute be looked at and the reference to location be removed. Other than that, no legislative recommendations.

The committee did isolate 2 mandates that might serve the association well as part of a study question for in-service at some point – Article 5/6-17 (Regional Bd) and 705ILCS 405/3-33.5 (a4) (Truancy Review Board).

Meeting adjourned at noon.

Kay M. Pangle, PhD  
Regional Superintendent of Schools

### **Legislative Committee Meeting Summary**

- I. Report out on current legislative topics:
  - a. **SB 1882** (*Rough draft of proposal received, discussed and tasked assigned to committee members to facilitate at area meetings.*)
  - b. **Suburban Cook** (*It appears that there will be a resolution to this issue come Friday f this week. Details were sketchy*)
  - c. **ROEs as LEAs** (*Mike M. will continue to work on this as it is already draft legislation*)
  - d. **Meeting with Secretary of State’s office-bus driver training, criminal background checks, other.** (*Jim Widdop, Jean Anderson and Mike will meet with staff of Secretary of State to discuss several issues that have been lingering; timelines, criminal background checks. Curriculum has been approved by SOS and should be mailed to all in about a month*)
  - e. **Other** (*There was no other*)
- II. Review/Prioritize AREA input for possible legislative proposals:
  - a. **Transfer of Safe School students** (*This was an issue that was isolated to only a few ROEs and was decided that we monitor over the year, and discuss again next year*)
  - b. **Grant funds usage to pay back interest on loans** (*All legislative committee members were asked to contact a legislator in their area to receive feedback as to the feasibility of a policy change by ISBE or legislation to allow for interest charges on borrowing (to pay our bills) to be paid back from the grant dollars when received. Pending support will move forward*)
  - c. **Minimal one time registration fee for ROEs issuance of para-professional approval letter** (*Approved by general membership and draft legislation will begin*)
  - d. **As a condition of receiving substitute certificate (Type 39), applicants will be required to attend high quality professional development provided through the ROEs.** (*Approved by general membership and draft legislation will begin*)
- III. Discuss Positions on:
  - a. **Unfunded mandates** (*HB 4711-Gil will draft a resolution that reflects our support*)

- b. **ROEs as part of Alliance** (*General consensus that our unique position as elected positions and working with all districts (as opposed to being a membership organization) should not warrant our inclusion*)
- c. **Funding** (*We will work with ISBE and our legislators to address our funding concerns*)
- d. **Other:**  
*Mike M. discussed that Senator Kimberly Lightford is drafting a resolution to establish a task force that will make recommendations on how schools can lessen the disparities between demographic groups in the areas of suspension, expulsion, and dropouts)*  
*January 15th is the deadline to make requests for legislation*  
*Mark Drone will work with Mike on the sub fingerprinting matter.*  
*Race to Top legislation to be approved within a 2 1/2 days window during the current legislative cycle.*  
*March 3, 5:00 PM, Sangamon Club, Legislative reception. Be there or be square. Audit Committee, Legislative Issue-The law currently provides that RSSPs cannot be located in or near a school - Safe school students are to be "segregated" from the rest of the student population. Now I know that there are Safe schools that have other alternative programs located in the same building, which technically is a violation of the law. There may be some other Safe school programs that are actually on school campuses, we are not certain. Audit committee proposes an exception in the law that allows Safe schools to be on or near schools which would require that part of the current law stricken. Mike to look into?*

**Best Practice/In-service Meeting Summary:**

Attendance

Chris Mehochko #24 Patrick Durley #43 Barb Daly #9 Terri McDowell #38 Rich Myers #35 Andrew Reinking #41 Edwin Shoemate #02

1. Plans were finalized for the January In-service
  - a. Barb Daly will introduce Jane Quinlan tomorrow
  - b. If tomorrow is cancelled, than we will move the "Gifted" workshop to March
2. Future in-service topics
  - a. Rich Myers will contact Frank Mautino about coming to speak to IARSS Members during the in-service part of the March meetings
  - b. Chris will contact Julie Wollerman about having Apex make a presentation during the second day of the in-service
  - c. Gifted presentation may be added to the second day of the March meetings if time permits
3. Discuss request from Julie Wollerman (see message below)
  - a. A discussion occurred regarding the establishment of the in-service day.
    - i. Who has final say? The executive board, the committee, the President?
    - ii. Chris will ask Gil about this
4. Adjournment

## **Certification Committee Meeting Summary:**

1. Beginning with the February test for certification for Illinois graduates, there will be the "5" time limit. A candidate may get a total of five tries for any given test for certification. Everyone, regardless of how many times they may have already taken the test will now get five tries before they are locked of the test and therefore their opportunity for certification. This is a change from earlier thoughts on this issue, but does go into effect beginning Feb.
2. New Principal preparation programs, with the new rules and standards will hopefully be open by the Spring of 2011. The last General Administrative Degrees will be issued in 2013. Individuals holding a Gen. Adm. Certificate will continue to be qualified for the principalship. There is still much to be done in making all of the final details involving this.
3. Candidates are now limited to one content area when seeking an endorsement evaluation. They can request as many as they want, but will need to fill out request forms and pay for each area. Along with this, Universities will soon be able to issue subsequent endorsements by doing transcript evaluations and creating a program for students much like the focus programs were designed to do.
4. If someone from your office would like the 20 questions and answers for specific certification issues, please send a request to [sbreese@roe46.net](mailto:sbreese@roe46.net) Most of your offices are on the certification mailing listserve and have received these already.