



IARSS General Membership Meeting
Northfield Conference Center
September 23, 2009
1:00 - 4:00 P.M.
MINUTES

I. Call to Order & Opening Activities

The meeting was called to order at 1:09 P.M. by President Gil Morrison. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Superintendent Bryan Cross. Attendance sheets were circulated.

- A. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Motion to Approve: Assistant Superintendent John Flaherty
 - b. Second: Assistant Superintendent Susan SarfetyMotion passed unanimously
- B. Treasurer's Report was presented by Superintendent Louise Bassett.
 - a. Motion to Approve: Assistant Superintendent John Flaherty
 - b. Second: Superintendent Jodi ScottMotion passed unanimously
- C. Proposed Budget was presented by Superintendent Louise Bassett.
 - a. Motion to Approve: Assistant Superintendent John Flaherty
 - b. Second: Superintendent Marc KiehnaMotion passed unanimously

II. Raising Student Achievement Conference – Ms. Barb Jaquet

Flyers were distributed. Registration is free to Regional Supts., Asst. Regional Supts., and ICS Directors. Ms. Jaquet extended an invitation to attend the Regional Superintendents' reception. Ian Jukes will be the Monday keynote speaker. Manuel Scott will be the Tuesday keynote speaker. Low registration numbers are a concern. Grateful for scholarships, baskets, volunteers. Ms. Jaquet re-negotiated the contract with Pheasant Run. Contracts are done on a one-year basis.

III. Suspension of C.I.P. and Administrator Academy Meetings – Dr. Cal Jackson (IASBO) and Mr. Harrison Schneider

Dr. Jackson and Mr. Harrison, both members of the **Continuous Improvement Partnership (C.I.P.)** Advisory Board, addressed the membership concerning the recent suspension of C.I.P. and Administrator Academy Coordinator meetings by ISBE (citing budget cuts and a change of focus). Dr. Jackson provided background information. Both members indicated that the committee will continue to meet without ISBE's sanction, with IARSS approval. This concern will be addressed by the Executive Committee at its next meeting.

IV. Illinois Virtual School – Ms. Cindy Hamblin and Ms. Barb Closen

Ms. Hamblin and Ms. Closen provided the membership with an overview of the Illinois Virtual School. The contract for the IVS was awarded to the Peoria County Regional Office of Education (ROE #48). The IVS is an online program serving Grades 5 through 12 and funded by ISBE. All courses are taught by Illinois certified teachers. Demonstrations of the system were presented. The IVS is available to public, private and homeschooled students. IVS works as an educational partner with the local school via written agreement. IVS will be piloting a credit recovery program and plans to implement a Freshman Academy program. An online professional development system is planned for future release. Ms. Hamblin and Ms. Closen are willing to do a virtual presentation to school districts. Numerous questions were fielded at the end of the presentation.

V. Monument Update / Cruise Update – Superintendent Marc Kiehna

Dr. Kiehna is working with Jesse White's office to restore the monument at the State Capitol. The project needs more money. The sidewalks need to be removed prior to working on the foundation and then will need to be replaced. The cost is approximately \$9,142 to complete the entire project. This will be brought before the Executive Committee meeting.

Dr. Kiehna also reported on the upcoming Alaska Cruise (11 day cruise and trip). Cost is \$3,297 (total package). A printed price quote with contact information was distributed.

VI. Executive Director's Report – Executive Director Mike McCreery

- A. **Legislative Update:** Fall veto session will be in October this year, most likely determined by a filing deadline of Nov. 2nd.
- B. **SB 1882** – "Streamlining" legislation. Governor's amendatory veto gives Governor the authority to appoint members to the task force. Mr. McCreery has no problem with this change.
- C. **HB4488** will call for abolition of Suburban Cook County ROE Office. Mr. McCreery is concerned with shrapnel from this.
- D. **Mandate Audit Issues** – "Undue microscopic audits" seem to be occurring throughout the State. Mr. McCreery has no qualms asking for a meeting with Auditor General Bill Holland if directed to do so, and/or is willing to meet one-on-one with members of the legislative audit commission. Superintendent Kay Pangle reported to the membership that Kelly Mittelstadt's view of the testing mandate (building plan) this year was that there would probably be minimal findings across the State.
- E. **Budgetary Concerns** – There will be no federal stimulus money for next year's budget.

VII. President's Report – Superintendent Gil Morrison

- A. **Race To The Top (RT3)** – Superintendent Gil Morrison and Assistant Superintendent Tatia Beckwith attended a meeting with the State Superintendent of Education and numerous stakeholders. Regional Offices of Education appear to play a major role in the Illinois Partnership Zone. The main focus is to use resources to turn around low performing schools. The program will help the lowest 5% of schools in Chicago and downstate. The focus will be on 20 schools the first year. IARSS can apply in December and again in June. Details will be forthcoming.

- B. **ISBE Budget Hearings** – Already started across the State. Members are encouraged to attend these hearings and state our case.
- C. **Triple I Conference** – Membership agreed to have a booth at the conference. Superintendent Bob Daiber gave a brief update on Booth 325 at the conference. Volunteers are needed to staff the booth.

VIII. Committee Reports (Appendix)

All committees reported on the meetings held at the ISBE Building in the morning. Committees reporting included: Professional Development, Legislative, Early Childhood, Audit, Transportation, Certification, Compliance, Health/Life Safety, Best Practices/In-Service, GED[®], TAOEP/RSSP, Technology, and Media/PR. The Gifted Committee will meet on the morning of September 24th.

IX. Other Business/Announcements

- All committee meeting notes (summaries) are to be emailed to the IARSS Secretary.

X. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Assistant Superintendent John Flaherty
Second: Assistant Superintendent Chris Mehochko
Motion passed unanimously

APPENDIX

Compliance Committee Minutes

The Compliance Committee met on September 23, 2009 at 11:00. Members present included Cheryl Reifsteck (Chair), Angie Zarvell, Gene Goeglein, Jeff Stephens, Paul Nordstrom, Rob Houchin, Brian Guthrie, Steve Breese, and Dick Shelby. The committee reviewed FY10 goals. A list of concerns regarding the new FY10 Compliance Probe Document from Terri McDowell was circulated and discussed. This list included several items that asked multiple questions, but allowed only one response. Angie Zarvell noted that several "Comments" spaces have been deleted or changed to other places. The committee also discussed the redundancy of several items that was covered by the HLS inspections and other reports/policies required to be filed by ISBE. The importance of Read Only Access to IWAS was reiterated. Several clerical/typing errors were noted. Gene Goeglein discussed districts that have a recognition status as probationary and implications with regard to annexation and detachments. Mandated units of study was discussed with the new units and timelines noted. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Certification Committee Notes

1. Candy Taylor has returned on a five week contract. We are hopeful they will be able to hire her back permanently.
2. A memo has gone out on changes to the Provisional Certificate changes with a Q & A section.
3. There was continued discussion with respect to ROE access to the scanned documents. Candy said the existing ISBE technology would not allow for that. She also shared that the software TCIS was written with is no longer supported by Microsoft.
4. ISBE is trying to figure out a way to finance a state of the art program to replace TCIS and IWAS.
5. If you have staff members who want to be part of the IARSS Certification Group, please have them send their contact information to me and I will have them added. sbreese@roe46.net

Legislative Committee Notes

Legislative Committee met on Wednesday in the State Superintendent's Office in Springfield. We heard a briefing from our lobbyist, Mike McCreery, and recounted the successes of the last year, which were considerable. The committee discussed strategies and proposals for the current year. Each Area Chair will receive an e-mail this week asking for conversation at the area meetings relative to a list of legislative priorities. The areas are asked to list at least five and to send them to Co-Chairs Darlene Ruscitti or Greg Springer.

Audit Committee Notes

In attendance: Pangle, Pickens, Beckwith, Bassett, Groothuis, Cross, Harriman, Murphy, Mittelstaedt
Also in attendance, Beth Schwartz, Assistant to Middlestaedt

DUNS & CCR was discussed. Everyone seemed comfortable in the knowledge and required procedures. Previously only for entities receiving direct federal funds, now all entities because of ARRA reporting requirements.

Mandate testing FY '09 – Kelly will be sending message to the auditing firms with further clarification regarding the mandate testing. So far there is no direct non-compliance reported. Actions of the ROEs seem to meet the letter of the law. Kelly indicated that it had taken multiple readings to determine what meets the criteria for this section of the Code. In the end, the OAG is looking that a process is in place for Plan Review. Code does not require that the Regional Supt have special training or expertise in order to review the plan, rather that they have relied on properly trained, licensed or certified individuals to offer assurances that the plans meet the various code requirements.

Committee members agreed to begin reviewing Mandate Master File to see if there are out-dated or duplicated sections of the Code that we can ask the Legislative Com. to consider offering legislative remedy for.

GASB 45 – introduced in 2008 for implementation in 2010 audit. Requires a calculation for other post employment benefits other than pension. Requires an actuarial calculation. TRS employees not an issue. IMRF employees are because active employees bear a portion of the cost for retirees to allow retirees equal benefits post retirement.

There is an alternative calculation if you have less than 100 IMRF eligible employees. Actuarial evaluation is needed once every 3 years and the audit would be for a period of 3 years. This is not directly tied to IMRF, it is a benefit to be offered by employer.

Kelly suggested that ROE's check with the county (if the county is the insurance partner) to see if this calculation has been done and if ROE info can be separated from county data.

Question – does IMRF require employees to be offered insurance? Kelly will research and report to Pangle.

Kelly suggested that she will contact Fred Lance at SIKKA, an auditing firm, who may be able to offer insight into the time and effort that will be required to comply with this requirement. It may be cost-effective for interested ROEs to hire a firm together.

Kelly agreed to (and did) send the statute to Pangle who forwarded to committee members.

It was decided that each Area Representative on the committee would use a "GASB 45 Data Collection Sheet" to get the info from each office as to with whom they partner to offer insurance so Kelly can get a feel for the variety/complexity that exists across the State. This is due to Pangle by Oct. 28.

McKinney-Vento Homeless (ARRA) money and reporting requirements were discussed.

Other: Federal expenditures above \$500,000 (A-133) the single audit act requires submitted to the clearinghouse by 9 months after fiscal year ends. Now may be wanting it to be by Dec. 31. (This would require action in the legislature.) If passes this will push our process to be completed more quickly.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:15