



INDIANA SCHOOL BOARDS
ASSOCIATION

WORKING FOR YOU EVERY DAY!

By Terry Spradlin, Executive Director





As you as school officials prepare for the new 2021-22 school year, ISBA is also busy working for you every day to provide exceptional professional development, resources, and advocacy necessary for excellence in school board governance. Our annual summer seminar series began with the ISBA-IASBO-IAPSS School Budgeting and Finance Seminar on June 8, continued with the June School Law Seminar on June 17-18, and will conclude with the ISBA-IAPSS Collective Bargaining Seminar on August 20, 2021. The dates of October 11-12 have been announced for the 72nd Annual ISBA-IAPSS Fall Conference at the Indiana Convention Center. The ISBA Annual Delegate Assembly will be held the morning of the first day of the conference.

72ND ANNUAL ISBA-IAPSS FALL CONFERENCE NEWS

We are pleased to have selected 25 concurrent sessions among many proposals and are finalizing the event agenda. Registration will be launched about the time that you are receiving the summer edition of *The Journal*, and will feature a 30-day early-bird registration price.

We are delighted to feature Ms. Renée DiResta as the Day 1 keynote speaker. Ms. DiResta is a highly regarded expert on Misinformation, Media and Trust. She is the technical research manager at Stanford Internet Observatory, a cross-disciplinary program of research, teaching, and policy engagement for the study of abuse in current information technologies. Renée was a founding Advisor to the Centre for Humane Technology and was featured in the notable Netflix documentary film ‘The Social Dilemma’ in 2020.

Renée investigates the spread of malign narratives across social networks, and assists policymakers in devising responses to the problem. Renée has studied influence operations and computational propaganda in the context of pseudoscience conspiracies, terrorist activity, and state-sponsored information warfare, and has advised Congress, the State Department, and other academic, civil society, and business organizations. For the ISBA-IAPSS Fall Conference, she will be speaking on “The Digital Age & Social Media: The Impact of Misinformation on Children – How Should School Board Members and Educators Respond?”

ISBA GOVERNANCE VIA STANDING COMMITTEES

In addition to planning timely and informative professional development activities and events for our members, the summer season for ISBA signifies the commitment of meaningful time to the governance of the Association. In addition to a 14-member Board of Directors (see page 5), ISBA is assisted in the governance of the Association with the work of three standing committees: Awards, Nominating, and Legislative.

THE AWARDS COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Awards Committee is to select the recipients of the ISBA awards presented each year at the annual conference. Two awards of

2021 ISBA AWARDS COMMITTEE

Region 1	Kathy Murzyn	<i>School City of Whiting</i>
Region 2	Tim Yoder	<i>Concord Community Schools</i>
Region 3	Maria Norman	<i>Fort Wayne Community Schools</i>
Region 4	Ellen Ball	<i>Crawfordsville Community School Corp.</i>
Region 5	Aimee Romero	<i>Eastern Howard School Corp.</i>
Region 6	Jaci Hadsell	<i>New Castle Community School Corp.</i>
Region 7	Anita Downing-Overton	<i>Avon Community School Corp.</i>
Region 8	Zach Smith	<i>Franklin Township Community School Corp.</i>
Region 9	Joseph Rutledge	<i>MSD of Mt. Vernon</i>
Region 10	April Hauber	<i>Clarksville Community School Corp.</i>

2021 ISBA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Region 1	Linda Jonaitis	<i>Merrillville Community School Corp.</i>
Region 1	Steve Lesko	<i>East Porter County School Corp.</i>
Region 2	Angela Layman	<i>School City of Mishawaka</i>
Region 2	Heather Reichenbach	<i>Warsaw Community Schools</i>
Region 3	Tim Ehlerding	<i>North Adams Community Schools</i>
Region 3	Mike Murray	<i>MSD of Bluffton-Harrison</i>
Region 4	Linda Day	<i>Tippecanoe School Corp.</i>
Region 4	Karen Sutton	<i>Community Schools of Frankfort</i>
Region 5	Robert Savage	<i>Elwood Community School Corp.</i>
Region 5	Doug Ozolins	<i>Hamilton Heights School Corp.</i>
Region 6	Todd Trehearne	<i>Wes-Del Community Schools</i>
Region 6	Leslie Jacobs	<i>Fayette County School Corp.</i>
Region 7	William Roberson	<i>Mooreville Consolidated School Corp.</i>
Region 7	Stacy Killion	<i>Vigo County School Corp.</i>
Region 8	Susan Collins	<i>Indianapolis Public Schools</i>
Region 8	David Finkel	<i>Shelbyville Central Schools</i>
Region 9	Alex Knepp	<i>Barr-Reeve Community Schools</i>
Region 9	Stephanie Gerhardt	<i>Warrick County School Corp.</i>
Region 10	Lee Ann Wiseheart	<i>New Albany-Floyd County Consolidated School Corp.</i>
Region 10	Joe Basham	<i>Silver Creek School Corp.</i>

2021 ISBA NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Region 1	Cindy Sues	<i>Lake Central School Corp.</i>
Region 2	Tom Smith	<i>Union-North United School Corp.</i>
Region 3	Aaron Westfall	<i>Southern Wells Community Schools</i>
Region 4	Vacant	
Region 5	Jimmy Cox	<i>Westfield-Washington Schools</i>
Region 6	Nan Polk	<i>New Castle Community School Corp.</i>
Region 7	Cathy Fuentes-Rohwer	<i>Monroe County Community School Corp.</i>
Region 8	Brandon Bowman	<i>MSD of Wayne Township</i>
Region 9	Geoff Gentil	<i>MSD of North Posey County</i>
Region 10	Teresa Cummings	<i>Clarksville Community School Corporation</i>

major significance are made: the Lorin A. Burt Outstanding Educator Award and the Outstanding Boardmanship Award. Dr. Lorin A. Burt, described as one of the nation's outstanding young men in the field of education, served as executive secretary to the Indiana School Boards Association from 1960 to 1967. Following Dr. Burt's death in 1968, a memorial award was devised to be given annually to an outstanding educator for "overall excellence in contributions to Indiana education." Our 2020 recipient of the award was Dr. Don DeWeese, recently retired superintendent from the Community Schools of Frankfort. The Outstanding Boardmanship Award, an award started in 1974, recognizes a school board member who has accomplished an extraordinary deed or gone above and beyond to provide exemplary board leadership for their school corporation and community. Our 2020 recipient of this award was Richard Shail, now former school board member from New Prairie United School Corporation. The committee has one school board representative from each of the 10 ISBA regions, and terms are for two years. The Awards Committee will convene in August to conduct its business.

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Nominating Committee is to select a slate of officers and directors for the Board of Directors as provided in the ISBA Constitution and Bylaws. The president appoints one school board member from each region for a total of 10 members. The nominating committee member appointment is also for two years. The committee spokesperson presents the recommended slate of officers and directors to the Delegate Assembly at the annual conference. Official action is required by the Delegate Assembly to approve these appointments to the Board of Directors. The Nominating Committee will convene on July 19 to conduct its business.

THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Legislative Committee is to identify, draft, and approve the proposed legislative priorities and foundational statements to be presented to the Delegate Assembly during the annual conference. The Association president appoints two school board members from each region for a total of 20 members. The Legislative Committee member appointment is also for two years. The committee usually meets once a year in person and may have subsequent meetings online or via conference calls. The committee spokesperson presents the resolutions to the Delegate Assembly at the annual conference. Official action by the Delegate Assembly is required for adoption of the resolutions. The Legislative Committee will convene on August 6 to conduct its business.

LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

With the 2021 budget session of the Indiana General Assembly in the rearview mirror, it is never too early to begin planning for the next session to get our proverbial “ducks in a row.” ISBA had an 11-point legislative agenda this year and succeeded in achieving full or partial fulfillment of seven priorities. The ISBA Legislative Committee will convene in August to review the outcomes of the 2021 Legislative Priorities and develop a new list of priorities. Legislative Priorities reflect the Association’s proactive agenda of K-12 education and school governance matters it wishes to advance to support public education for the more than 1 million Hoosier students in our schools. ISBA seeks legislators to author bills to pursue fulfillment of the priorities. In addition, the committee develops and

recommends foundational statements to establish the Association’s position on many significant issues of the day.

One of the topics to be discussed by the committee this summer is the idea of education deregulation. If your board or administration has encountered obsolete or unnecessary state laws or administrative rules, or burdensome state mandates, that are a barrier to implementing school corporation efficiencies or best practices in the classroom, please share with me what statutes we should seek repeal or education policy issues we should consider for our legislative agenda via email at: tspradlin@isba-ind.org.

A Simple Way to Get Your Policies Online

The Indiana School Boards Association has partnered with BoardDocs to deliver their policies and publications directly to BoardDocs instances.

BoardDocs can:

- Support the management of multiple books (e.g., policies, administrative regulations, forms/exhibits, handbooks, etc.)
- Support locally defined policy categories, code numbers, and policy titles
- Minimize problems with version control of draft and final policies
- Include robust word-processing, tracking changes, and editing/layout capabilities
- Allow role-specific access (e.g., editing versus view only)
- Allow full-text searching on local district content as well as access to non-district content through BoardDocs MetaSearch
- Permit electronic linking to internal and external resources and reference material (e.g., to the state statutes)
- And more!

The BoardDocs PL is for groups that do not already have an online policy management system in place or are looking for a better, more cost-effective system. Districts that subscribe to BoardDocs LT or BoardDocs Pro Meeting Management Systems have all of the functionality of the policy feature built in!



boarddocs.com



ADVOCACY AT WORK

Thank you to the many school board members who engaged in advocacy during the 2021 session. Your response to call-to-action alerts was impressive and certainly influenced the outcome on key legislation. While not everything went our way, the session ended on a high note with the tremendous increase in the state tuition support formula included in the state budget. We have important work ahead of us to continue to champion and defend K-12 public education, the schools of choice by Hoosier families. Especially now, at a time when social and political challenges confront K-12 public education more than ever before, your voice representing your school community and the learning needs of students must continue to be heard.



INDIANA SCHOOL BOARDS
ASSOCIATION

2021 TENTATIVE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST 20

ISBA/IAPSS Collective Bargaining Seminar

OCTOBER 11-12

ISBA/IAPSS Annual Fall Conference at the
Indiana Convention Center

NOVEMBER TBD

Fall Regional Meetings

DECEMBER TBD

School Law Seminar

*For more information on ISBA meetings and locations
visit our website at www.isba-ind.org*

You have an important message to share with your state senators and representatives, the media, and your community. Legislators value the input of their constituents and, as a school board member, you are in an excellent position to inform the legislative process. The impact local school leaders can have in the policy-making process is why the Indiana School Boards Association encourages our members to share important advocacy messages to legislators.

During the rest of the summer please consider sharing appreciation for the state funding support provided to your school corporation as well as share the good news happening everyday in your schools and classrooms. What were the milestone achievements during the last school year worth praising and celebrating? Do you have new programs or initiatives that you will be launching in the new school year? What were the student achievement gains realized that merit recognition? Share the good news with legislators, the media, and the community.

INVITE AND INVOLVE THE COMMUNITY

One effective local activity is arranging opportunities for your school corporation to be highlighted as an anchor institution of your community. It is important that we continue to reintroduce ourselves to our public, including policymakers. Consider inviting your legislators and members of the public to visit your schools or to events that highlight successful programs in your district. Arrange for legislators to tour one or more schools to showcase your district's achievements and successes. Be sure to call or e-mail media representatives in advance and promptly thank your legislators for coming to a school or event.

In the fall, consider hosting a legislative forum in your community or with other school corporations in your county. Invite all of your senators and representatives to a discussion about K-12 education policy and school funding. One of the hardest activities – but potentially the most effective, is building and activating a local coalition focused on public education. You can form a coalition with stakeholder groups in your community. By engaging these stakeholders in the process you will build understanding and goodwill.

Thank you for your public service and your ongoing efforts to champion K-12 public education. Together let's strive to build a brighter future for our students! 🌟