

# **FLISA Winter Meeting Minutes**

**January 9, 2016**

**8:30 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.**

## **I. Call to Order and Introductions**

- Dr. Tom Madden welcomed all and began our day with a congratulations to all on the Reauthorization of the ESEA, now entitled ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act).
- Dr. Tom Schneider then led introductions. All participants were asked to share a response to the short introductory questionnaire Dr. Schneider had distributed.
- One of the questions asked regarded favorite locations of summer and winter meetings, so many participants shared their favorite location when they introduced themselves. After introductions, Dr. Madden shared the various locations for the past several years where summer and winter meetings have taken place.

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

- A. Dr. Madden shared specifics regarding lunch and the post meeting social that would both occur on the Rooftop.
- B. Dr. Madden shared the importance of looking to the future and planning for the future success of our organization by using our former successes and how we did achieve the goals we have thus far. He stressed the importance of continuous improvement moving forward.
- C. Dr. Madden shared the structure of the day with much focus on the implications of reauthorization to be shared in the morning by Dr. Schneider and then time will be allocated in the afternoon to continue our work on the Advocacy Action Plan

### **III. Implications of Reauthorization**

- Dr. Schneider reviewed our Mission, Guiding Principles, Goals and Objectives with us
- Dr. Schneider then shared how ESSA Impacts FLISA
  - We are no longer 8002 properties but now are 7002 because other programs were eliminated which created a lower identification number for FLISA
  - It made permanent through the new reauthorization period the formula change from NDAA.
  - The original intent of the sharing property aspect of the formula has been clarified and made permanent.
  - The MOE (Maintenance of Effort) requirement for Impact Aid is eliminated.
  - The timely payment language remains.
  - The consolidation language has been made permanent.
  - It officially allows for discretion by the Department of Education when there is difficulty with past records when trying to determine eligibility.
  - It eliminates the “locked out” language of federal property dollars. The end of this “lock out” shrinks the pie but we don’t know how much at this time. We do know there are at least 13 districts that may apply for 7002 dollars. North Carolina Senator Richard Burr is advocating for a district in his state to apply. What this means for us is that we will continue to receive our foundation payment which is 90% of what we received in 2009 (or the average of 2006-2009, whichever is greater) but anything after that will likely go to the “locked out” school districts. Dr. Schneider then shared that even though including these “locked out” districts does increase our needs, we don’t want to blame these districts but embrace their needs as well. Dr. Sandy Doebert and Elaine Janson then shared this is why it continues to be so important to lobby for more 7002 funds on an annual basis.
  - Dr. Schneider shared we are very thankful that Impact Aid in general has been considered a priority program in the Reauthorization of ESEA because it was not

eliminated nor flat funded. This suggests that eventually Congress would like to allocate more funds for us so the next reauthorization advocacy starts now as well as advocating for increased appropriations.

- Dr. Schneider then shared how ESSA impacts individual school districts:
  - Schools are still accountable for student performance
  - It replaces federal accountability with vague state accountability.
  - It cements annual standardized assessments.
  - It still recognizes the schools that are the lowest performing.
  - It could make for much competition by test makers in the future and lead to less standardization in schools.
  
- Dr. Schneider then reviewed the spending piece and appropriations. During this discussion Dr. Schneider referred to several articles he had previously distributed. He showed a line graph to display where spending was heading. There was an increase of \$17 million given to 7003 to increase lot payments. However, 7002 received no increase, even though we had asked for \$8 million.
  
- Dr. Schneider also shared that times are changing with Speaker Paul Ryan. Dr. Schneider warned us things could be changing and we needed to keep that in mind as we plan for the future.
  
- Dr. Schneider then showed a chart explaining the federal budget process along with a brief video that also explained this process.
  
- The White House has set February 9<sup>th</sup> as the budget rollout date.

- Dr. Schneider also spoke about the six fights in the political landscape: refugees, Guantanamo Bay and ISIS, gun control, criminal justice reform, and appropriations.
- We then looked at the Presidential campaign.
- We also briefly discussed the Fredericks Case that could potentially decide if Teacher Unions can continue to collect Fair Share.
- Dr. Schneider then shared aspects and impacts of polling. He shared that fifty percent of the delegates will be decided by March 15<sup>th</sup>. By our Spring NAFIS Conference we could possibly know the leading Republican candidate.
- According to the article entitled “CURMUDGUCATION” our entire society needs fixing. Rich parents focus on self-reliance with their children while poor parents focus on obedience. This continually creates a class gap. We need to advance those who are suffering from low-income status.
- Then, Dr. Schneider focused on “our ask” for the spring hill visits.
- Wes Eversole then shared a federal lands property analysis chart that shared some very good information about all our districts. He shared to let them know if any information was inaccurate. Thank you to those who organized this information into one spreadsheet for us.

#### **IV. Small Group Discussions on Talking Points, Thank You Letters and Leave Behind Document**

- We broke into small table groups and looked at our current talking points, thank you letters and leave behind documents.

Table discussions led to recommended changes that were then shared as a whole group.

- There was a larger discussion on the “ask.” Some of the suggestions made are the following: maintain the \$8 million, five to seven percent increase, look at the 7003 increase and ask for same percentage increase, or ask for the difference between what we would receive if we were fully funded.

## **V. Work Session on Advocacy Plan for the Organization**

- Terry Tamblyn shared various aspects of our new FLISA website (flisa.org) and the history of the development.
- This new website went live December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015.
- Terry asked districts to send actual student photos that can replace the current generic ones.
- The intent in moving forward is for districts to link this new website to their district website.
- Kevin McAfee made a suggestion of adding an interactive map of who we are across the nation to this website
- Dr. Schneider showed a brief video he made about how impact aid dollars support student programs in his district. His primary intent in showing this video is to demonstrate what could be done quickly, in a matter of a few hours. He then challenged all other districts to do the same. Terry Tamblyn then suggested a little competition among all districts by asking all districts to submit a short 90 seconds or less video on how impact aid benefits your students.
- Dr. Schneider then distributed a copy of the Advocacy Action Plan and we broke into our individual committee work on this plan.
- All committees reported out about their discussions:
  - o **Technology Committee**
    - Training of technology group at the spring conference and board on how to update/add/delete from the website
    - Link to blue book on website
    - Decide as total group when/how we announce website to NAFIS (groups), Congress, etc.

- Develop interactive map of US/7002 Districts with data available and Congressional districts
- Solicit winner of “Major Award” winning video (90 seconds or less) describing 7002 district
- **Involvement Committee**
  - Bob Reichert shared out focus of getting 7002 districts to become more involved and active
  - We need to prioritize specific states to reach out to someone to initiate a meeting or the sharing of information.
  - Jason Stowe recommended we also reach out to districts who are represented by key players or chairs in Congress.
  - It was discussed on whether we should look at the total dollars various states receive in impact aid funds or look at Congressional influence.
  - Jason Stowe suggested we make our list and consult with Jocelyn on this list.
  - A suggestion was also made to begin small by just explaining impact aid to districts.
  - Some suggestions regarding information to be shared with districts currently not active with FLISA were the following: membership information, website, talking points when we go to the Hill, webinar with all this information and have it archived for people to view.
  - A decision was made to create a webinar that shared information about NAFIS and FLISA and various levels of involvement. A webinar template will be created by Karen Huddleston and Bob Reichert to share with Committee at our Spring NAFIS Conference.

## **VI. Approval of Minutes from Fall Conference**

- Tom Gregory shared the current budget along with winter meeting attendance and dues collected and current 2015/16 membership dues collected. Cathie Pezanoski made a motion to approve the budget report with a second

from Craig Hutcheson. The budget report was approved by a voice vote.

- The minutes from the Fall Conference were shared and a motion was made by Jason Stowe to approve with a second from Karen Huddleston. With a voice vote, the minutes from the Fall Conference were approved.
- Tom Gregory's secretary was acknowledged with an award for all the work she does for FLISA to support Tom's role as Treasurer.
- Karen Huddleston was also acknowledged and welcomed back with an Extra Mile Award.

## **VII. Old Business**

- Dr. Madden asked all to attend the Spring 2016 NAFIS Conference
- The summer meeting will take place on June 25<sup>th</sup> in Chicago at the Whitehall Hotel.
- Dr. Madden also voiced a concern about the summer and winter meeting attendance of only mid 20's. Last year we partnered with NIISA and attended their meeting in early December where we also held our winter meeting. Thus, it was suggested we consider this again for December of 2016 and then to meet again as a FLISA group during this conference. This would replace our individual winter meeting. Next summer we might want to expand back to a day and a half meeting since it is a lot to get everything we need accomplished in one full day. Karen Huddleston voiced a concern about the timing of the NIISA meeting in December. Dr. Madden shared that some members voiced a concern with the January time of year as well with just coming back from the holidays. A decision will be made regarding our winter 2015/16 meeting at the Spring NAFIS Conference.

The meeting ended at 3:45 pm.