



Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association

Education For Children, Fairness for Taxpayers

FLISA Member Meeting Minutes

Summer Meeting - Hyatt Regency Newport Beach

Committee Work June 19th—2:00-4:00 PM Garden Room II

Membership Meeting June 20th—9AM-4PM Garden Room II

Note: Items are numbered to match agenda - all agenda items have been recorded below

A. I. Welcome Comments and Review of the Mission/Vision of FLISA by President Frank Sheboy

II. Introduced FLISA Board and Past Presidents in attendance

A. Frank Sheboy - President thru March 2026, Past-Pres thru March 2028

B. Christine Walker - Vice-President thru March 2026

C. Jerry Ellender* - Treasurer thru March 2027 **Retains Non-Voting Member-at-Large Status after this appointment*

D. Sarah Wedge - Secretary thru March 2027

E. Craig Hutchinson - Past President thru March 2026* *By-laws state that if the Past President cannot serve for whatever reason, position reverts to previous Past President - in this case Mark Naugle (retired)*

F. Mark Cross - Messaging Committee Chairperson thru March 2026

G. Cathie Peznowski - Bookkeeper - Non-voting

III. Attendees introductions

A. Tom Schneider, Burr Ridge Unified; *Executive Director*

A. Cathie Peznowski, Elwood CCSD #203; *Book Keeper*

B. Mark Cross, Cass School District #63; *Messaging Committee Chair*

C. April Moore, Sierra Sands Unified School District

D. Christine Walker, Hueneme Elementary School; *Vice President*

E. Craig Hutchinson, Kittatinnu Regional High School; *Past-President*

- F. Brenda Mefford, Fort Pendleton
- G. Jerry Ellender, Mad River Local School District
- H. Michael McElduff, Highland Falls-Ft. Montgomery Central School District
- I. Frank Sheboy, Highland Falls-Ft. Montgomery School District; *President*
- J. Anne Lawless, Highland Falls-Ft. Montgomery School District
- K. Steph Long, Leland Public Schools
- L. Shawn Stowe, Leland Public Schools
- M. Jason Misner, Glen Lake Community School
- N. Teri Reynolds, Custer School District 16-1
- O. Sarah Wedge, Custer School District 16-1; *Secretary*
- P. Kevin Feeney, Wilmington Community School District #209-U
- Q. Tim Page, Elwood CCSD #203
- R. Sally Crowser, Wall Public Schools
- S. John Cosner, Sierra Sands Unified School District
- T. Elvia Galicia, Los Alamitos

B. IV. FLISA Executive Director's Report – Tom Schneider

- A. Tom will be working as interim superintendent at Burr Ridge this school year in addition to maintaining Executive Director status
- B. Overview and review of packet information
- C. The success of this meeting is what you do between meetings to advocate for the goals of Impact Aid and FLISA
- D. This is a member-led organization... we work together in advocacy
- E. Emphasis on NAFIS branches working together and importance of having two FLISA members on current NAFIS executive board
- F. FLISA group is a family - please take time to get to know each other in order to do more impactful work

V. Approval of minutes from FLISA Winter 2025 Meeting—Sarah Wedge

- A. Posted on the FLISA website

VI. Treasurer and Bookkeeper Report— Cathie Peznowski/Jerry Ellender

- A. FY26 Budget and dues overview - Dues and Stipends for paid positions were increased by meeting action at March meeting (Action item)
- B. Balance should be close to \$42,000 after year end expenses are complete
- C. Goal is to have one year of operating expenses on hand - this is especially important with current political uncertainty in Washington, DC
- D. Reminder to update district contact information on FLISA website under 7002 data
- E. Membership letters and invoices will be sent out in July
- F. Review of 72 Member Districts and upcoming new dues schedule; brackets were updated to encourage membership by creating smaller dues bracket and to increase dues bracket for districts receiving most funding

IX. NAFIS Board and NAFIS Update - Craig Hutchenson/Christine Walker

- A. NAFIS is searching for a new Executive Director - Nicole Russell resigned in May 5th; 20 candidates applied, 3-5 will be interviewed by NAFIS board in July and will start soon after
- B. Suggestions for NAFIS Spring conference - happy to see NAFIS calling for grassroots ideas from districts;
- C. US Department of Education status - No report as Tom reviewed staffing and dismantle concerns in Executive Director section
- D. Members reminded to share their District's newest initiatives with NAFIS directly
- E. NAFIS dues will likely increase - districts receiving higher funding will have dues increase
- F. NAFIS Office will leave the Hill area and move to Alexandria in AASA building; NAFIS staff plan to spend more face-to-face time on Capital Hill
- G. New Idea: Impact Aid Hall of Fame - Creating a lasting legacy for Hall of Famers rather than just presenting awards; Hall of Famers speak at schools and give reports or presentations
- H. Membership thanked Craig and Tom for their hard work and dedication during the last few challenging years

X. Executive Director: Legislative Update - Tom Schneider

- A. FLISA is thriving, Federal government is struggling - challenges in DC do not change the obligation Congress has to continue to fund school districts
- B. All FY25 payments were made by June 5th this year, a credit to the Impact Aid DOE staff working through continuing resolutions; level funded from FY24
- C. What we learned from FY25 funding - a targeted, measured ask is more successful than a random ask; respect the hard work Congressmen are doing in a difficult time; put in for early payment if needed as soon as possible; developing relationships with congressional staffers brings success and support and helps office understand more about entire education system; reminding Congressmen this is a bi-partisan effort; FLISA messaging can meet any goal set by NAFIS
- D. 7002 schools who receive limited funding are not able to participate in FLISA meetings but still do powerful work in their local districts, Oklahoma used as example
- E. Reviewed funding formula and need to maintain current system rather than revamp formula which would create partisan issues
- F. Reconciliation can only address budgetary measures and is the party in power's effort to pass their agenda; in progress in DC, no other budgetary measures can continue until this is resolved; most Americans do not support the Big Beautiful Bill in its current form
- G. Recission could lead to Impact Aid funding being withheld - no longer guaranteed just because appropriations were passed
- H. Debt ceiling - Historically US does not ever default on debt, could potentially exceed debt limit in July which could affect stock market
- I. Impact Aid not mentioned in Trump's "Skinny Budget"
- J. Programs were being moved out of Department of Education prior to Congress approval resulting in a lawsuit to cease the process
- K. Impact Aid office has been operating as usual, has not been affected by Department of Education dismantle thus far

- L. Continuing Resolution (CR) likely for FY26, uncertainty as to how allocated funds can be shifted or changed during CR
- M. Focus will likely shift from Executive power back to Legislative power and elected representatives could likely shift alliances to remain in current elected positions
- N. Mike McElduff, FLISA member and superintendent of Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery District in New York state was quoted in national article referencing federal funding and the importance of Impact Aid
- O. Moving forward, the NAFIS need exists, the need for increased funding exists, the need to continue the conversation exists
- P. How can FLISA better use its website

XI. Review of 119th Congress and FY26 NAFIS Appropriations Ask

- A. 4.4% Increase for all NAFIS subgroups
- B. Advocating with MERIT - Memorable, Emotional, Relatable, Immersive, Tangible
- C. Leave-behind letter from March DC hill visits brought in one new FLISA member
- D. Aligned the FLISA talking points to NAFIS messaging
- E. Be calm, rational, and stick to facts to avoid responding emotionally to the political theatre of current administrative tactics
- F. Connect message to individual students regardless of section
- G. NAFIS will reintroduce the advancing toward full funding bill

XII. Other NAFIS Legislation for 119th Congress—Tom Schneider

- C. Concern over President Trump's attempt to dismantle Department of Education
- D. Concern over possible reduction in Impact Aid funding or removal of 7002
- E. Advancing Toward Full Funding Act
- F. Impact Aid Infrastructure Partnership Act
- G. Impact Aid Caucus - nearly 100 bipartisan members

XIII. Committee Reports:

- A. Mike McElduff--Advocacy Committee and Status of "Leave Behind Packets"
 - a) Care packages were left for 18 congressional offices in March who have not been connected to FLISA - one district has joined since; will repeat this in September and will follow up with district superintendent; list will be provided to NAFIS staff member Jason so he can personally follow up with each office
 - b) Congressman Ryan visited Highland Falls today - after visit Congressman Ryan has pledged to propose the "Protect Impact Aid Act" will keep entire program in tact even if Department of Education is dismantled
- B. Jason Misner --Membership Committee. Review "Why Join" Brochure sent in Membership Letters in June; membership has increased
 - a) Continue focus on contacting non-member districts who receive funds but not participating - thinking of ways to increase inclusion
 - b) Membership committee will reach out to new in person FLISA members or first time attendees to help with inclusion and networking; try to get information from NAFIS to learn who new members are prior to DC event; invite new members to meet Executive

Board at conclusion of board meeting; try to see if new members know other 7002 districts to spread outreach; focus on retention

c) Jason Misner presented on passing FY26 budget at Glen Lake District Michigan without including Impact Aid funding, a \$3+ million difference from previous year's budget; fund balance will carry through for one year, district will evaluate how to proceed going forward; will do quarterly Impact Aid update to inform community and to determine needs

C. Mark Cross--Messaging Committee

a) Updating Leave behind flyers

b) Talking points - will be updated with current year, 75th year of NAFIS, and FY26 ask

c) Update FLISA website with resources to be shared by all members with unified information

XI. New Idea Alert:

D. Highland Falls Town Hall - Mike McElduff - Hosted town hall for local community to stress importance of Impact Aid funding for local district; a way to inform community about IA and why funds are needed and promised by Congress; stressed the local effect of lack of IA funding in school district; Representatives, staff, and community attended about 100 people in attendance; letters available after meeting which most attendees signed and sent to Congress; bright yellow postcards were printed that will be sent in groups of 25 to the Department of Education; grade-band appropriate podcasts were created and shared during instruction time, engaged in letter writing campaign after hearing podcasts

E. 7002 Federal Lands Caucus: Is there a need to create a Federal Lands, bipartisan caucus to advocate for 7002 funding; how would other sub-groups react; advised by NAFIS board members to table idea until after new NAFIS Executive Director is in place

F. Breach of Contract Legal Challenge - Steph Long suggested FLISA hire an attorney to prepare suit for breach of contract to be prepared if 7002 funds are cut; filing suit stops all action until there is a court decision; Cathie has an attorney recommendation; Cathie and Tom will meet with attorney to see if idea is feasible; a member mentioned it would be best not to have a list of districts associated due to local political ramifications

XIV. FLISA Extra Mile Award - Tom Schneider

A. Tom Madden Recognition - announced at Fall NAFIS Conference

B. Highland Falls - will be recognized at winter meeting

C. Steph Long for ideas and positive contributions - will be recognized at summer 2026 meeting

H.

I. XV. Look Ahead: What do we need for a successful:

A. Interim communications

B. Fall 2025 NAFIS Conference — Washington, DC

C. Winter 2026 Conference - Clearwater, FL

J. XVI. Next FLISA Meeting Dates/Locations

A. NAFIS Fall 2025 Conference: Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill—Saturday, September 13st thru Wednesday, September 16th -Registration available July 1st

B. FLISA Winter, 2026 Meeting, Hyatt Regency Clearwater, Florida—January 29-30th—Registration Form Available June, 2025

- a) Committee Work Thursday, January 29th —2PM-4PM
- b) Board Meeting Thursday, January 29th —4PM-6PM
- c) Membership Meeting Friday, January 30th—9AM-4PM

C. NAFIS Spring 2026 Conference: Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill - Saturday, March 14th through Wednesday, March 17th

D. FLISA Summer, 2026 Meeting—Park Place Hotel, Traverse City, MI—June 18-19th—Location TBD--Registration Available January, 2026

- d) Committee Work Thursday, June 18th—2PM-4PM
- e) Board Meeting Thursday, June 18th —4PM-6PM
- f) Membership Meeting Friday, June 19th—9AM-4PM

E. NAFIS Fall 2026 Conference: Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill - Saturday, September 19th through Wednesday, September 22nd

F. FLISA Winter, 2027 Meeting, Hyatt Regency Clearwater, Florida—January 29-30th—Registration Form Available June, 2026

- g) Committee Work Thursday, February 4th —2PM-4PM
- h) Board Meeting Thursday, February 4th —4PM-6PM
- i) Membership Meeting Friday, February 5th—9AM-4PM
- j) *Note that some changes to the NAFIS Closing Reception have been discussed to begin in 2027. More details to follow as the date gets closer.

K. XVII. Action Items:

L. 17-A. Approval of FLISA Spring Meeting Minutes

Christine Walker moved

Shawn Stowe seconded

Motion carries

M.

N. 17-B. Approval of FY26 Budget as presented

O. Mark Cross moved

P. April Moore second

Q. Motion carries

R.

S. 17-C. Approval of Mike McElduff for Advocacy Chair

Steph Long nominated

Christine Walker second

Motion Carries

T.

U. 17-C, D, E. Approval of Jason Misner as Member-At-Large for Membership Committee, Sally Crowser for Advocacy Committee, and Kevin Feeney as Messaging Committee

Tim Page moved

Mark Cross seconded

Motion carries

V.

W. 17-F. Appointment of Craig Hutcheson as Past-President as per FLISA By-Laws thru March, 2026

Jason Misner moved

Steph Long seconded

Motion carries

17-G Nomination of Tom Madden for Mile High Award to be presented at fall 2025 NAFIS conference; Highland Falls for Town Hall meeting and lasting impact to be presented at winter 2026 meeting; Steph Long for continued contributions leading to FLISA success to be presented at summer 2026 meeting.

April Moore motion

Christine Walker second

Motion carries

XVIII. Member Presentation - April Moore, Superintendent Sierra Sands, CA - April and John presented on building projects and innovative ways of building infrastructure to accommodate online and homeschool students to better serve the local community

X. XIX. Adjournment

Steph Long moved

Mark Cross second

Motion carries - adjourn at 3:47 pm

XX. Call for Presentations

A. Enhancing the FLISA Meeting Agenda - seeking presentations for Winter Meeting

B. Leland School District will present at 2026 Summer Meeting

C. Do you have important best practices to share with the educator community? Are you an expert on a cutting-edge issue in youth development or education? Can you captivate a crowd? Well, it's time to bring your ideas to a national audience – become a presenter at the FLISA Winter Conference in Florida.