



Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association

Education For Children, Fairness for Taxpayers

FLISA Member Meeting Agenda

NAFIS Fall Conference—Washington DC

Sunday, September 14th—10:45-11:45AM Congressional A

Monday, September 15th—8:30-10AM Congressional A

- **NOTE – No items are missing from Minutes – Minutes reflect the agenda as presented with several roman numerals omitted**

Our new NAFIS Executive Director, Cherise Imai, will be attending one of our meetings as time permits to introduce herself and provide a brief NAFIS overview and answer questions.

I. Welcome Comments and Review of the Mission/Vision of FLISA – Frank Sheboy called meeting to order at 10:51am and welcomed new and returning members offering to provide outreach for new members

Our Mission: To ensure the reimbursement of funds lost due to the federal government's removal of land from local tax rolls, paid to eligible public school districts, with 100 percent of the revenue used for the education of students.

Vision: Advancing towards 100% full-funding for the 7002 program.

Guiding Principles:

- *Section 7002 Impact Aid Funds will be distributed in a fair and equitable manner,*
- *Membership in the FLISA Organization will be expanded,*
- *Safeguard the financial interests of all Section 7002 Impact Aid districts.*

II. Introduction of FLISA Board and Past-Presidents

Current FLISA Board (voting members) consists of:

Frank Sheboy (President thru March 2026, Past-Pres thru March 2028),

Christine Walker (Vice-President thru March 2026),

Jerry Ellender* (Treasurer thru March 2027),

**Retains Non-Voting Member-at-Large Status after this appointment*

Sarah Wedge (Secretary thru March 2027),

Craig Hutcheson (Past President thru March 2026)*

**By-laws state that if the Past President cannot serve for whatever reason, we go back to the previous Past President. In this case, Mark Naugle (retired).*

Mike McElduff Advocacy Chairperson (Thru March 2026)

Sally Crowser—Advocacy Committee Member-At-Large (Co-Chairperson)

Bob Reichert*** Membership Chairperson (Thru March 2026)

Jason Misner—Membership Committee Member-At-Large (Co-Chairperson)

Mark Cross Messaging Chairperson (Thru March 2026)

Kevin Feeney—Messaging Committee Member-At-Large (Co-Chairperson)

Non-Voting Members-Bookkeeper—Cathie Peznowski (Past President)

Past-Presidents—Non-Voting:

Terry Tamblyn	Tom Madden	Sandy Doebert	Tom Davenport
Tom Schneider	Bob Reichert***	Craig Hutcheson	Mark Naugle
Cathie Peznoski			

Section 3 By-Laws Excerpt:

- a. *Terms of Office: Executive Board members shall be elected at large for two-year terms with the exception of the member elected to the office of President who shall serve a four-year term, two years as President, followed by two years as Immediate Past President. [...] Executive Board members shall be elected at the spring meeting. The President, Vice-President and At Large Members shall be elected during even numbered years. The Secretary, and Treasurer shall be elected during odd numbered years. Newly elected Executive Board Members shall take office upon the conclusion of the final FLISA meeting of the spring NAFIS conference.*

III. Introduction by Those in Attendance

- A. Name, Title, Location and Impacted Land – See attendance report
B. Recognition of New Attendees—Frank Sheboy

Attendance taken during FLISA meeting will be shared with NAFIS Staff to coordinate our advocacy efforts.

NAFIS Executive Director Cherise Imai greeted group and invited all to introduce herself and thank each person for the work they do. Jayson Schimmenti also greeted the group.

IV. FLISA Executive Director’s Report – Tom Schneider

- A. Overview of current situation in Washington DC
- News articles highlighting the current ‘golden’ political scene were included in FLISA meeting agenda to prepare attendees with most recent information prior to Hill visits; articles begin on page 27
 - Leave Behinds were prepared by Messaging Committee and offered to group
 - Government funding ends September 30th, no one is certain what outcome will be; Senate Democrats are hoping to make gains and have a better outcome than previous shutdown and will likely suggest requirements to be met in order to avoid a shutdown; certain groups want to fund certain areas not entire appropriations package which could lead to shut down; there is not clear strategy on moving forward or what outcome is desired; Senator Thune wants to pass clean resolution as of yesterday morning
 - Recission could come in to play where Administration does not spend appropriated funds, Pocket Recission leaves 45 day window to spend appropriated funds which deters process of negotiations since trust is lost; page 35 article includes Democrat language about keeping health care funding in place in order to avoid shutdown or do

they suggest a Continuing Resolution to allow negotiating; also Trump could force a shutdown to fund only the items he supports

- Message to Congress for Hill visits Tuesday – we support House Appropriations ONLY for Impact Aid, the remainder of the bill has significant cuts to other areas of education
- \$1 million increase affects districts differently and varies each year as new districts are added or applications are filled out and if the extra 10% piece of application is filed
- Redistricting could affect political and funding outcomes - congressmen want to remain popular in order to be reelected

B. This is a member-led organization...we work together in advocacy.

C. The success of this meeting is what you do between meetings to advocate for the goals of Impact Aid and FLISA

V. Approval of minutes from FLISA Spring Meeting—Sarah Wedge

A. Document has been posted on the FLISA website, Summer Meeting, please review and suggest changes prior to second half of meeting

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

A. FY 26 Budget Information – Dues revenue is coming in, winter conference registrations are available, Executive Board voted to send Executive Director to NAFIS Director interviews, this cost will not be recurring, various fees for returned or lost checks and QuickBooks are listed, further expenses will be incurred throughout the year and budget report will be updated at January meeting, Current balance is \$90,769.

- Goal is to have one year of expenses on hand.
- Reminder to update district contact information on the website under update 7002 Data
- Membership Letters out in July (Remember there's a New Address)
 - 61 Members so far, final membership will not be completed until September after all districts enter new fiscal year (see Texas below), Membership list in agenda packet, reminder letters will be sent out for districts who have not paid at this time
 - Texas Fiscal Year starts in September; Cathie has not sent reminders out yet
 - 6 Mew Members – Welcome!
 - New payment methods are available including direct deposit

IX. NAFIS Board and NAFIS Update— Craig Hutcheson/Christine Walker

- A. Update on NAFIS Organization – 75th Anniversary celebration on Capitol Hill at 5pm tonight in Russell building
- B. NAFIS Executive Director Introduction—Cherise Imai – has worked with all subgroups and will be an inclusive leader and an advocate for FLISA; previous director was offered one-year contract that was not accepted and led to her resignation; 20 applicants submitted for Executive Director; new requirement to have 3 days each week in the office in person; Sub-Group leaders attended for final four interviews; NAFIS board is very pleased with selection of Cherise who

was offered a three-year contract; FLISA board is very pleased with Cherise's understanding and background with 7002; Cherise is using NAFIS staff well, developing them, and increasing their involvement and presence

- C. Strategic Planning: New Executive Director is now part of the planning process but needs time to catch up with current plan; planning work is being facilitated by Brian Riggs who is working with Cherise's prior expertise to complete plan; NAFIS website has the Strategic Plan progress available for review
- D. FLISA ask was decided at winter meeting at 3.5 million, 4.4% increase to match 7003; House Labor-Health-Education Appropriations Bill suggests 7003 increase of \$4 million, 7002 increase of \$1 million; it is important the FLISA ask match the NAFIS ask so Leave-Behinds and talking points were updated; recommendation is to accept the increase and continue planning in the future since the future of Department of Education funding is uncertain; during Hill visits, FLISA board asks to stress that we support Impact Aid increase but do not support proposed cuts in the rest of the bill; NAFIS did not communicate Ask to Schneider and this lack of communication will be addressed and improved
- E. NAFIS Conference: Suggestions? Please send any suggestions to Tom Schneider
- F. Department of Education Staffing Status – no updated provided
- G. **Share Your District's Newest Initiatives with NAFIS Staff for publication Reminder** – NAFIS is looking for new ideas and successes, please share from your district
- H. Anticipated NAFIS Dues Increase – updated information will be available in January

X. Executive Director: Legislative Update

- A. Clean Continuing Resolution will be proposed to continue funding government through November 20th. Bill does not include any health care language so Democrats will likely not support; If passes the House, Senate will insist on health care subsidies so the future is uncertain and could change prior to Hill visits tomorrow
- B. Transitions are taking place across FLISA and NAFIS, FLISA is working to train younger staff and transition in younger leadership
- C. Share your stories: Highland Falls and Elwood will offer a presentation during NAFIS conference.
- D. OASIS/NIISA Partnerships – Tom Schneider attends OASIS meetings with the full approval of the Board, Oklahoma is the state with most federal lands and it is agreed that Tom attends OASIS and NIISA meetings in order to keep strong relationships and partnerships

XI. Review of 119th Congress and FY 26 NAFIS Appropriations Ask

Status of NAFIS Request for FY 26:

- Support an increase in Impact Aid funding of at least \$5 million, as included in the House Labor-Health-Education Appropriations bill.
 - \$1 million for Sec. 7002 Federal Property
 - \$4 million for Sec. 7003 Basic Support
 - It was one of very few programs to see additional funding.

Talking Points:

- Explain how level funding (and even this \$1M increase) is effectively a cut to an already underfunded program due to **new schools qualifying for funding and inflation.**
 - **4.4% increase or \$3.5M per year is needed for adequate funding.**
- Thank them for Congress’s recent investments in the Impact Aid program.
- Explain how a possible cut to your Impact Aid payment would affect your district.
- Inform members of Congress of the good works of these federal properties.
- Continue to emphasize the impact of reduced funds has on our students/schools.

- Previous **FY 26 Federal Property (7002)** ask is:
 - **\$3.5 million (4.4%)** increase over FY 24 ask of approximately \$82.5M. FY 25 funding is at \$79M.

- NAFIS News September 5, 2025: the House Appropriations Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee advanced its [FY2026 funding bill](#) for the U.S. Department of Education, which reflects a 15% (\$12 billion) cut, consistent with President Trump’s budget request. The measure, approved on a party-line vote, now moves to the full committee.

XII. Other NAFIS Legislation for 119th Congress:

Future of the Department of Education

- NAFIS opposes any attempt to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education and is deeply concerned by the Trump Administration's recent statements.
- Specifically, we are concerned that any reduction in staff at the Impact Aid office or transfer of authority over the program will negatively impact the program and staff’s ability to disseminate payments in a timely manner and provide necessary technical assistance to school districts.

FLISA Department of Education statement (See Attached)

**Advancing Toward Impact Aid Full Funding Act HR 5195 (No Senate Bill Number Yet)—
September 5th from NAFIS Staff**

The introduction of the updated Advancing Toward Impact Aid Full Funding Act in the House on Monday and hope to have the Senate version dropped shortly after. We’re just waiting on the final sign-off from our Republican co-lead in the Senate. As such, we wanted to request the official endorsement of the subgroups. Here is the breakdown of the adjustments made to the bill this Congress.

- Sec. 7002 - Federal Property – the end goal is \$250 million. This would cover about 25% of the unmet need. This represents an increase of approximately \$100 million over the last Congress, primarily to underscore our commitment to the Federal property line, which has experienced limited growth in recent years, and to provide clearer messaging for the bill as we establish a goal of 25% of the unmet need.

- Sec. 7003 - Basic Support – the end goal is \$2,347,658,000, which would fully fund this line based on our estimate of unmet need based on FY24 data from the Department. This is \$105,988,246 less than the bill from last Congress, which represents a decrease in federally connected students and thus a decrease in the unmet need in the program.
- Sec. 7003(d) – Children with Disabilities – the end goal is \$120 million. This is a slightly decreased and rounded-off update of the \$120,316,000 goal from last Congress for ease of messaging.
- Sec. 7007 – Construction - the end goal is \$45 million. This is a slightly decreased and rounded-off update of the \$45,406,000 goal from last Congress for ease of messaging.

FLISA Statement in Support of Advancing Toward Impact Aid Full Funding Act HR 5195:

"This legislation represents the clearest path to making things right for the students, communities and taxpayers impacted by a federal presence within their school boundaries. It is time to fully fix these problems that were created for the past seven decades. This legislation is the best way to get it done, and now is finally the time."

--Tom Schneider, Executive Director FLISA

H.B. 5195. Outlines what full funding would look like for all of Impact Aid schools. Full funding is not likely, but bill was created to describe a realistic target in a realistic amount of time, a 25% funding increase, this is a messaging bill to be understood by Congress.

Fairness in Education Funding Act - H.R.4260

This legislation would prevent the Secretary of Education from significantly altering the administration of the Impact Aid program from how it was administered on January 1, 2025, except as required by Federal law or a court order.

The Ask:

- Cosponsor the bill by contacting Callie Lucia (callie.lucia@mail.house.gov) with Rep. Pat Ryan (D-NY).
- *Note: There is no Senate companion to this legislation.*
- Congressman Ryan called Mike McElduff to encourage information be shared with Department of Education not just Congress and is eager to support all efforts

Resolution Recognizing the 75th Anniversary of Impact Aid – _S.Res. TBD / H.Res.TBD

This bipartisan and bicameral resolution would designate September 30, 2025 as “Impact Aid Recognition Day” to recognize and celebrate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the Impact Aid Program.

The Ask:

- Cosponsor the resolution by contacting: Ben Strand (ben_strand@hirono.senate.gov) with Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-HI)
- *Note: A House companion to this legislation is expected soon.*

Impact Aid Caucus

The bipartisan and bicameral Congressional Impact Aid Caucus, formerly the House and Senate Impact Aid Coalitions, were established in the 1990s and have since led successful efforts to protect and prioritize the Impact Aid program. There are nearly 100 current

Members of Congress in the caucus, and we hope to continue to grow these numbers. If you talk to a member who is not currently in the caucus, suggest that they join. It is an easy way to show your support for federally impacted schools and Impact Aid.

The Ask:

- Contact JSchimmenti@nafisdc.org to join.

XIII. Committee Updates and Committee Work (See Below)

A. Mike McElduff --Advocacy Committee

- a. "Leave Behind Packets" : Advocacy Committee prepared letters and informational materials to leave at congressional offices for districts who receive 7002 funding but are not dues-paying members of FLISA; This campaign was carried out in March and led to new memberships and positive connections; Please provide feedback with suggestions to make this strategy more impactful
- b. Section 7002 Federal Lands Coalition or Caucus--**New Idea Alert**

Mike McElduff, Highland Falls: *Section 7002 Federal Lands Coalition or Caucus of Congressional members supporting our type of impact aid. This would obviously be in addition to all types of Impact Aid, but specifically for 7002. It would clearly need to be bi-partisan and we would need to find someone who is 7002 impact aid "first".*

Not sure yet, what that Caucus of 7002 would look like or what it would do aside from being a supporter of language advocating for increased impact aid spending overall and 7002 specifically. However, it may be helpful in pointing out what districts would be specifically hurt with the elimination of 7002. We would obviously grow this Caucus past the first two bi-partisan members...but it's not going anywhere without the two start up bi-partisans. (Jason Misner and Steph Long contributing)

- c. Breach of Contract Suit—**New Idea Alert***

Stephanie Long, Leland: *At the summer meeting, it was proposed the FLISA group research the cost and effectiveness of hiring a lawyer now to draft a lawsuit to be filed on the day 7002 funds get cut suing the government for breach of contract. 7002 is specifically named in Project 2025 and is smaller and less represented on the NAFIS board.*

An attorney was consulted and stated to get the case filed would close approximately \$10,000. It would certainly lead to appeals costing around \$80,000. The Executive Board decided to table the discussion until it is more clear what direction Congressional Appropriations will be. Currently Impact Aid is being supported, the action of withholding funds is legal, so this idea will be tabled at this time and considered exploratory only.

- B. Bob Reichert--**Membership Committee:** Focus has been on recruitment and retention and reaching out to past members and seeking new members; one page handout was created to encourage new membership and explain membership benefits. New focus is on new attendees, providing resources, and creating a welcoming atmosphere to grow FLISA family
 - a. Review "Why Join" Brochure sent in Membership Letters in June

- C. Mark Cross--**Messaging Committee**: Committee worked together to update leave behind pages and talking points which were passed out to membership and encouraged to take the appropriate amount to leave behind in congressional offices; encouraged to build relationships with representatives during the rest of the year in order to make Ask more impactful; NAFIS meeting tips are included in fact sheet to ensure continuity between groups; leave behind stresses list of the importance of Impact Aid to assist each district tell their story to have the biggest impact on the Hill; during meetings, stress how important Impact Aid is to your district and what would be lost without it
- a. Review Leave-behind and messaging for 119th Congress/OMB – see below

FLISA Leave Behind Handout

Attached is the flyer for congressional members and staffers with the updates discussed this summer. This includes an updated photo, as well as an added patriotic picture with some additional space that was created. Some of the graphics were also retooled and rearranged a bit, and several things were reworded for clarity and consistency.

More substantively, you will see references to why our *taxpayers* need impact aid, as well as *efficiency*. I also thought from some of our past conversations that it made sense to get away from it being the "oldest" program and "75 years" old, as some could see that as a bad thing. Along those lines, the Fast Facts now says...

- Funds vital educational programs and services
- Highly efficient, flexible, and locally controlled funding
- Essential for our students as well as our local taxpayers
- Years of strong bipartisan and bicameral support
- Funded at just 7 percent, continued support is critical

- d. Town Hall Event to Spread Awareness of Impact Aid—**New Idea Alert**

Mike McElduff, Highland Falls: *Town Hall was a great success, with participation from representatives at both the federal and state levels. We had an attendance of over 80 individuals, and we believe the session effectively encouraged attendees to engage our politicians through letter writing. We had pre-written letters for families as well as letters for community members who don't have children in our schools. We also have letters at each of our schools for parents to review and sign and we are working with advocacy groups to hand them out at the local Library and other locations. Our next step is to engage our faculty, staff and students to all write a letter by the end of May.*

Highland Falls enacted an Impact Aid loss community wide, had campaign writing day that was attended by Congressman Ryan; successfully educated community on local importance and widened understanding of the national importance and breadth of Impact Aid. Mike and Anne representing Highland Falls were presented with a FLISA Extra Mile Award during the meeting.

XIV. Recognition and Nominations for FLISA Extra Mile Award

- A. Tom Madden Recognition – Years of Service, Founder, Visionary for FLISA will be presented with award during NAFIS luncheon today. Tom noted FLISA has the Vision to be successful, the Power to continue and be successful, the Structure and organization to be

successful, and the Resources needed due to attendance of annual meetings, and sees FLISA remaining a successful and evolving organization due to the work of the membership

- B. Highland Falls Recognition – Presented with Extra Mile Award
- C. Steph Long, Summer, 2026

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

A. Interim communications - Frank reminded membership that the work done between Hill meetings leads to continues success. Writing emails, sending letters, engaging representatives leads to engagement and community support. Reminder that most committee work is done at winter and summer meetings and attendance is encouraged.

XVI. Next FLISA Meeting Dates/Locations

- a. **FLISA Winter, 2026 meetings**, Hyatt Regency Clearwater, Florida—January 29-30th—*Registration Form Available June 2025*
 - 1. Committee Work Thursday, January 29th —2PM-4PM
 - 2. Board Meeting Thursday, January 29th —4PM-6PM
 - 3. Membership Meeting Friday, January 30th—9AM-4PM
- b. **NAFIS Spring 2026 Conference**: Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill—Saturday, March 14st thru Wednesday, March 17th
- c. **FLISA Summer, 2026 Meeting**—Park Place Hotel, Traverse City, MI—June 18-19th—Location TBD--*Registration Available January 2026*
 - 1. Committee Work Thursday, June 18th—2PM-4PM
 - 2. Board Meeting Thursday, June 18th —4PM-6PM
 - 3. Membership Meeting Friday, June 19th—9AM-4PM
- d. **NAFIS Fall 2026 Conference**: Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill—Saturday, September 19th thru Wednesday, September 22nd
- e. **FLISA Winter, 2027 Meeting**, Hyatt Regency Clearwater, Florida—January 29-30th—*Registration Form Available June 2026*
 - 1. Committee Work Thursday, February 4th —2PM-4PM
 - 2. Board Meeting Thursday, February 4th —4PM-6PM
 - 3. Membership Meeting Friday, February 5th—9AM-4PM

*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.

XVII. Action Items:

17-A. Approval of FLISA Summer Meeting Minutes (June 20, 2025)
Motion Jason Misner, second Shawn Stowe. Motion carried.

XIX. Reception Reminder/Adjournment 9:46am

***Call for Presentations—Winter 2026 FLISA Meeting**

Enhancing the FLISA Meeting Agenda – Our Thanks to April Moore for volunteering to present at our Summer Meeting and presenting at NAFIS the conference...We are now looking for volunteers for Winter Meeting, in Clearwater in 2025.

Steph Long and her team from Leland, Michigan have already volunteered for our FLISA Summer Meeting in 2026. Be sure to reserve your presentation date as soon as possible.

***Call for Presentations—Winter FLISA Meeting 2026**

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 January 2026 Florida.