

**JUNE
2022**

e-Dition



INDIANA SCHOOL BOARDS
ASSOCIATION

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ISBA Thrives with Member Participation

By **Terry Spradlin**, Executive Director, tspradlin@isba-ind.org



While another summer break for students is here, this is a particularly busy time for ISBA as we conduct the work of the Association and host a series of summer seminars. Many of our members are actively engaged in service to ISBA as we complete this work.

2022-2025 ISBA Strategic Plan

I am pleased to share that the ISBA Board of Directors unanimously approved a new three-year strategic plan for the Association on Friday, June 3, during its second quarter meeting. The strategic plan process began last November with administration of the Annual Member Survey and a subsequent SWOT analysis. The Board of Directors and ISBA staff participated in multiple strategic plan work sessions facilitated by Chris Bittinger, Founder/President of Open Pivot, LLC. The updated Plan, available [HERE](#), establishes a new vision, mission, and core values statements, along with the following five goal areas:

- 1) Increase Member Engagement and Connectedness
- 2) Elevate External Communication
- 3) Become a Best Practice Resource for Members
- 4) Take ISBA Advocacy to the Next Level
- 5) Optimize Organizational and Operational Excellence

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While these goal areas are similar to the 2018-2022 Strategic Plan, the objectives and strategies included in the new plan are different and quite comprehensive. You will start seeing new methods of communication, as well as a variety in the Association's program and service offerings. We intend to provide you timely and helpful resources to meet the unique needs of school boards from across the state. Overall, the plan reflects input from members and should help enhance the relevancy and value of ISBA to members for years to come.

ISBA Committees

ISBA is not only governed by a [Board of Directors](#) comprised of 14 active school board members. The Association also maintains four committees populated with regional school board representatives: the **Legislative Committee**, the **Nominating Committee**, the **Awards Committee**, and the **Federal Relations Network**. A total of 51 school board members serve on these four committees, which meet at least annually.

Three of the four committees will convene in July or August to fulfill assigned duties and responsibilities. Thank you to the many members who have volunteered their time and expertise to serve the Association in this fashion.

ISBA Delegate Assembly

The output produced by the Nominating Committee and the Legislative Committee will become agenda items for the Delegate Assembly—the annual business meeting of the Association. The 2022 Delegate Assembly will be held at the Indiana Convention Center on October 3 at 8 a.m.

The Nominating Committee will recommend to the Delegate Assembly for approval a slate of officers for the Board of Directors as well as candidates for the terms open for four Region Directors. The Legislative Committee develops and recommends to the Delegate Assembly the Association's legislative priorities and foundational statements.

Each school board is asked to designate a delegate to be its representative at the Delegate Assembly. This designation can be indicated when Fall Conference registration opens or in response to a callout that Talia Bynm, Administrative Assistant, will send later this summer.

Annual ISBA-IAPSS Fall Conference on October 3-4

Speaking of the Annual ISBA-IAPSS Fall Conference, this year will mark the 73rd year of the event. New strand themes have been developed, and 25 excellent concurrent sessions have been selected. We will have some new features of the conference to offer as well, including an ISBA-IAPSS Presidents' Reception open to attendees on Monday, October 3, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

The conference continues to be held at the Indiana Convention Center, a premiere venue for some of the nation's largest conferences.

Registration is targeted to open the week of July 11, and an early-bird price will be available. Please block your calendar for October 3-4!

Thank you to all of our members for your active engagement in ISBA!

School Resource Officer Laws Updated

By **Lisa Tanselle**, General Counsel, ltanselle@isba-ind.org



The unfathomable tragedy in Uvalde, Texas, has caused many school boards and school administrators to review their school safety plans. The month of June is also when the Indiana Department of Homeland Security accepts applications for the [Secured School Safety Grant](#) program. Applications for Fiscal Year 2023 are due by 4:30 p.m. on June 30, 2022.

The Secured School Safety Grant program has provided more than \$110 million to Indiana schools for school safety purposes since it was established by the General Assembly in 2013. Grant monies are most often used to pay for the employment of a school resource officer.

The law defines a school resource officer as an individual who: (1) has successfully completed the minimum training requirements of the Indiana law enforcement training board for law enforcement officers (as established in [IC 5-2-1-9](#)); (2) has received at least 40 hours of certified school resource officer training; and (3) is employed by a law enforcement agency, appointed as a police reserve officer, or as a school corporation police officer (see [IC 20-26-18.2-1](#)).

The General Assembly clarified during the 2022 legislative session that a school resource officer “is a person assigned to one or more school corporations during school hours” and does not include “a law enforcement officer who is assigned to a school to provide security outside a school building for protection from outside threats, traffic duty, or other duties not consistent with the duties of a school resource officer.” See [P.L. 139-2022](#), SEC. 10, effective July 1, 2022.

Every officer regularly working in schools must complete specialized training

The training to be a school resource officer must be provided by the Indiana law enforcement training board, the National Association of School Resource Officers, or another school officer training program approved by the Indiana law enforcement training board (see [IC 20-26-18.2-1](#)). The training must include instruction regarding skills, tactics, and strategies necessary to address the special nature of school campuses and school building security needs. [P.L. 139-2022](#) added a provision allowing the training to be completed within 180 days of the date the individual is assigned the duties of a school resource officer. (In school corporations with less than 1,000 students, the training must be completed within 365 days).

A school resource officer may be employed: (1) by one or more school corporations; (2) by one or more school corporations through a contract between a local law enforcement agency and the school corporation(s); (3) by a local law enforcement agency that assigns the school resource officer to one or more school corporations through a memorandum of understanding between the law enforcement agency and the school corporation(s); or (4) through a contract between the school corporation(s) and an Indiana business that employs persons who meet the school resource officer qualifications.

After June 30, 2023, school corporations must enter into a memorandum of understanding with the law enforcement agency that employs or appoints the law enforcement officer who will perform the duties of a school resource officer.

Irrespective of how the school resource officer is employed, the contract of employment, the memorandum of understanding, or the contract with the business entity must state the nature and scope of the school resource officer’s duties and responsibilities.

Reminder: Public Comment Required at School Board Meetings, Effective July 1

By **Julie Slavens**, Senior Counsel/Director of Policy Services, jslavens@isba-ind.org



As of July 1, 2022, all school boards in the state will be required to allow public comments at board meetings. This article will review what is required and permissible by the [new law](#).

The law requires the following:

1. All persons who are physically attending a school board meeting should be provided the time to make oral comments at the meeting.

- This will include “work sessions” where the board is only discussing issues and not taking final action.

2. Oral public comments on a topic, i.e., an agenda item, must be taken *before* the school board takes final action on the topic/agenda item.

- The law does not state public comments cannot be allowed at a meeting prior to the meeting the board takes final action. Accordingly, the law would appear to allow boards to hear public comment at the preliminary reading of a policy and/or at a meeting prior to where the school board renders the final decision.

The law allows school boards to adopt reasonable rules to govern the taking of oral public comments at a meeting.

1. Rules should include the process and procedures for signing up to speak.

- Rules may require persons to sign up before the meeting by providing their name, address, relationship to the school corporation, and the agenda item on which they wish to speak.
- Rules may specify a timeframe for signing up to speak, for example, no later than 10 minutes before the meeting begins, or no later than 48 hours in advance.
- Rules may prioritize who speaks first, such as residents or employees of the school corporation and parents of enrolled students. The board may also elect to alternate public comments between supporters and opponents.

2. Rules may establish a time limit for public comments on an agenda item.

- School boards should make every attempt to allow all persons physically present who wish to speak on an agenda item the opportunity to do so.

The law allows school boards to take reasonable steps to maintain order during a meeting, including removal of a person who is disruptive of the meeting, to ensure that boards may conduct their business in an efficient manner and time.

For additional information, see the ISBA public comment resource page at <https://www.isba-ind.org/implementation-of-public-participation-requirements.html>.

Elections Are Right Around The Corner

By **Steve Horton**, Director of Board Services, shorton@isba-ind.org



Summer is here, and we are at that time when every other year, people in our local communities are making the decision to run for their school board. It can be a time of angst for sitting board members. The greatest fear is the unknown. Who will decide to “go for it?” What will be the outcome for our school board? Will I be able to work well with the new member(s)? These questions and many more are swirling about as Tuesday, November 8 approaches.

There are two important things to keep in mind about the board member election cycle. First, as a current board member, the potential candidate pool for your upcoming election is not totally out of your hands. It is important to consider your current board team, the issues your school corporation faces, and who in your community fits the profile of a strong board member.

Experience and knowledge are part of the equation

You may know people who come from the education world and have significant experience, knowledge, and expertise, but that is not necessarily what you should be considering. If that is a perceived need for your board leadership team, then, those are potentially people you want to recruit. However, experience and knowledge are only part of the consideration. Perhaps more importantly are a person’s personal and professional traits. Think about the dynamics of your current board. What is the interpersonal relationship between the members and the superintendent? Is your board working well together or struggling to achieve cohesion?

Remember that a key component of effective leadership is emotional intelligence. That is not the same as the IQ level we typically associate with intelligent, high-functioning people. Individuals with a high EQ possess a strong capacity for empathy and listening to and accepting others. They can separate their personal needs from the needs of the whole and are typically less likely to present themselves publicly as firmly on one side of an issue or another. This is not a person with no viewpoint, but rather, someone who understands the value of collaboration.

Stronger school board teams are the end goal

The second important thing to keep in mind is that the community electorate may give the nod to someone who is not your first, or even second, choice. It is easy to pass judgment on that person before you have had a chance to work with them. That may taint your working relationship and risks building a wall that prevents communication and understanding. The newly elected member coming into an existing relationship is probably apprehensive. If you are the one to cross the room and shake the hand of the incoming member, the relationship has a much better chance of being productive.

In an effort to be part of the solution for stronger board teams, ISBA is offering a series of Candidate Forums. These ninety-minute sessions are designed to help potential board candidates better understand the demands and expectations of the work from a boardmanship and legal/ethical perspective and answer any questions they may have. The forums begin July 11 and will be held at different locations around the state as well as in a virtual format.

Register online for the school board candidate forums at <https://web.isba-ind.org/events>.

School Board Changes

North Putnam Community School Corporation appointed **Heather Lawson** to the school board to fill the vacant Monroe Township seat. She is a former deputy treasurer for North Putnam and current treasurer for the Clinton Prairie School Corporation.

Culver Community Schools Corporation named **J.D. Uebler** to the school board to fill the vacant Town of Culver seat. He currently teaches at the Culver Academies and previously taught English at Owen Valley Middle School and NorthWood High School.

Rush County School Board member **Michael J. Beard Jr.** resigned, effective May 27.

Mishawaka School Board Vice President **Amanda Roberts** announced her resignation, effective June 15. She is relocating out of town.

Jon Costas has been appointed to the Valparaiso Community Schools board. He is an attorney and former four-term mayor of the City of Valparaiso. He replaces **Karl Cender**, who served 12 years on the board.

Eastern Greene Schools appointed **Natalie Crowe**, a registered nurse at IU Health, to the school board to replace **Matt Roberts**.

Cannelton City Schools Board members **Bruce Myers**, **Marion Lawalin**, and **Roxanna Huff** have resigned. The remaining two board members appointed **Kenneth Snyder**, a former Cannelton music teacher for 31 years, to fill one of the three vacant seats.

Indiana High Schools Graduated Record Number in 2020

The Indiana high school graduating class of 2020 was the largest in state history, according to [data](#) released this month by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education. A record 76,326 Indiana students earned a high school diploma in 2020. Among diploma types, 54% received the Core 40 Diploma, 36% earned an Honors Diploma, and 10% received the General Diploma.

The class of 2020 graduated in record numbers in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic that forced the shutdown of school buildings in March 2020 and the sudden shift to online learning for the remainder of the school year.

ISBA Board of Directors

President — Tom Simpson, Yorktown Community Schools

First Vice President — Rebecca Gardenour, New Albany-Floyd County Consolidated School Corporation

Second Vice President — Steve Corona, Fort Wayne Community Schools

Past President — Bob Stwalley, Lafayette School Corporation

Region 1 — Thomas Hoffman, Crown Point Community School Corporation

Region 2 — Becky Linnemeier, Wawasee Community School Corporation

Region 3 — Tim Ehlerding, North Adams Community Schools

Region 4 — Milt Hess, Logansport Community School Corporation

Region 5 — Layla Spanenberg, Carmel Clay Schools

Region 6 — Wade Beatty, Charles A. Beard Memorial School Corporation

Region 7 — John Preble, Linton-Stockton School Corporation

Region 8 — Jack Russell, Center Grove Community School Corporation

Region 9 — Travis Nolcox, North Gibson School Corporation

Reading List

- » [Here's how Indiana tried to make schools safer from shootings](#) - WFIU
- » [Fewer virtual days expected in Indiana schools after state imposes limitations](#) - Chalkbeat
- » [Indiana Department of Education dashboard to measure school performance](#) - Terre Haute Tribune-Star
- » [M.S.D. of Wabash County looks at consolidating two high schools](#) - Paper of Wabash County
- » [Community meetings discuss referendum, future of Brown County School Corporation](#) - Brown County Democrat

NEW: School Board Candidate Forums

ISBA will be conducting a series of candidate workshops for prospective school board members. These 90-minute sessions are designed to help potential candidates better understand the roles, responsibilities, and expectations, collectively and individually, of school board service and to provide a practical overview of key legal and ethical considerations.

The schedule of ISBA candidate forums (registration links in red) is: [July 11](#) - West Lafayette Jr./Sr. High School, [July 14](#) - Merrillville High School, [July 18](#) - Fort Wayne Northrup High School, [July 19](#) - Virtual, [July 21](#) - Jasper High School, [July 25](#) - Scottsburg High School.

Other Upcoming ISBA Events

August 19	Collective Bargaining Seminar (Ivy Tech Conference Center, Indpls.)
October 3-4	Annual Fall Conference (Indiana Convention Center)
November 1-17	Fall Regional Meetings (multiple locations)
December 9	School Law Seminar (Ivy Tech Conference Center, Indpls.)

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Indiana School Boards Association staff:

Terry Spradlin - Executive Director

Lisa Tanselle, Esq. - General Counsel

Julie Slavens, Esq. - Senior Counsel/Dir. of Policy Services

Steve Horton - Director of Board Services

Rae Anne Motsinger - Comptroller/Office Manager

Adam VanOsdol - Communications Specialist/Content Strategist

Haley Crnarich - Events and Promotions Specialist

Talia Bynm - Administrative Assistant

