

DECEMBER  
2020

# e-Dition



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## Association Year in Review: Goodbye to 2020!



By **Terry Spradlin**, Executive Director, [tspradlin@isba-ind.org](mailto:tspradlin@isba-ind.org)

### *Holiday greetings from the ISBA Board of Directors and Staff!*

We thank you for your local board service and being a part of the Indiana School Boards Association (ISBA) this year. As both the fall semester and the calendar year close, I want to take a moment to review ISBA achievements and look ahead to 2021, and hopefully a better year for all.

This year we no sooner concluded the second regular session (the short session) of the 121st Indiana General Assembly when the COVID-19 pandemic hit our state and nation within 48 hours! ISBA Staff pivoted to a telework arrangement to continue serving you, while you pivoted to virtual board meetings to conduct essential school corporation business. We have often noted the heroic efforts of school officials, teachers, and staff to deliver high-quality instruction to students for the past nine months, but you deserve continued gratitude and appreciation. Again, thank you for all that you have done as a school board member this year.

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## **2020 Event Highlights**

It's been a busy finish to 2020 with a flurry of ISBA events, including: two grassroots advocacy training webinars on 12/10, the School Law Seminar on 12/11, and a webinar on the Governor's Next Level Teacher Compensation Commission Report and recommendations held on Thursday, December 16. Overall, we offered 39 events in 2020, with nine in-person or hybrid events and 30 webinars and virtual events, with spotlight on the 71st Annual ISBA-IAPSS Fall Conference. Through these activities, members have had access to 150 EGA points and 81 total hours of professional developments.

## **Other Member Events, Communications, & Outreach**

- ✓ **Spring and Fall Regional Meeting Webinars**  
More than 500 members were in attendance for the Spring Meeting, and about 300 members attended the Fall Meeting
- ✓ **26+ Coronavirus Resource Guides, FAQs, and Memos issued by the ISBA Legal Staff**  
ISBA has provided timely school governance guidance throughout the pandemic
- ✓ **20 Board Presidents' Roundtable Virtual Forums**  
Region Directors moderated a series of lively discussions of board governance issues facing school board presidents
- ✓ **More than 85,000 pages visited on the ISBA website [www.isba-ind.org](http://www.isba-ind.org)**
- ✓ **8 e-Dition newsletters, 4 quarterly issues of The Journal, over 100 email campaigns, and 40+ Twitter and Facebook posts**

## **2020 Achievements to Enhance Membership Value and Benefits**

I want to acknowledge the ISBA Staff for their many contributions in serving the membership and note these accomplishments, among others:

### **BOARD SERVICES**

- ✓ **8 Superintendent Search Training Sessions**
- ✓ **4 Superintendent Searches**
- ✓ **5 School Governance Leadership Seminars**
- ✓ **18 Board Training Sessions Conducted**
- ✓ **2 Virtual School Board Candidate Forums**

### **LEGAL SERVICES**

- ✓ **Over 2900 Calls/Emails Answered**
- ✓ **Hosted 12 Events** -- 2 School Law Seminars, 1 Collective Bargaining Seminar, 6 Regional Workshops on Legislative Changes Affecting Administrators, 2 Fall Legal Workshops on Student Due Process, and 1 webinar on Title IX Sexual Harassment Regulations

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## **POLICY SERVICES**

- ✓ **Over 300 Requests for Board Policy Assistance Answered**
- ✓ **Sample Policies** -- Created sample policies required by new state and federal laws and distributed to all ISBA members
- ✓ **20 New CPMS Subscribers** -- Completed the first year of **Comprehensive Policy Management Services** (CPMS) program that allows school corporations to consult with ISBA on policy development and customization
- ✓ **4 Quarterly Policy Advisors**

## **ADVOCACY SERVICES**

- ✓ **3 Advocacy Trainings** -- for ISBA members occurred at the 2020 Fall Conference and via Zoom webinars
- ✓ **3rd Edition of ISBA's "Working Together – Let's Advocate for Public Schools" Advocacy Guide**
- ✓ **Legislative Action Network (LAN)** -- 9 Weekly Legislative Updates, 5 Call-to-Action Alerts, 3 LAN Updates, and 238 Legislative Liaison Participants
- ✓ **2 ISBA Live Legislative Update Webinars**
- ✓ **2nd Annual ISBA State House Day Held**
  - February 11, 2020 – More than 120 people participated, including 42 legislators. The agenda included:
    - o ISBA Legislative Briefing
    - o Legislator Panel featuring five legislative leaders
    - o Luncheon with legislators and board members
    - o State House Day photo and 1:1 meeting
- ✓ **Federal Relations Network (FRN)** -- Committee members participated in the NSBA Advocacy Institute in Washington, DC, and met with Indiana congressional representatives on federal education issues. ISBA had the FRN respond to calls-to-action and contacted their senators and representatives throughout the year on key federal education bills.

## **2021 Event and Program Highlights to Note**

- ✓ The **Ensuring Safe, Secure, and Supportive Learning Environments for Hoosier Students Seminar** is tentatively scheduled on January 29 as a webinar. Registration will be announced soon.

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## 2021 Event and Program Highlights to Note (cont'd)

- ✓ Registration for the **2021 ISBA New Board Member Academy** is now [live](#). Please encourage your newly elected or appointed board members to participate in this comprehensive training program.
- ✓ The **3rd Annual State House Day will be February 9th, 2021** and will be a virtual event. Stay tuned for news about the program for this event beginning the week of January 4, 2021.
- ✓ **Mark your calendar** as we encourage you to attend the **2021 NSBA Annual Virtual Conference** April 8-10 and the **ISBA-IAPSS Fall Conference** October 11-12, 2021. For more information on these and other events please visit the ISBA Events website page regularly.

On behalf of the ISBA Board of Directors and Staff, **thank you** for your participation in the program and event offerings this year, giving us valuable ongoing feedback and sharing local perspectives on key K-12 issues, and for your service and leadership as a school board member in your respective communities. Together let's accomplish more great things for K-12 public education in 2021!

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## ISBA Announces Addition of Two New Regional Directors to its Board of Directors

ISBA welcomes **Mr. Travis Nolcox** (North Gibson School Corporation) to our board, representing Region 9.



Welcome to the ISBA Board of Directors, Travis! We look forward to your leadership.

ISBA welcomes **Mr. Milt Hess** (Logansport School Corporation) to our board, representing Region 4.



Welcome to the ISBA Board of Directors, Milt! We look forward to your leadership.

### ISBA Board of Directors:

President: Dr. Robert Stwalley III  
First Vice-President: Tom Simpson  
Second Vice-President: Rebecca Gardenour  
Past President: Kim Woodward  
Region 1: Thomas K. Hoffman  
Region 2: Becky Linnemeier  
Region 3: Steve Corona  
Region 4: Milt Hess

Region 5: Layla Spanenberg  
Region 6: Wade Beatty  
Region 7: John Preble  
Region 8: Jack Russell  
Region 9: Travis Nolcox  
Region 10: William Wilson