

## **IASB, Building a Brighter Future**

Over the past 10 to 12 months, the IASB Board of Directors has been repairing and rebuilding the damage caused by operating in a culture of trust, a culture built over decades of progress in serving member school districts. A series of unauthorized decisions, or decisions that were a result of poor judgment, were made by administrators who were in a position of trust, and who later proved to be untrustworthy.

Beginning May 3rd, a neutral, Interim Executive Director was in place to guide the organization and to put procedures in place to ensure the Association is operating above board with all decisions and to begin the process of repairing the damage and restoring the trust IASB has known for 65 years. The Association is doing this in a number of ways:

- **Fiscally sound**
  - A significant number of policies have been revised and are included in the packet of materials submitted to the Legislative Oversight Committee. The revised policies speak to internal controls, required procedures to transfer funds, and scope of authority of the Executive Director.
- **Operating within the requirements of the open meetings/open records laws.**
  - The Association is prepared to release information prior to July 1, 2010 but is asking for clarity. Does IASB have protection in areas similar to K-12 schools? The areas we believe meet both the openness test and the member confidentiality test are these:
    - Personnel - both internal IASB personnel records and external personnel communications with schools. Example: when a district calls IASB with a question related to termination or disciplinary action with an employee would be kept confidential.
    - Legal Issues - When IASB is considering legal action or is being named in a legal matter. Also, discussions or consultations with an attorney that carry attorney-client privilege. As in the Personnel example, if a school district superintendent or board member calls us to discuss a possible legal matter; we ask to keep that communication confidential.
    - Business Programs - When IASB is responding to a request for services to member schools and is discussing the possibility of adding a service or negotiating a contract to obtain the best cost that schools would pay a vendor for the service, we would prefer to keep the negotiations phase confidential.
- **Becoming more transparent**
  - Posting all meetings and decisions on the website. The Annual Audit and monthly financial reports will be posted as they are completed. This includes posting committee meeting agendas as well. The committee process has been strengthened to provide an additional level of discussion and scrutiny prior to discussion by the full board. The sequence for major decisions is first level of discussion at a board meeting, referral to committee for deeper discussion and research into the issue, discussion again by the full board and then action.
- **Accountability**
  - The Association is willing to submit a quarterly or semi-annual update to our members and, if desired, to the Legislative Oversight Committee. As the current Executive Director, I am offering to be part of strategy group to discuss how to protect IASB, or any other organization that receives membership or subscription fees from school district tax dollars, from any recurrence of the conditions that can create similar circumstances.

The Board of Directors is a member-service organization and is committed to the ethics and integrity our members expect and deserve. We ask the support of the Legislative Oversight Committee as we focus our efforts on the future. We are ready to move forward.

Veronica Stalker  
Interim Executive Director  
Iowa Association of School Boards