

Legislature Begins School Board Association Investigation

The Joint House and Senate Government Oversight Committee began hearings this week into the growing scandal at the Iowa School Board Association.

The Association, one of the largest school board associations in the country, is funded mainly by taxpayer money from local schools and is in the midst of a financial crisis. The School Board Association provides services and support to local school boards across Iowa. Association membership fees range from \$736 to \$10,366. Fees are determined by the number of students in the district.

Representative Vicki Lensing, Co-Chair of the Oversight Committee, expressed outrage at the misuse of taxpayer money. “At a time when families, schools, and state government are all cutting back and trying to make ends meet, it is intolerable to think that taxpayer money is being misused or misspent by organizations such as the Iowa School Board Association.”

Allegations of Misused Funds

There are currently two teams of auditors examining the financial records of the Iowa School Board Association. The results of the audits will be presented to the Government Oversight Committee upon their completion.

Auditors are looking into allegations including:

- A trip to Bora Bora paid for with an Association credit card.
- A pay raise to the Executive Director not approved by the Board of the Association.
- Staff misleading the Board about the sale of a subsidiary business.
- Staff misleading the Board about the general fiscal health of the organization.

After the allegations came to light, Chief Financial Officer Kevin Schick was fired and Executive Director Maxine Kilcrease was put on administrative leave.

Investigation going forward

In addition to the Legislative investigation, the FBI is looking into allegations that the School Board Association overspent federal and state grant money. The Oversight Committee will be holding its next hearing Monday, March 22nd, at noon.