



Association of Educational Service Districts

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AESD EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
November 16, 2006 – Red Lion Hotel at the Park, Spokane
Work Session – 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting – 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by President Howard Coble.

ESD Superintendents

Dr. Terry Munther, ESD 101
Dr. Jane Gutting, ESD 105
Dr. Twyla Barnes, ESD 112 (Regular Meeting only)
Dr. Bill Keim, ESD 113
Bruce Hawkins, ESD 123
Dr. Rich McBride, North Central ESD 171
Dr. Jerry Jenkins, Northwest ESD 189

ESD Board Members

Robert Bauer, ESD 101
Maggie Perez, ESD 105
Bill Bauman, ESD 112
Dr. Howard Coble, ESD 113
Jean Wasson, Olympic ESD 114
Ken Seng, Puget Sound ESD 121
Brad Gingerich, ESD 123
Randy Johnston, North Central ESD 171
Gordon Griggs, Northwest ESD 189

Others Present

Dr. Jim Shoemake, AESD Legislative Liaison
Norm Wisner, AESD Legislative Liaison
Dr. Paul Rosier, WASA Executive Director
Dr. Steve Dal Porto, State Board of Education AESD Liaison (New Member)
Martharose Laffey, WSSDA Executive Director (Regular Meeting only)
Eldene Wall, Executive Assistant, North Central ESD 171
Cindy Sands, WSSDA Staff Liaison

Guests

Dr. Terry Bergeson, Superintendent of Public Instruction (Regular Meeting only)
Dr. Brian Talbott, AESA Executive Director (Regular Meeting only)
Dr. Marty Daybell, WSIPC Executive Director and former OSPI Deputy Director (Regular Meeting only)
Dr. Barbara Mertens, WASA Associate Executive Director (Regular Meeting only)
Ron Schmidt, ESD 101 Board Member
Ann Campbell, ESD 112 Board Member
Dr. Gary Livingston, ESD 101 Board Member

Unable to attend

Dr. Monte Bridges, Puget Sound ESD (involved in Performance Audit)
Dr. Walt Bigby, Olympic ESD 114 (involved in Performance Audit)

Introduction and Quorum

President Howard Coble welcomed members and guests. A quorum was established. President Coble recognized new member, Steve Dal Porto, a former superintendent from Lind School District will attend the AESD meetings and will be representing the State Board of Education as a liaison to the AESD. Guests attending were Ron Schmidt, ESD 101 board member, Ann Campbell, ESD 112 board member and Gary Livingston, ESD 101 Board Member. Other special guests arrived for the Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Moved/Seconded/Carried/Seng/Perez to approve the Minutes of September 29, 2006.

Cindy Sands gave the treasurer's report, the balance being \$18,919. She also explained that the upcoming dues billing for 2007 will increase due to the added expenses in 2006 of the assessment amount that is divided up among the nine ESDs. The increased amount is due to the cost of three additional meetings. Also, President Coble announced that the financial management of the accreditation program will be handled through WASA. Ms. Sands has sent \$1,000 from the AESD account to WASA as start-up costs for the accreditation program, which will be reimbursed when accreditation revenue is received.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved, with the addition of two items: the appointment of a nominating committee and a report from the evaluation committee on the expansion of professional services.

Performance Audits

President Coble requested that Bill Keim report on the status of the performance audits. Keim likened the audit process to the metaphor of "peeling an onion." Overall, the auditors' response to them has been very positive. Keim reported that while the I-900 criteria require the auditors to consider the elimination and/or privatization of programs, auditors retain some flexibility and are not bound by that restriction. A system report will be drafted and the contracting auditor, MGT, will have its report final by the end of January. ESDs can review the drafts beginning in January-February. Coble reported that the systems report will be presented to the AESD membership at the April Annual Conference by the Auditor's Office. Individual ESD reports will be given to the superintendents, who will share it with their boards.

The auditors are looking for “actionable results” in all state agencies. Audits should be finished by March. Given that timing any proposed legislation would probably be crafted for the 2008 legislative session. After that, all ESDs will be required to report each July on its performance (although it is unclear at this point to whom the report is to be made). It was reported that the auditors believe each ESD should offer some of the same services. However, because each ESD is driven by what its customers need and want, it may be prudent to address this at some point. Audits of school districts may be delayed, however, it is expected that auditors will focus on travel costs this year and in 2008, administrative costs will be audited.

Self-Study: Background and Discussion

The Self-Study on Washington State ESDs was distributed. The board commented on the revenue and expenditures of each ESD. (This study was shared with the auditors.) In response to the board’s thoughts about the study, it was the consensus that each member go back to their board and get feedback on the proposed recommendations in the Conclusions section --- then provide input back to the executive board; the superintendents will share the information with the superintendent’s group. Information will be provided to the membership in April.

ESD/SPI Partnership, Discussion of Budget Proposal

Keim reported that ESDs have been included in the OSPI budget. Additionally, the ESDs are Centers of Excellence, which means all ESDs are to be rolling out initiatives for professional development. Each will have at least two additional staff (some would have three).

Norm Wisner shared OSPI’s 2007-09 proposed budget and commented on the following items:

- \$4 million for 21 staff (Centers of Education Excellence) to provide professional development;
- \$6 million for math curriculum menu & improvement grants;
- \$10 million for science curriculum menu and LASER expansion;
- ESD core funding increased by \$5 million;
- 9 coordinators for the ESDs in teacher assistance program expansion - \$6 million;
- \$4 million drop-out reduction grants;
- Data collection money for ESDs; and
- JLARC study on transportation.

A comment was made that ESDs are a resource for design and not just for delivery of services and they should assist in that process.

Legislative and Policy Priorities

Both Jim Shoemake and Norm Wisner reported on legislative efforts. They reported their meeting with SPI was productive. Shoemake said an OSPI/ESD partnership was discussed. They met with the Governor’s staff since the Governor was involved in Washington Learns. Both the Senate and House fiscal and policy staff were very supportive of ESDs and the work they were doing and they have requested for ESDs to stay in touch. The House and Senate staff stated that the ESDs will need to be prepared to explain *why* they need an increase in revenue and what their role with school district budgets are. Currently, the ESDs don’t have legislative authority to work with the districts. The lack of equity among districts in being able to access needed services was recognized. There is a definite role for ESD involvement in district accountability with regard to their budgets. The ESD superintendents plan to upgrade the math grid. There are plans to visit with OFM staff. Meanwhile, the next budgets will be forthcoming and it is hoped they will be similar to the ones already provided.

Wisner reported that the Washington Learns report is a long-range plan of what's needed in early, K-12 and higher education. There is a focus on funding for dropouts and early learning. Wisner predicted a "lean budget" (the significant down payment); Paul Rosier stated there are a lot of upset districts out there, especially those involved in the equity lawsuit. The Washington Learns report is generic and does not address specific K-12 recommendations. It is important that the Governor delivers on early learning, dropouts, and district oversight of district finances. Two big issues with the Governor that must be solved are TRI money, grandfathering levies & salary schedules. They explained that TRI money is the use of local revenue for time, responsibilities and incentives, the average which is about \$6,000. Some districts don't have any money for TRI; others have up to \$19,000.

Shoemake and Wisner have updated the communications workplan. Some may want to take a leadership role in signing onto bills or assist them. WASA will take a lead on the simple majority this next session.

The group took a break and resumed meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Work Plan

It was reported that an expanded contract for professional services with WASA had been approved. A committee of Brad Gingerich, Bill Bauman and Randy Johnson present a draft plan for evaluating the professional services provided through the contract. It was recommended that the evaluation plan be presented to each ESD Board for comments with a report made to the membership at the annual conference.

Moved/Seconded/Carried/Seng/Wasson to approve the AESD Professional Services' evaluation process as presented.

Nominating Committee

President Coble appointed Maggie Perez, Jean Wasson and Gordon Griggs to serve on the nominating committee. They will prepare a recommendation for the next officers of the AESD.

Accreditation

Jerry Jenkins reported they have contracted with WASA to serve as the program's fiscal agent. Ken Seng reported on recent activities of the committee. It is expected that 10-12 schools will seek accreditation during one year. Jenkins reported that they received a legal opinion from attorney Bill Coates to ensure they could legally offer accreditation services. To start the process, \$1,000 of start-up funds was sent to WASA. The AESD accreditation program will be a pilot project for AESA..

Wisner suggested the idea of generating a new AESD logo. Jane Gutting volunteered to take on the project to create a new look and Randy Johnston will assist her.

Legislative Priorities Brochure

Bruce Hawkins reported that their legislative brochure is available for other ESDs' use. There are some revisions being made.

Constitution By-Laws

Gordon Griggs reported on the update of on the set of by laws that were requested earlier to support the constitution. Griggs stated in his opinion, there was not any need for bylaws, and unless there was a perceived need for such, it was probably easier not to spend time on them. He had discussed

this with Mary Randolph who agreed with him. He suggested the board focus on more important things. Ken Seng suggested we report back to the full membership that we aren't going to proceed.

Moved/Seconded/Carried/Wasson/Keim to approve of Griggs' recommendation to forgo creating a set of bylaws for the AESD constitution.

AESD Strategic Plan

Keim distributed two documents related to the AESD Strategic Plan, one with the draft Strategic Plan, and a draft Work Plan. The board was instructed to omit 2(C) on the ESD Strategic Plan 2006-1010. Keim requested feedback on Strategy 1(A). Also, he reiterated that this was intended as a long-range plan, (4 years, instead of 1 year) which would be reviewed annually.

Under the Work Plan document, Goal 3 will be the major area for the next year --- however, some items may need to be postponed. The ESD superintendents will be updating the Work Plan the next day, so they may bring back information at the next board meeting in February (for next year's planning cycle). The document can be revised as needed. Before that meeting each ESD Board was asked to review and provide any feedback on the plan.

The next meeting will be held at the WSSDA Conference Center in Olympia on Monday, February 26, 2007. Cindy Sands will send directions to the Center in January. Lunch will be catered. An updated legislative report will be provided, along with a superintendent update on the work plan.

Other Business

Jane Gutting reported that the AESD Annual Conference in Yakima is April 19-21. The board meeting will be held 1:00-5:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 19. The theme will focus on mathematics. The State Auditor's Office will present the ESD System Report on the performance audit to the AESD membership at the conference.

The executive board recessed at 4:30 p.m. and will resume its meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Regular meeting

President Coble resumed the meeting at 6:20 p.m., beginning with a dinner. Special guests arriving were Dr. Terry Bergeson, Dr. Marty Daybell, Dr. Barbara Mertens, Dr. Brian Talbott and Martharose Laffey.

Dr. Bergeson stated her concerns around math and that it was important to keep it focused as a priority. If students fail math, she reported they should stay in it, until they pass it. She referred to the surplus of money and education needs to get it. She asked that ESD folks reach out to their contacts and go after that money. It's needed for math coaches and training teachers in math curriculum. Standards need to be set and curriculum needs to match the standards. She stated she did not agree with the school directors' position that passing the math portion of the WASL be delayed until 2011.

Twyla Barnes explained the WSIPC system and after a nationwide search, its decision to hire Marty Daybell as its executive director. Marty Daybell reported on the ESDs role in helping districts access curriculum and his hope to make WSIPC more visible.

Martharose Laffey reported on recent WSSDA activities such as L-WSSDA Leadership, MAP (members assisting peers), and new superintendent search program. She also reported that she and

Cindy Sands had recently met with performance auditors and they had stated their full support for the ESDs and how important they were to districts.

Barbara Mertens reported on the simple majority (levies only) and bonds would be run separately. She stated the importance of engaging the public around this issue. Additionally, must address full funding and infrastructure and the importance of incorporating them into any vision.

Brian Talbott of AESA predicted no major changes in NCLB, but that it is expected there will be movement in special education. ESDs will be allowed to compete for higher education dollars for alternative certification. Supplemental services were discussed, along with deregulation, accreditation and ESAs. Talbott reported that the AESA's annual conference is forthcoming.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Cindy Sands
Recording Secretary

Howard Coble, AESD President