

AESD EXECUTIVE BOARD
Wednesday, October 3, 2007
ESD 112 – Vancouver

MINUTES

Call to Order: Chairman Robert Bauer called the meeting of the executive board to order at 9:10 a.m.

ESD Superintendents

Dr. Terry Munther, ESD 101
Dr. Jane Gutting, ESD 105
Dr. Twyla Barnes, ESD 112
Dr. Bill Keim, ESD 113
Dr. Walt Bigby, Olympic ESD 114
Monte L. Bridges, Puget Sound ESD 121
Bruce Hawkins, ESD 123
Dr. Rich McBride, North Central ESD 171
Dr. Jerry Jenkins, ESD 189

ESD Board Members

Robert Bauer, ESD 101
Maggie Perez, ESD 105
Dr. Howard Coble, ESD 113
Katie Proteau, Olympic ESD 114 (substitute for Jean Wasson)
Brad Gingerich, ESD 123
Randy Johnston, ESD 171
Gordon Griggs, ESD 189

Others Present

Susan Leddick, AESD Consultant, PKR Inc.
Jim Shoemake, AESD Professional Services
Tom Kelly, AESD Professional Services
Paul Rosier, WASA Executive Director
Eldene Wall, Executive Assistant, North Central ESD 171
Cindy Sands, WSSDA Staff Liaison

Unable to Attend

Bill Baumann, ESD 112

Ken Seng, Puget Sound ESD 121
Steve Dal Porto, State Board of Education Liaison
Martharose Laffey, AESD Executive Secretary/WSSDA Executive Director

Quorum Declared

A quorum was declared.

Approval of Agenda

There being no objection, the agenda was accepted.

Approval of June Minutes

Moved/Seconded/Carried/Johnston/Perez to approve the June Minutes.

Terry Munther reported on the upcoming AESA conference to be held in Tampa this year. Each year the AESA awards the Justus A. Prentice Award which bestows honor on executive leadership in the advance of regional agency programs at the regional, state or national levels. This year, the winner is Dr. Twyla Barnes. Dr. Barnes received a standing ovation and was congratulated by all.

OLD BUSINESS

2007-08 WASA Professional Services Contract

Bill Keim reported on the proposed AESD/WASA Agreement for Professional Services. He explained that the six subcommittee members had elected to include a set of priorities for 2007-08, addressing advocacy, system and organizational support, liaison duties, communication and other areas. Dr. Keim recognized Tom Kelly as the replacement for Norm Wisner, who recently resigned. Keim explained that Tom's role would be a bit different from Norm's previous role.

Moved/Seconded/Carried/Coble/Perez to approve the AESD/WASA Professional Services Agreement.

Performance Audit Update

Keim stated they do not anticipate much turnout for the ESD global public hearing, based on the previous experience of the individual ESD public hearings on the performance audits. He reported that the House Appropriations audit review subcommittee was held last week. The contracted auditor, MGT reported favorably on the status of ESDs. Overall, less than 1/10th of 1% savings efficiency was the result. MGT was complimentary on the efforts to become a statewide

system. There were no major recommended substantive changes, however. MGT did recommend that the ESDs' role in boundary committees be removed; also, they recommended removing the ESD superintendents' responsibility from school district staff code of conduct violations.

Concerns remain about these recommendations, especially the boundary committee/resolving boundary disputes. Regarding the code of conduct violations, Keim explained that citizen complaints can only come from a district superintendent or the ESD superintendent. While both roles put the ESD into a regulatory role — which puts the ESDs at odds with the way it operates — it provides a service to the districts. Members were reminded that the Governor has created an ombudsman to receive complaints from parents or citizens with which they have a dispute, so that may be a first point of contact — unless it's a valid code of conduct issue.

Dr. Twyla Barnes highlighted the letter from State Auditor Brian Sonntag and its usefulness in complimenting the role of ESDs' role in school districts: Two important points were that Washington ESDs serve more school districts and students than ESDs in other states and, school district officials and teachers strongly appreciate the services that ESDs provide.

One of the recommendations in the report was the inclusion of an ESD facility plan. Discussions have occurred with Gordon Beck, Bob Butts and Jennifer Priddy about state funding the ESD facilities through the state capital budget. A request in the supplemental budget is anticipated for a study of the ESD facilities. Representative Bill Fromhold has confirmed with Keim that any capital projects that are funded in the capital budget would be for future projects and not retroactive.

Keim stated that the upside of this was an increasing demand for new capital money. There is still a need for core funding, but questions remain whether core funding if appropriated would meet capital needs. Another legislative issue that remains and that is recommended in the report was the special education delivery system. Many of the other states' ESAs handle the special education delivery and that might be a role for the ESDs in Washington.

Howard Coble explained that the boundary issue had to do with how many districts or miles the ESD encompasses and its size. It was unclear what the statutory or regulatory authority was for that rule.

NEW BUSINESS

Due to travel schedules, it was decided to first hear the report from Susan Leddick on the Gates Grant Proposal, then deal with the legislative priorities.

Consultant Susan Leddick of PKR Inc. was introduced to the executive board. She will facilitate the report for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation grant to fund a systems review of the ESD as a statewide entity. An executive summary was distributed. Each ESD will be contributing a minimum of \$1,000 to cover the costs, but may increase to \$3,000. Ms. Leddick provided background detail on her professional services. She has worked with other ESAs' projects, planning and design with numerous agencies. Her role will be to assist the AESD in developing itself into a statewide system, by pulling the ESDs together as a cohesive system; noting that this is a trend across the country, she performs a consulting role with individual school districts; most of her contributions are in state Department of Education. Her background is in continuous improvement and she has worked with Dr. Deming. She explained her three-part approach:

- Understand the Problem: She will synthesize the relevant documents of the ESDs, the MGT report and a document she will generate that includes periodic updates.
- Design: What could we have if we have what we want?
- Planning mode: This is the four parts set out in Goal 3 of the AESD strategic plan. The final document should describe the next generation.

Leddick noted there might be structural, legislative, and process implications as they proceed. Between now and June, a timeline will be created. The teaching of the executive board is through the strategic plan implementation.

The projected timeline of the project will be released in February; the design will begin shortly thereafter. She stated she plans to frontload the problem analysis first. An update will be provided to the board at its February executive board meeting. The final document will be taken to the AESD members in April at its annual conference. May will be planning of the system and tie the design to the nine ESD agencies. Keim added that they have two days of work in March and two days of work in April on the plan.

Terry Munther inquired as to what role each of the board members would have. Leddick responded that there will be opportunities for the board to provide feedback, and to seek out stakeholder comment as well. The superintendents will carry the majority of the workload on this project.

Howard Coble asked about legislative implications of any plan. He explained that it would be ideal to structure the timeline so that there is ample time to introduce legislative if necessary for the 2009 legislative session. Leddick responded that by March of 2008, the group should have some notion of what those issues might be. Keim added that in their conversations with the Gates Foundation, it was clear that they are looking to work to for systemic change. It is believed they will be supportive of these efforts; additionally, it would enhance public/private partnerships.

There are five budget periods the project is designed around that will fund the first steps of the work. Because it is important not to delay further the project, it was suggested that each ESD agree to fund up to an amount of \$3,000 (instead of the original \$1,000) to begin the process. That effort would assist in the grant process. Howard Coble added that because this was an AESD priority, would it not be appropriate to have the AESD fund part of the project. There was brief discussion and consensus to support that idea.

Katie Proteau inquired what would happen if they did not receive the Gates grant. Keim responded that they could hold the funds in reserve and fund the second phase of the project.

Moved/Seconded/Carried/Coble/Gingerich that the AESD executive board to empower its executive committee to authorize financial support for the Gates grant from the AESD on the system-wide project in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.

The executive board recessed for a 15 minute break then resumed their meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Legislative Report

Jim Shoemake reported on the 2007-08 legislative priorities.

Priorities for legislative action –

- Core Funding - As expected, core funding continues to remain a huge priority. Shoemake explained that using the logical staff allocation formula might help in that endeavor. He will base a budget request on that for ESD staff allocation requests.
- Fiscal technical assistance - This will be promoted as a part of core funding.

- Dropout Prevention/Intervention – Requests will be made for support for resources using the models of ESD 101 and Puget Sound ESD 121.
- Capital Funding – It was reported that meetings have been held with Bill Fromhold and Dr. Twyla Barnes. They anticipate a bill supporting an ESD capital facilities study in the next session and perhaps have a chance in 2009. However, due to increased funding for bonds, etc. there may be a bow wave, which could put ESDs back on a lower priority.
- Statutory Change Certification Fee – Keim gave the history on this fee, stating it can only be used for professional development. The fee is split between OSPI and the ESD.

Issues for Monitoring

- Performance Audits - The performance audit recommendations will be monitored, especially any legislation related to district boundary disputes and code of conduct investigations.
- Tiered Approach to School Improvement – Bills that involve tiered intervention models will be tracked. Tom Kelly will work with OSPI to see where ESDs would best fit in.
- Support for ESD School Improvement Model.
- Use of K-20 system for program delivery. Through the use of technology, make this a driver for change.

Monte Bridges added that cleaning up the ESD chapter should be a priority. Keim responded that would come out of the study of the ESD systems approach. Also, Howard Coble stated that the AESD's ability to hire staff would be done in the systems study, especially with their alliance with Gates Foundation.

Jim Shoemake explained that it was clear the Governor's office is looking for results. HE said that Judy Hartman said she would proceed with an appointment with the Governor when it is shown what the ESD has accomplished. They would plan a meeting between Tom, Jim, Bill and they would request that Wolfgang Opitz also attend.

Moved/Seconded/Carried/Johnston/Griggs to approve the legislative priorities.

Proposed 2007-08 AESD Strategic Plan

As Ms. Leddick relayed, Goal 3 is aligned with the Gates Grant. It is important to identify outcomes by July as OSPI does theirs in December. He reviewed the strategic report, goal by goal and the underlying activities.

There were no questions with respect to Goal 1. Shoemake reported an appointment with OSPI is forthcoming.

There were no questions on Goal 2. Keim reported they will be meeting with the Professional Development Council (PDC) Liaison Committee. This group includes assistant superintendents, higher education representatives, and private partners such as AWSP and WASA.

There were several comments on Goal 3. Keim reported that the dates and order of activities will likely change as steps proceed. Chairman Robert Bauer asked for comments on Goal 3.

Howard Coble commented how much the ESDs had changed and such change argued for recognizing themselves in order to meet that challenge. That might be hiring an executive director or other staff. He commented that a lot of work had been done by Bill Keim in addition to his regular job as ESD superintendent. Keim also commended the executive committee's work in this area.

Jerry Jenkins suggested not waiting for legislative action. He suggested forming a cooperative of administrative staff for AESD support and site them at the ESD 113 where most of the legislative action occurs. That person could work for an individual ESD.

2008 Annual Conference

Jerry Jenkins provided an update on the progress of the April annual conference to be held April 24-26 in Everett, hosted by NWESD. The keynote speaker will be the National Teacher of the Year, Andrea Peterson, a music teacher from the Granite Falls School District. The theme will be *"Soaring to Success: ESD Flight Plan."* The format will be changed in that a bus will be chartered to the Future of Flight at Boeing Field. A welcome and keynote speech will be provided to the group. A former NASA astronaut and practicing science research educator, Dr. George "Pinky" Nelson, who is on the staff at Western Washington University will be featured. Then participants will be divided into half for a legislative update and tour of the Future of Flight center.

Accreditation Update

Due to Ken Seng's illness, Kim Carlson has agreed to replace him on the accreditation committee. Jenkins reported there had been some confusion on the entire accreditation system in the state and who had authority to provide

accreditation status. The State Board had supported the AESD in its efforts to offer accreditation. Apparently, the State Board was named in the last appropriations bill as being permitted to provide accreditation services. Thus, there are currently three options for certification: the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges (NASC), the AESD Accreditation, and the SBE (which is not yet redeployed). The challenge is that some districts seem unclear of what options exist and where to go for information currently.

Rich McBride shared that the Moses Lake High School had aligned their accreditation process with their school improvement plan

Paul Rosier reported on the leadership academy. He said the implementation is contingent on additional funding. There is a wrinkle in the process currently. They are hiring a director to lead the effort. Apparently, Iowa, New York and Michigan all have association superintendent leadership programs for administrators, principals, and superintendents across the state.

Other Business

Sands reported on the current balance of the AESD budget.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Sands
Recording Secretary

Approved:

Robert Bauer, 2007-08 AESD President