



AESD EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

February 10, 2021 • 9:00am – 10:30am

Zoom – Meeting

I. Welcome/Introduction

Past-President Carl Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m., led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, established a quorum and welcomed attendees to the meeting.

II. Consent Agenda

Action: Approval of November 10, 2020 meeting minutes.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the meeting minutes from November 10, 2020, as presented.

Motion passed.

Information

III. Legislative Updates

Melissa Gombosky provided insight on the 105-day legislative session. She noted that lawmakers met to change rules to allow working remotely. This has impacted traditional communication to some extent. Testimony will also be held remotely.

- **AESD Requests:** Full funding for HB 1216- 3rd safety position, early learning investment, climate science proviso, full funding for any work assigned to ESDs, and maintain current proviso funding for nurse corps, CCL, K-20, PD coordinators, etc.
- **ESD Authority:** While working to draft a bill, conversations with SAO clarified ESDs do have authority to work with any entity as long as there is a nexus to school district service. Decided to table the bill this year, continue working with SAO and lawmakers and see if audits inform next year's decision to introduce a bill.
- **Health Care Authority (HCA) Study:** HCA study released in last few weeks supported movement of ESDs to PEBB instead of SEBB. A policy bill submission to address this is expected next year.

- **Requests from Legislators:** ESDs are receiving numerous requests from legislators and being written into legislation to provide a variety of services. Melissa is working to clarify the scope of work and that full funding is obtained.
- **Supporting School Districts:** AESD is supporting the following legislation on behalf of school districts: HB 1476 (Budget Stabilization), SB 5128 (Student Transportation Funding), HB 1121 (Emergency Waiver of Grad Requirements), HB 1368 (COVID-19 Federal Funding), HB 1444 (Providing trauma -informed counseling and supports to students who were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic).

IV. Leading in the Time of COVID, Top of Mind Issues

Tim Merlino led discussion

- **Federal AESA Updates/Priorities:** Jessica Vavrus shared that the AESA legislative priorities have a broad focus on Equity in Education: Educational Opportunity in Funding and Policy, with additional support for the following topics: Mental Health, IDEA, Educator Shortages, E-Rate/Educational Technology, Secure Rural Schools, Career and Tech Ed, ESSA Implementation, ECE, Student Data and Privacy. Overall their advocacy is centered on maintaining access, equity, increased funding and securing ESA roles and funding at state/regional levels.
- **Vaccination Distribution:** Tim Merlino led a regional update from each ESD on the status of vaccine distribution in their regions. ESDs are convening and working with school districts, health departments, and health providers in their regions to be prepared for mass vaccination when vaccines become available. A lack of vaccine availability remained the primary issue throughout the state.
- **AESD/OSPI Network of “10” Collaboration:** AESD leadership met with Superintendent Reykdal and OPSI leadership team to discuss the emerging issues of school districts. Topics discussed were vaccine distribution, delivery of early learning services/programs, distribution of ESSER funds and how the network can deliver and support districts, and how the AESD network can continue to support network collaboration with OSPI.
- **Peer-to-Peer Networking Events:** AESD facilitated a cross-state district networking event in early January to provide an avenue for school districts to share information about reopening schools to in-person instruction. Twenty school district presenters shared with almost 300 participants from 109 school districts, public charters and higher ed. The plan is to hold 3 additional events through the end of school year, with the next one being in March and focusing on reopening secondary grades to in-person instruction. Future sessions will discuss learning recovery plans and planning for fall 2021.

V. AESD Initiative Updates

Tim Merlino led reports from superintendents about AESD Initiatives.

- Early Learning, P-3 Policy Paper: John Welch introduced Julie Rolling to review and discuss AESD Early Learning efforts and P-3 policy paper.
- LMS Update: Michelle Price discussed AESD's role in providing Learning Management Systems (LMS) platform professional development opportunities to educators across Washington State. The effort is ongoing and has continued to provide learning support around distance learning.
- PPE Project: Tim Merlino reported the second round of the statewide procurement of PPE is wrapping up. He is anticipating at least one additional round of a more limited scope in late spring.

VI. Follow-Up: ESD Board Member Development Needs

Jessica Vavrus reported on behalf of Dana Anderson and shared results of a survey sent to AESD board members around development needs.

- 35 responses were received and indicated an interest in legislative updates, new board orientation materials, strategies to represent the school districts in their region, and understanding the mission of AESD.
- Other topics mentioned were receiving supports/templates in relation to superintendent evaluations/contracts, navigating equity policy development, and learning how ESDs are different than school districts.
- 33% of respondents indicated they would serve as a mentor to other ESD board members.
- Development of an incoming board member orientation virtual handbook was suggested as a next step.

Action: Approve to develop a virtual AESD board member handbook.

A motion was made and seconded to move forward with development of a virtual AESD board member handbook.

Motion passed.

Action Items

VII. AESD 2021-22 Proposed Budget

Tim Merlino presented a draft of the 2021-22 AESD budget.

Action: Vote to approve moving proposed 2021-22 AESD Budget forward for approval by the AESD general membership.

A motion was made and seconded to approve moving the draft budget to the general membership for approval, as presented.

Motion passed.

VIII. 2021 Membership Meeting Format

Jessica Vavrus reviewed two proposed general membership formats for April to address necessary annual business of budget approval.

- The first proposal was to conduct a short meeting to address business only. (1 hour)
- The second proposal was to hold a mini-conference with broader updates and networking. (2-3 hours)

The event is scheduled to be held late afternoon or early evening on Wednesday, April 14th.

Action: Approve holding a mini-conference general membership format meeting on April 14, 2021.

After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve the second proposal to hold a 2-3 hour mini-conference that would include the necessary business of the general membership, as presented.

Motion passed.

IX. AESD Annual Conference (2022+)

Michelle Price reviewed two AESD Annual Conference cycles and hosting options for review.

- The first option was to maintain the annual AESD Conference cycle with rotation of ESD hosts.
- The second option was to move the AESD Conference to every other year starting in 2022. The traditional statewide conference, including a business meeting, would be held on even years with ESDs co-sponsoring with an east/west rotation. A smaller, business-focused membership meeting would be held in odd years.

Action: Approve continuing to hold the AESD Annual Conference annually with the rotation of ESD hosts.

After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve continuing to hold the AESD Conference annually with the rotation of ESD hosts.

Motion passed

X. AESD Executive Board- Award of Distinction for 2021

Jessica Vavrus reviewed a proposal to change the name of the AESD President's Award to AESD Executive Board Award of Distinction and to maintain the process and criteria used in 2020. The new process opens nominations up to the membership and has a selection committee made up of the current AESD President and two volunteers to select the recipient.

Action: Approve changing the name of the AESD President's Award to AESD Executive Board- Award of Distinction, approve the new selection process and establish a sub-committee to manage the selection of the award recipient.

After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve changing the name of the AESD President's Award to AESD Executive Board Award of Distinction, approve the new selection process and to establish a sub-committee to manage the selection of the award recipient.

Motion Carried.

Terry Brandon and Cliff Heunergard volunteered to serve on the 2021 selection committee along with AESD Board President, John Zurfluh. Jessica planned to create a nomination form to send to board members that will include the criteria.

XI. Good of the Order

President John Zurfluh invited meeting attendees to share additional thoughts and/or information for the good of the group.

XII. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 10:34 a.m.