



ESD EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Sept. 16, 2020 // 9:00am – 10:30am
Zoom – Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

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.

Past-President Johnson then introduced John Zurfluh as the new AESD President and turned the remainder of the meeting over to him.

II. Consent Agenda

Action: Approval of June 30, 2020 meeting minutes.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the meeting minutes from June 30, 2020, as presented. **Motion passed unanimously**

Information & Follow-Up Items

III. AESD Initiative Updates

Tim Merlino led reports from superintendents about AESD Initiatives.

- Regional Coordination: Jessica Vavrus provided an overview of the AESDs regional response to the COVID-19 pandemic. She shared that ESD's engaged school districts in weekly superintendent calls, check-ins with local health departments, gathered questions for OSPI and distributed answers. Also managed communications flow from local, regional and state.
- Reimagining WA Schools: Darcy Weisner reported AESD, in partnership with Jeff Utecht, responded to an aggressive timeline to support school districts in deployment of distance learning models at the beginning of the pandemic. ESD 123 managed payment, registration, etc. for over 8,000 teachers. Projected revenue to AESD to date is over \$100,000.00.
- LMS Training: Michelle Price discussed AESD's role in providing Learning Management Systems (LMS) platform professional development opportunities to educators across Washington State. Funds needed to develop curriculum and provide training were released by OSPI in late July. Since August, over 6,500 live sessions and over 2,000 on demand courses

had been provided. The project also includes development of family and community provider materials for school districts.

- **PPE Project:** Tim Merlino reported that, at the request of OSPI, ESD 112 led a bid process to obtain PPE and coordinated distribution of supplies to 410 public and private school districts and ESDs in Washington State. Total cost of PPE was \$5.4 million and 10 million PPE items were purchased. Support with up front financing was provided by Spokane County. As the first round of ordering was nearing completion, Tim stated discussions will be held with the other ESDs about the possibility of a second round of purchasing.
- **School District Communication Resources:** Jessica Vavrus shared that the ESD Communication leads have been collaborating, sharing ideas and best practices. In May/June the group created a commonly branded Reopening Schools tool kit for school districts to help them engage with families and their communities. This information can be viewed through the following link: <https://www.reopeningwaschools.org>.

IV. Executive Director Update / Year in Review & the Year Ahead

Jessica Vavrus provided an update on the work she completed during her first year as the executive director and her goals and focus for the year ahead. She reviewed information she collected during a statewide listening tour conducted with ESDs, OSPI and ESD/AESD partners, after she began the position. She then discussed progress made over the last year on goals established in the AESD Strategic Plan. Jessica also highlighted the regional work and support provided to districts in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

V. AESD Budget Update for 2020/21

Tim Merlino reviewed the budget for 2020-21 and noted that expected excess revenue for the year was projected to be \$121,000 instead of \$32,000 as originally budgeted.

VI. Legislative Updates & Strategy for 2021

Melissa Gombosky provide insight on the November election. Washington is currently a triple blue state and changes to that are not expected. The state is anticipating an \$8 billion deficit over the next 4 years. This may require raising taxes, budget shifts, and salary cuts to balance the budget. AESD will be focusing on two priorities this legislative session; allow ESD employees to access healthcare through PEBB and expand ESD authority to serve school districts and community. The key legislative message will be to not go backwards on core funding. AESD is supporting school districts by participating in the School Funding Coalition.

VII. ESD Board Member Development Needs

Dana Anderson has been working to develop a process to gather information from board members about their professional development wants and needs. He proposed a timeline for collecting the information and suggested the following activities:

- October – AESD Executive Board members to report out to their boards and lead discussion on what their needs are and what they would like to see. Dana planned to develop a script for Executive Board members to reference during the conversation. He suggested this become a standing item on board meeting agendas.
- October – November- Survey members about professional development needs.
- November-December- Provide feedback from board meeting discussions and survey results to the Conference Planning Team for consideration.
- January – Provide recommendation for supports to the AESD Executive Board.

This process would be used to help design the board professional development component at the Annual conference and identify other opportunities to provide support to board members.

Action Items

VIII. AESD Annual Conference Proposal

Dana Anderson reported on behalf of Michelle Price, that, due to concerns about risks associated with COVID-19 to hold a face-to-face conference, the North Central ESD board recommended canceling the 2021 AESD Annual conference. Dana noted there would still need to be an annual meeting to manage AESD business.

Action: Vote on recommendation to cancel the 2021 AESD Annual conference.

A motion was made by James Sebree and seconded by Merle Kirkley to accept the recommendation to cancel the 2021 AESD Annual conference, as presented.

Motion passed unanimously.

Action: Approve new every other year schedule for future AESD Annual conferences and assigning more than one ESD to host.

Discussion was held regarding the proposal to move to holding the AESD Annual conference every other year and having more than one ESD host. Executive Board members requested more time to share the proposal and gather feedback from

their board members before voting on the proposal. A motion was made and seconded to table the discussion until members are able to discuss with individual boards and report back at the next meeting. **Motion passed unanimously. Action item was tabled.**

IX. Good of the Order

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

- Board members expressed gratitude and appreciation for the work of the Superintendents in supporting school districts.

X. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

Next meeting scheduled for November 10 from 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.