



AESD EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

November 10, 2020 • 9:00am – 10:30am

Zoom – Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

I. Welcome/Introduction

Vice-President, Marcia Henkle, 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. President, John Zurfluh joined the meeting a bit late.

II. Consent Agenda

Action: Approval of September 16, 2020 meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Dale McDaniel, and seconded by Steve Wrightson, to approve the November 10 meeting agenda and the meeting minutes from September 16, 2020, as presented. **Motion passed**

III. Executive Board Photo Opportunity

Jessica Vavrus took a screen shot of board members to update the photo on the AESD web page.

Information & Follow-Up Items

IV. AESD Initiative Updates

- Distance Learning: Michelle Price discussed AESD's role in providing distance learning supports to school districts. The Jeff Utecht/Shifting Schools Partnership provided classes to educators focused on the key components of distance learning systems, distance learning mindsets, and supporting individual student needs through remote instruction. Over 7,000 total educators participated in sessions April through November. AESD also provided "live" and "on-demand" courses about Learning Management Systems for teachers and administrators and are currently offering deeper dive sessions about each system. They are also working on district materials for families and community providers. To date there have been over 9,000 educators in "live" sessions and "on-demand" courses. AESD revenue from both of these endeavors is estimated at over \$530,000.
- PPE Project: Tim Merlino shared the first round of PPE orders and delivery to school districts had been completed. Over 10 million items worth approximately \$5 million were distributed to school districts in Washington State. A second round of ordering is currently underway and better pricing was obtained than

was secured in the first round. In this second phase, ESD 112 will order on behalf of the state and store items initially in their warehouse. Items will then be distributed to individual ESDs who will deliver to school districts in their regions.

- Other AESD Program Opportunity Updates: Jessica Vavrus updated the group.
 - *Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) Grant (OSPI)*-this is a 5-year grant from US Department of Education to build regional coaching and technical assistance capacity for implementing MTSS statewide. Initial grant funds provided for 5 positions in the ESDs to support statewide implementation. OSPI plans to leverage funds with other grants/positions to obtain 9 positions statewide.
 - Region 16 Comprehensive Center- this project began 1.5 years ago under Gene Sharratt's leadership in partnership with Oregon, Alaska and the ESDs in those states. The funds were awarded to create the Region 16 Comprehensive Center to support state education agencies with Opportunity Gap goals. Co-director Beth Geiger is collaborating with OSPI in mapping out the WA/OSPI focus on native education, building capacity within the ESD system and supporting K12/Tribal Government partnerships. Future work will be on engaging ESD networks in all 3 states.

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

Washington State Superintendent, Chris Reykdal, joined the group and provided his insight on supporting school districts statewide and discussed some of the challenges facing district reopening plans.

- New DOH guidance is expected in the next several weeks that may increase the threshold to allow students back in class which is supported by research from the University of Washington.
- However, rapidly increasing cases across the state are making it difficult for communities to bring students back for in person instruction. The Governor is looking at how to decrease community cases over the next few months so more schools can reopen in January.
- Governor Inslee has created a committee, led by former Governor Gregoire, to make recommendations to him in late December or early January on how educators can address student learning loss. Superintendent Reykdal is on this committee. He noted he believes learning losses can be addressed over multiple years by rebalancing calendars to mitigate summer learning loss.
- OSPI will request funding flexibility for school districts to shift fund balances during the pandemic to new areas of need. They are also staying focused on budgeting for long-term transformational needs.
- There are two tracks to connectivity. The first being about getting devices to students and the second being the actual ability to connect to these devices. OSPI will be asking the legislature to make connectivity a part of basic

education, and to be built into the prototypical model, as it is now a basic and necessary learning tool for all students.

VI. Legislative Updates & Strategy for 2021

Melissa Gombosky reviewed outcomes of the recent election. There was huge participation in Washington with voter turnout at 82%. Elections will be certified on November 24th.

AESD will be focusing on three priorities this legislative session.

- Allow ESD employees to access health care through PEBB
- Expand ESD authority to serve school districts and the community
- Have no cuts to core funding.

AESD is supporting school districts by participating in the School Funding Coalition that has 4 buckets of focus. These are: maintain consistent and stable funding; safety; access to learning; and well-equipped staff.

VII. AESD Strategic Direction and Budget Update for 2020-21

Tim Merlino reviewed the AESD budget for 2020-2021 and shared the projected fund balance has increased to \$282,000. This is due to revenue from two AESD statewide initiatives; Reimagine WA Ed and Statewide LMS funding from OSPI (ESSER funds). He also noted AESD was able to charge some of the executive director position cost to funds earned from the Region 16 Comprehensive Center and LMS revenues.

ESD Superintendents are currently working on a 2021-2022 budget proposal that will be brought before the board at their meeting on February 10, 2021.

VIII. Follow-up: ESD Board Member Development Needs

Board members were asked to name the types of professional development opportunities they would like offered to board members. Some of the ideas shared follow:

- New board member training/orientation. AESD Orientation and member development. New member could watch a training video, etc. Or offer an annual or biannual live opportunity for new members to have orientation from Exec. Director and current AESD president.
- Hold an onboarding meeting to develop new policy around orienting new board members.
- Hold regional meetings for board members with topical items.
- Budget training – impact, etc. to help new board members understand budgeting process.

- Information about what role ESDs could play in providing support in social programs for students.
- Provide training about legislative issues.
- Provide parliamentary procedures training to explain meeting protocols and functioning.
- Develop a mentoring program, etc. with long-term members.
- Having website available, readily accessible and easy to navigate. Dana Anderson volunteered to take the lead on that process.

Dana planned to send a survey link out the following week and requested it be sent to all board members. The survey is intended to help prioritize the member development areas of interest.

Action Items

IX. AESD Annual Conference Proposal

Discussion was held about the proposal presented at the last meeting to change the frequency of the AESD annual conference to every other year and to have two ESDs manage each conference. Not all executive members had been able to consult with their board members. As a result, the group suggested postponing the vote on hold meetings every other year. Michelle planned to bring a new annual conference schedule to the next meeting for consideration.

Action: Vote to postpone vote on this topic until next meeting when all executive board members will have been able to discuss with their respective boards.

A motion was made and seconded to approve postponing the vote until the next meeting in February, as presented. **Motion passed unanimously.**

X. Good of the Order

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

XI. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 10:41 a.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2021 from 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. via Zoom.