



AESD EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING – Minutes

September 12, 2023 // PSESD, 800 Oakesdale Ave SW, Renton and Zoom

- **Networking – 11:00am – 11:30am**, Puyallup Room, 1st Floor
- **Meeting & Lunch – 11:45am**, Puyallup Room, 1st Floor

Executive Board

President

Marcia Henkle, NCESD 171

President Elect

Terry Brandon, ESD 123

Members

June Sine	NEWESD 101
James Sebree	ESD 105
Darlene Stickle	ESD 112
Dale McDaniel	CRESO 113
Ann Byrnes	OESD 114
Mehret	
Tekle-Awarun	PSESD 121
Terry Brandon	ESD 123
Marcia Henkle	NCESD 171
Merle Kirkley	NWESD 189

Superintendents

Rob Roettger	NEWESD 101
Kevin Chase	ESD 105
Tim Merlino	ESD 112
Flip Herndon	ESD 113
Aaron Leavell	OESD 114
John Welch	PSESD121
Steve McCullough	ESD 123
Michelle Price	NCESD 171
Larry Francois	NWESD 189

AESD/OSPI Network Staff

Jessica Vavrus, Exec. Director
Melissa Gombosky, Legislative
Liaison
Shayna Burmeister,
Administrative Support

Meeting Minutes

Executive Board Members Present: Marcia Henkle, Terry Brandon, Ann Byrnes (virtual), Darlene Stickle (virtual), Dale McDaniel, James Sebree (virtual), June Sine, Mehret Tekle-Awarun, Merle Kirkley.

Superintendents Present: Aaron Leavell, Flip Herndon, John Welch, Kevin Chase, Larry Francois, Michelle Price, Tim Merlino, Rob Roettger, Steve McCullough.

Staff Present: Jessica Vavrus, Melissa Gombosky, Shayna Burmeister

I. **Welcome**

Marcia Henkle called the meeting to order at 11:05am, led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance, introductions, and a review of the agenda.

For Reference:

[6/12/23 meeting minutes \(draft\)](#) | [Today's Meeting Materials](#)

II. **Consent Agenda**

James Sebree moved to approve the 9/12/23 agenda and 6/12/2023 AESD Executive Board meeting minutes. Dale McDaniel seconded the motion. The 9/12/23 agenda and 6/12/2023 AESD Executive Board meeting minutes were approved.

III. **Legislative Updates & AESD Priorities:** Melissa Gombosky

[Link to presentation slides.](#)

During the interim, work includes developing the legislative platform and talking points and gathering data and looking for supportive stakeholders. State agencies such as OSPI are submitting requests to Governor Inslee asking for inclusion in his budget. School district priorities include an update to the transportation formula, special education, prototypical model updates and increasing insurance rates.

AESD 2024 Legislative Priorities include:

- Funding to continue behavior and mental health work.
- MTSS and inclusionary practice funding.
- Fixing ESD funding formulas for Career Connect WA and transportation coordinator positions.

Melissa has developed a lobby plan to engage key stakeholders including policy makers, OSPI, and the Governor's Office to understand and support AESD legislative priorities.

IV. ESD Hot Topics

a. Federal Government Shutdown

John Welch shared a draft letter that PSESD sent to Congress. “In summary, our children, families, students, school districts and country need Congress to push past politics and focus on the basics, keeping the government running and passing funding bills that place the needs of Americans and the public interest first.”

The group discussed whether or not to send a similar letter from the AESD on behalf of the nine ESDs. The board asked Jessica to draft a letter for approval by the Leadership Council Chair and Executive Board President and President Elect to send this week.

b. ESD 123 Role with Richland School District Board Election Recall / Appointment Process

Terry Brandon and Steve McCullough shared the statute and policy that drives the process.

[RCW 28A.343.370: Vacancies](#) is the controlling statute regarding RSD’s and ESD’s roles in filling local school board vacancies, and is cited in RSD’s policy 1113, (Vacancies), and ESD’s policy 1115 – Vacancies. With regard to the filling of Board vacancies when a school district lacks a quorum, the statute directs:

In case of a vacancy from any cause on the board of directors of a school district other than a reconstituted board resulting from reorganized school districts, a majority of the legally established number of board members shall fill such vacancy by appointment:

PROVIDED, That should there exist fewer board members on the board of directors of a school district than constitutes a majority of the legally established number of board members, the educational service district board members of the district in which the school district is located by the vote of a majority of its legally established number of board members shall appoint a sufficient number of board members to constitute a legal majority on the board of directors of such school district; and the remaining vacancies on such board of directors shall be filled by such board of directors in accordance with the provisions of this section: PROVIDED FURTHER, That should any board of directors for whatever reason fail to fill a vacancy within ninety days from the creation of such vacancy, the members of the educational service district board of the district in which the school district is located by majority vote shall fill such vacancy.

- Therefore, the ESD 123 Board of Directors by a majority vote is required to appoint one RSD Board of Directors member upon the vacancies taking effect on August 15th. The local school board will then be responsible for filling the remaining vacancies.
- ESDs policy 1115 – Vacancies -, references that 90 days after a local school district director’s position has been vacant, the board of directors will receive a notice of the vacancy and will act in a timely manner to fill the vacant position. It also references that a slate of candidates will be requested by the ESD board of directors from the local school district board of directors, and the list will be by a majority vote of the local school district board.
- This ESD policy language appears to align with the language in RCW 28A.343.370(1), which provides a 90-day period for a school board to fill a position if that board has a quorum.
- The statute also states that, “(2) Appointees to fill vacancies on boards of directors of

school districts shall meet the requirements provided by law for school directors and shall serve until the next regular school district election, at which time a successor shall be elected for the unexpired term.” Therefore, the position being appointed by the ESD board would need to be a position that is currently up for election in this year’s upcoming Richland School District Board of Directors elections.

- About the scheduling of the RSD board of directors August meeting, that is a determination that must be made by the RSD board in consultation with their own legal counsel. The ESD does not have primary authority for making that decision.
- The group requested copies of the AAG memo to ESD 123 regarding the ESD’s role in the process. Jessica will get it from Steve and share with the group.

c. Updates on ESD Board Elections

With WSSDA now being responsible for facilitating elections combined with the increased visibility and interest in participating on school boards, the group agreed that competition is likely. Filing is scheduled for September 1-16, 2023 and votes cast between Oct 1-16. School board members can visit the WSSDA Director Area elections page to see the ESD, SBE and WSSDA candidates.

Dale shared that the law requires the successful candidate to have 50% of votes. As an example, if the leading candidate has 49% of votes, a runoff has to occur between the candidates with the highest percentage of votes. It is required that the winning candidate has 50% or more of the votes.

V. AESD Updates

a. Accreditation (AESD Network)

For Reference: [AESD Accreditation Web Site](#) | [2023/24 Accreditation Summary](#)

Marcia Henkle stated this provides the best opportunity for a new board member to see how the process works. It is important to include new board members in the process. And for those who come from outside of education, this shouldn’t be a roadblock in participating.

Additional conversation elicited the following ideas about accreditation:

- Requirement and/or expectation for serving on the Accreditation Panel
- Use website to answer guiding questions along with a 30 second video about accreditation.
- At individual board meetings, have the conversation and potentially learn about takeaways to develop material.

Merle suggests using the overarching question “How do we serve education as board members?” He referenced an example, by making it a stipulation to report back at individual board meetings from those in the district who were struggling to effectively communicate with each other.

b. AESD Annual Conference (AESD Association) (Michelle, Marcia, Jessica)

Board members should have their colleagues hold April 3-5, 2024 for the conference at Campbell’s Resort in Lake Chelan. **For Reference:** [AESD 2024 Conference Preview Video](#)

- Marcia shared the conference theme, *“The Future is Bright! Elevate. Empower. Engage.”*

- Michelle shared that the Save The Date magnets will be going out in early January. And that the primary focus of the event will be around networking and providing opportunities and time for connection. Having meals at all sessions will help to keep everyone together.
- The committee is working on ideas for guided networking time. “Here is the type of discussion we hope you to have about this topic.”
- Marcia suggested that the committee provide tools for networking. Providing the “how” to the participants.

Michelle also shared that to ensure that a future conversation will be had about registration. Making sure that all ESDs participate and that no one or few ESDs have more financial responsibility than others. Michelle shared that the committee will bring forward ideas to the Executive Board for further conversation. Conversation started about having a set rate for ESD participation. More to come.

VI. AAESD Association Design Work – Membership Supports

a. ESD Board Survey: Share & Discuss Results: Marcia Henkle, All

Marcia led the group in a round robin sharing of conversations they each had in gathering data from their boards in response to the [membership support survey](#). Board members and superintendents shared general themes from their boards.

b. Forward Planning: Michelle Price

Following the sharing, Michelle led the group through a process to determine the next steps and actions based on the overarching themes of input received

1. What topics are you (individually or as a board) interested in learning more about?

- State requirements for boards - OPMA, exec sessions, etc.
- ESD Board Member Roles & Responsibilities.
- Board succession planning.
- Collaboration with school district boards of directors & how ESDs support local school districts.
- Superintendent support and success planning & Supt/Board Succession Planning.

2. How would you like to engage with fellow board members in networking and learning together?

- AESD Annual Conference Sessions.
- Networking & Learning.
- AESD National Conference time together. Reception at conference.

3. The Executive Board is interested in increasing participation in the AESD Annual Conference. Ideas that the Executive Board is considering are below. Please share your preference and thoughts.

- Consideration - fixed locations might lower costs over time, make more reliable.
- Consideration: Rotating ESD regions allow for boards to get to know other regions and understand the state.
- Two fixed locations rotate east/west and Rotating regional locations – tied

▪ Please share any additional thoughts or comments that can inform the Executive Board’s planning process to support ESD Board Members’ growth and development.

- Include time in annual conference for networking that includes guiding questions/problems of practice for discussion starters.

- Communications - with save the date, letter from Marcia as AESD Exec Board President to all ESD board members.
- Include big plug for tools along with networking opportunities at the conference.
- Site visits.
- Include - educational topics, community connections.

VII. Good of the Order & Upcoming

Marcia led the group in sharing general updates and good of the order around the room. The next meeting is 11/16 (Th), 3:30 – 5:30pm at the Bellevue Hyatt Regency w/ group dinner to follow.

For reference upcoming: [2023/24 AESD Leadership Meeting Schedule](#)

VIII. Adjourn

Marcia Henkle adjourned the meeting at 1:10 PM.