



AESD EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING – Minutes

March 12, 2024 / Meeting: 11:00am – 1:00pm (w/ lunch)

Venue: Puget Sound Educational Service District – Cedar Room

Executive Board

President

Marcia Henkle NCESD 171

President Elect

Terry Brandon ESD 123

Members

June Sine NEWESD 101

James Sebree ESD 105

Darlene Stickel 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

I. Welcome

Lead: President, Marcia Henkle

Welcome, Introductions, Pledge of Allegiance, Review of agenda

In attendance:

- **Board Members:** June Sine, Dale McDaniel, Darlene Stickel (virtual), Ann Byrnes, Mehret Tekle-Awarun, Terry Brandon, Marcia Henkle, Merle Kirkley
- **Superintendents:** Aaron Leavell, Flip Herndon, Kevin Chase, Larry Francois, Michelle Price, Rob Roettger, Steve McCullough, Tim Merlino
- **Staff:** Jessica Vavrus and Shayna Burmeister

President Marcia Henkle called the meeting to order at 11:25am and welcomed the group to a round of introductions.

II. Consent Agenda

Lead: Marcia Henkle

For Reference: [1/30/24 draft meeting minutes](#) | [Today's Meeting Materials](#)

Merle Kirkley moved to approve the 3/12/24 agenda and the 1/30/24 AESD Executive Board meeting minutes as presented. Tim Merlino seconded the motion. The 3/12/24 agenda and 1/30/24 AESD Executive Board meeting minutes were approved.

III. ESD Hot Topics & Top of Mind Discussion

Lead: Marcia Henkle, All

a. School District budget landscape & implications for ESDs

Discussion pointed to the lack of ongoing ESSER dollars combined with low enrollment, and an increase in operational costs creating the dramatic financial health issues for many districts. Discussion continued about how to best support districts so they access the ESDs for guidance, earlier in the process.

Additionally, trends in levy passage have seen a steady decrease dropping as low as a 26% passage rate in some areas. Historically, the rate was 60%. The group discussed the importance of the ESDs developing strong unified messaging to counteract what is becoming increasingly antagonistic public messaging about public education. Including the importance of recognizing the perception being set by legislative action.

The group committed to continuing this conversation.

IV. Legislative Updates:

Lead: Melissa Gombosky

For Reference: [ESD/AESD Topics Summary \(3/8\)](#)

- a. Melissa shared a recap of the 2024 Legislative Session, status of AESD, legislative priorities, and preparations for the 2025 session.
- b. Melissa touched on the skyrocketing costs of insurance and utilities and the impact to the district's budgets.

V. 2024 AESD Annual Conference & Annual Award Updates:

Lead: Marcia Henkle, Michelle Price, Jessica Vavrus

- a. **Annual Conference:** The team provided an update on the upcoming AESD Annual Conference, including updates on the program and presenters, recognitions, registration counts, and sponsorships. The committee believes that this year's conference layout will be in line with the recommendations received from last year's reflections. Offering high value sessions for board member learning opportunities.
- b. **Award of Distinction:** The Nominating Committee which is made up of Dale McDaniel, Mehret Tekle-Awarun, and Terry Brandon, shared that there were eight nominees. And were pleased that they had received so many.
- c. **Sponsors:** Jessica shared that there are 15 conference sponsors with WGU joining this year as a new sponsor. To help with budget planning, outreach for the 2025 conference will begin in June. And the committee is working on adding additional ways to connect with sponsors at the conference and throughout the year.
- d. **Conference Schedule Review:** The event will kick off with a reception on April 3, 2024. Heavy hors oeuvres will be served. Dinner that evening will be on your own. Angela Jones with The Gates Foundation will be the keynote speaker to open Thursday's session. The Annual Business Meeting and two rounds of four breakout learning sessions will be held. The afternoon session will wrap up at 3pm. The group will reconvene at 5pm for the President's Reception. Dinner will be served at 6pm where the Award of Distinction and Recognition Awards will be given. Shandy Abrahamson with OSPI Office of Native Education will kickoff the day. One round of two breakout learning sessions will follow. Superintendent Reykdal, OSPI and John Bass, AESA will join us to share about their work. The group will enjoy closing reflections, a raffle and lunch buffet. The conference will close at 12p.
- e. **2025 AESD Annual Conference Design Team Committee** June Sine, Rob Roettger, Jessica Vavrus shared that planning is underway for the 2025 AESD Annual Conference being held in Spokane, WA at the newly remodeled Centennial Hotel which is part of the Davenport Hotel Group. The 2025 AESD Annual Conference Design Team Committee is made up of the superintendent and board representatives from the host ESD (ESD 101), 2026 Annual Conference Host (OESD 114), an Executive Board representative and AESD Staff. The host ESD's and ESD 113's communications team will coordinate together for materials.

The AESD Annual Conference Design Team Committee members are as follows:

- **2025 Host ESD Board Members and Superintendent** - Charles "Chuck" Stocker, June Sine, Rob Roettger
- **2026 Host ESD Board Member** - Ann Byrne (OESD 114)
- **AESD Executive Board Members** - Merle Kirkley (ESD 189) and Terry Brandon (ESD 123)

Terry Brandon moved to approve the 2025 AESD Annual Conference Design Team Committee as presented. Dale McDaniel seconded the motion. The 2025 AESD Conference Design Team Committee is established as presented.

VI. AESD Association Business Meeting Updates for AESD Annual Conference:

Lead: Marcia Henkle, June Sine, Jessica Vavrus

- a. **Nominating Committee Report** June will share the Committee's recommendation for the officer ballot.
- b. **AESD Association Budget Report** Jessica will share update on the Association's 2023/24 budget projections and a proposed budget for 2024/25.
- c. **Procedural:** Marcia reviewed the process laid out in the Constitution, of electing the new AESD President. Merle Kirkley will be representative as Past President, June Sine will representative as current executive board member and Marcia Henkle as current President.
- d. **AESD Association Budget** Terry and Jessica will be working on the spending report. AESD members will receive a briefing on the status of the 23/24 budget and an overview of the proposed 24/25 budget during the Business Meeting at AESD Annual Conference.

Terry Brandon moved to approve the AESD Association Budget as proposed for 2024/25. Dale McDaniel seconded the motion. The AESD Association Budget as proposed for 2024/25 was approved.

VII. Good of the Order & Upcoming:

Lead: Marcia Henkle / All

Mark your Calendars!

- ⇒ **Next Exec Board Meeting:** 6/11, 11:00am – 1:00pm, PSESD
- ⇒ **Accreditation Panel Dates**
 - Westside: May 13-15, 2024 (@ CRESD 113)
 - Eastside: May 20-21, 2024 (@ NEWESD 101)
- ⇒ **For reference upcoming:** [2023/24 AESD Leadership Meeting Schedule](#)

VIII. Adjourn: President Marcia Henkle adjourned the meeting at 12:52pm.