

Executive Board

President

Terry Brandon, ESD 123

President Elect

Dale McDaniel, CRESO 113

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

Legislative Liaison

Melissa Gombosky

Executive Director

Jessica Vavrus

I. Welcome

Lead: President, Terry Brandon

Present:

- **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, Larry Francois, Michelle Price, Rob Roettger, Steve McCullough, Tim Merlino
- **Staff:** Jessica Vavrus and Melissa Gombosky

Absent:

- **Board Members:** James Sebree, Merle Kirkley
- **Superintendents:** Kevin Chase

President Terry Brandon called the meeting to order at 11:20am and welcomed the group to a round of introductions.

II. Consent Agenda

Lead: President, Terry Brandon

For Reference: [3/12/24 meeting minutes \(draft\)](#) | [Today's Meeting Materials](#)

Dale McDaniel moved to approve the 6/11/24 agenda and the 3/12/24 AESD Executive Board meeting minutes as presented. Ann Byrnes seconded the motion. The 6/11/24 agenda and 3/12/24 AESD Executive Board meeting minutes were adopted.

III. Legislative Updates & AESD Priorities

Lead: Melissa Gombosky

For Reference: [Legislative Update Slides](#)

Melissa Gombosky provided a legislative update for the group. Her update included the following topics:

- State budget status discussions
- Elections update, including an overview of candidates for the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI).
- AESD and school district preliminary legislative priorities

IV. ESD Hot Topics & Top of Mind Discussion (around the table)

The group discussed several topics that are top-of-mind for school districts and ESDs.

- Binding Conditions and financial health of school districts** - Updates – current reality, anticipated, role of ESDs & OSPI to support

Currently there are five districts “officially” in binding conditions and going through the process with OSPI. ESDs serve an important role in the early warning process to support districts that are struggling. ESDs are a critical support system. Districts have lots of needs in this area and currently there is a significant shortage of financial officers statewide. The group agreed that this should be a standing topic of discussion.

b. How do ESDs approach/engage their Asst. AG representative?

The group explored how each region uses/accesses the services of their assigned Assistant Attorney General (AAG). Several have used their AAG for guidance in professional conduct complaints. They also shared that depending on the issue and the AAG representative working with them takes time. The group was interested in learning more about the services they offer ESDs. Larry and Jessica recalled a [memorandum from 2021](#) from the AGO that was provided to the ESDs that describes some of the services provided. Jessica agreed to share the memo as follow up.

c. AESD Accreditation Process

Larry Francois provided a summary of the 2024 accreditation panel process. He expressed thanks to all of the ESD board members who served as panelists in the review process. There was a record turnout of board members this year! Given the growing number of schools seeking accreditation, the group discussed the potential of adding a third location for the panel presentations in addition to Tumwater and Spokane. There was also a wondering as to whether those two locations are still the “right” places for the panels. This will be a continuing discussion into the future. The dates for the 2025 panels will be shared at the September meeting.

V. AESD Annual Conference Reflections & Forward Planning

Lead: Terry Brandon, June Sine, Rob Roettger, Jessica Vavrus

a. 2024 Conference Debrief & Final Actions

[conference reflections](#), [final budget snapshot](#), and review/adoption of [2024 Business Meeting Minutes](#)

b. 2025 Conference Update, Input, & Actions

[Dates & promo video](#); [projected budget](#); [proposed conference theme and logo](#)

The group debriefed the 2024 Annual Conference. This included a final budget and registration recap to groundwork for the 2025 annual conference. There were 44 (of 69) ESD Board Members registered to attend the conference. Dale asked Jessica to share a list of all attendees with the Board. With regard to the budget, there is an anticipated carryover of approximately \$22,278 that will go toward supporting the 2025 conference. Next, the board reflected together and reviewed attendee feedback.

The participants liked:

- General Organization and Venue
- Content and Sessions
- Networking Opportunities
- Service and Hospitality

Suggestions for improvement covered comfort, content and wanting to have consistency in venues.

Many participants expressed interest in continuing discussions on artificial intelligence, legislative updates, and educational trends. And the desire for content that directly supports the roles and responsibilities of the attendees, especially for new board members and those involved in legislative activities.

The group reviewed and took action to adopt the 2024 Business Meeting Minutes. Dale McDaniel moved to adopt the minutes and Mehret Tekle-Awarun seconded the motion. The minutes were adopted.

The group then moved to discussing the 2025 Annual Conference. The promotional video was shared along with a draft set of logo options for the board to consider and vote on.

The group turned their focus to discussion on keynote speakers. The following ideas were presented:

- Length and timing within the overall schedule.
- Panel of education association partners.

- Potentially incorporating a Legislative Panel?
- WSSDA connections - new WSSDA Exec Director or President - future of WSSDA. This could also be a breakout session re: collaboration with school boards and how ESD boards “show up” to represent the region with local districts.

The group also brainstormed the following to provide context for future keynote speakers.

- Develop two-three lines as common messages that tie back to the theme.
- Tie message back to the ESD board member audience and work of the ESDs.

Jessica shared next steps for finalizing the logo with the 2025 Design Team. She also shared the goal of launching the web site and reaching out to potential sponsors later in the summer. Much sooner than in the past.

VI. Briefing: AESD Association Budget

Lead: Terry Brandon, Jessica Vavrus

For Reference: [AESD Association Budget](#)

President Brandon reviewed the 2023/24 projected actual and the 2024/25 adopted Association budgets. Adjustments were made to reflect the annual conference actual revenues and expenditures and to refine the projected amounts for 2025. This was an informational item so no action was taken.

VI. AESD Association Relationships with K12 Organizations

Lead: Terry Brandon, all

President Brandon led the group in a discussion about ways to more intentionally build relationships with WSSDA and making connections with school board directors. WSSDA will be hiring a new executive director this summer so this may be a good opportunity to explore increased collaboration and connections. The group agreed that Jessica would reach out initially once the director is hired. The Board had several ideas about ways to increase connections, including exploring ways to integrate a connection among board members through the accreditation award process.

VII. 2024/25 Proposed Exec Board Meeting Schedule

Lead: Jessica Vavrus

[Proposed 2024/25 AESD meetings.](#)

The proposed 2024/25 AESD Executive Board meeting dates were presented. Ann Byrnes moved to approve the 2024-25 meeting schedule as presented. Dale McDaniel seconded the motion. The 2024-25 meeting schedule was approved as presented.

VIII. Good of the Order & Upcoming

Lead: Terry Brandon / All

President Brandon led the group in a round of good of the order updates around the room.

IX. Adjourn

President Brandon adjourned the meeting at 1:00pm.