



AESD EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES (draft)

June 10, 2025, 9:30am – 11:30am (box lunch to go)

Location: Puget Sound ESD, Duwamish Room

Executive Board

President

Terry Brandon, ESD 123

President Elect

Dale McDaniel, CRESD 113

Members

June Sine	NEWESD 101
James Sebree	ESD 105
Darlene Stickel	ESD 112
Dale McDaniel	CRESD 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
Shane Backlund	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
Ismael "Ish"	
Vivanco	NWESD 189

AESD Staff

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

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

Absent: None

Superintendents Present: Aaron Leavell, John Welch, Ismael Vivanco, Michelle Price, Tim Merlino, Rob Roettger, Shane Backlund, Steve McCullough, Flip Herndon

Absent: None

Staff Present: Jessica Vavrus, Shayna Burmeister

Consultants Present: Melissa Gombosky & Devin Gombosky, Legislative Liaison

I. Welcome & Consent Agenda

Lead: President, Terry Brandon

For Reference: [3/11/25 meeting minutes \(draft\)](#) | [Today's Meeting Materials](#)

President Brandon opened the meeting at 9:41am, welcomed the group and invited introductions around the table. He led the group in the Pledge and reviewed the agenda. President Brandon welcomed review and comment on March 11, 2025, meeting minutes. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes and Consent Agenda. Dale McDaniel moved to adopt the minutes and Consent Agenda. James Sebree seconded the motion. The 3/11/25 minutes and the 6/10/25 Consent Agenda were adopted.

II. Legislative Updates & AESD Priorities

President Brandon welcomed AESD Legislative Liaison, Melissa Gombosky, to the meeting. Melissa introduced a new member of the Gombosky Public Affairs team, Devin Gombosky. Melissa provided a big picture state update, a brief review of the 2025 legislative session, status of AESD and school district priorities, and welcomed questions from the group. Melissa reflected on legislative advocacy and what should be repeated and adjusted in 2026. Melissa also reminded the group that the purpose of the 60-day legislative session is to fix inadvertent errors that were created in the longer year session.

III. ESD Hot Topics, Updates, & Top of Mind Discussion

This time is for Executive Board members and ESD superintendents to elevate important topics of interest and relevance for group learning and discussion. President Brandon welcomed additional topics and invited discussion on the following topics.

a. **District financial health updates:** The conversation covered consistent themes in each of the regions. The Superintendents shared updates on how districts in binding conditions are working their way through the process. Proactive measures to keep districts out of binding conditions include financial health watch lists, dashboards and ensuring systems are in place to prevent

these situations in the future. The group continued conversations about the impact of signing contracts which, with broad changes in funding down the road, will contribute to ongoing issues. In addition, the number of open board seats at many school districts throughout the state may add to district challenges with more inexperience at the board level.

- b. **Federal policy & funding landscape:** For review: [ESD landscape of Federal funding](#) (May 2025 for 24/25) and [OSPI Federal Funding Heat Map](#)

Jessica shared a summary of the landscape of federal funding and programs across the ESDs. The group discussed the impact of DEI Executive Order on ESD programming and potential future funding. There was also discussion about the WA state response and guidance to districts and how that may impact funding to ESDs and school districts.

- c. **Other ESD Updates or Top of Mind Issues?** No other items were raised for group discussion.

IV. **AESD Annual Conference Reflections & Forward Planning**

- a. **2025 Conference Debrief & Final Actions**

Lead: Terry Brandon, Jessica Vavrus

For Reference: [conference reflections](#), [final budget snapshot](#). For reference: Updated [AESD Constitution](#) (April 2025)

President Brandon and Jessica Vavrus reviewed conference reflections and the final conference budget. They led a group discussion to share thoughts on what went well and what can be updated to best provide valuable learning and development opportunities for ESD board members.

The group was asked to do a final review of the 2025 AESD Association Business Meeting Minutes prior to adoption. President Brandon briefly highlighted the updates to the AESD Constitution, which clarified AESD Officer terms of service and balloting/election process in Article V (Officers)(p. 3) and Article VII (Committees), Section 1, #5, Nominating Committee (p. 6). These updates were approved by membership at the business meeting.

With no recommended changes, President Brandon asked for a motion to approve the 2025 AESD Business Meeting Minutes. James Sebree moved to adopt the Business Meeting Minutes. Dale McDaniel seconded the motion. The 2025 AESD Association Business Meeting Minutes were adopted.

- b. **AESD Membership Support Survey**

Lead: Terry Brandon

For reference: [2025 AESD Board Support Feedback Summary](#)

The group reviewed and discussed the key themes from feedback gathered from ESD board members (AESD membership) at the 2025 Annual Conference regarding their learning interests, support needs, and in-service suggestions, with actionable recommendations for the AESD Executive Board.

- c. **2026 Conference Update, Input & Actions**

For reference: [Dates & promo video](#); [proposed conference theme and logo](#)

The 2026 Conference Design team has met twice since the end of the Annual Conference. Ann, Mehret, and Terry are the Executive Board representatives on the Design Team. In May and June the team spent time reviewing feedback and considering possibilities for next year, including key components of the conference theme and tagline. Several options were brought forward to the Executive Board for consideration. The Board was asked to review and prioritize proposed options for the 2026 conference theme and logo. Jessica and Shayna collected the input to share with the AESD communications team to develop a final logo and brand. The goal is to launch the web site this summer and begin sponsor outreach in the fall.

V. Briefing & Discussion: AESD Association Budget

Lead: Terry Brandon, Jessica Vavrus | **For reference:** [AESD 2526 Association Budget](#) – option including staff T&E for discussion

Jessica provided a brief update on the status of the 24/25 projected budget. This included an overview of the option to add-in staff time & effort to support the Association (per 3/11/25 Executive Board Meeting & 4/17/25 Annual Business Meeting).

Due to time, it was determined that further discussion about the budget, staffing costs would be tabled until the September 22, 2025 meeting.

Additionally, the group would like to also have further conversation about the efficacy of meeting in person, if/when most attendees would need to join virtually.

VI. 2025/26 Proposed Executive Board Meeting Schedule

Lead: Jessica Vavrus | For reference: [Proposed 2025/26 AESD Executive Board meetings](#)

The AESD Executive Board discussed the 2025/26 annual meeting schedule. President Brandon asked for a motion to approve the 2025/26 AESD Executive Board Meeting Schedule. Dale McDaniel moved to adopt the schedule. James Sebree seconded the motion. The 2025/26 AESD Executive Board Meeting Schedule was adopted.

VII. Good of the Order & Upcoming

Lead: Terry Brandon / All

President Brandon led a round robin for group sharing.

VIII. Adjourn

President Brandon adjourned the meeting at 11:36 am