



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:** Dale McDaniel, June Sine, Marcia Henkle, Peter Maier (designee for Mehret Tekle-Awarun), Darlene Stickel (virtual), James Sebree (virtual), Terry Brandon (virtual)
- **Superintendents:** Aaron Leavell, Flip Herndon, Kevin Chase, Larry Francois, Michelle Price, Rob Roettger, Steve McCullough, Tim Merlino, Julie Rolling (designee for John Welch)
- **Staff:** Jessica Vavrus, Shayna Burmeister

President Marcia Henkle called the meeting to order at 11:03am and welcomed the group to a round of introductions.

II. Consent Agenda Lead: Marcia Henkle

For Reference: [11/16/23 meeting minutes \(draft\)](#) | [Today's Meeting Materials](#)

June Sine moved to approve the 1/30/24 agenda and the 11/16/23 AESD Executive Board meeting minutes. James Sebree seconded the motion. The 11/16/23 agenda and 9/12/2023 AESD Executive Board meeting minutes were approved.

III. ESD Hot Topics & Top of Mind Discussion

Lead: Marcia Henkle, All

Marcia led the group through a variety of “hot topics”.

a. ESD Board Elections – Follow-up from debrief with WSSDA

Jessica shared an update from the meeting she had with the WSSDA team regarding the process they used to determine the number of eligible voters for the ESD Board Member elections. This information helped clarify some of the questions that surfaced in the November Executive Board meeting. The group discussed using this election as a baseline. Understanding why the reach to voters was less than anticipated and encourage more proactive outreach in 2025. It was also discussed to talk about the election order on the website, as it may have impacted voters. As well as understanding that races where there was one candidate, left voters believing their vote did not matter. The group agreed that more intentional outreach can take place with school district superintendents through regional meetings leading up to the elections in the future. With so many new superintendents, there may be limited awareness of the role and process of ESD boards of directors.

b. AESA Conference Debrief – feedback for AESA for future?

The conference provided a great turnout of board members and a good opportunity to network. The group discussed the relevance of sessions for board members. The group discussed that learning sessions are contingent upon boards and groups of boards coming together, choosing a topic, developing a presentation and to present on topics that are relevant to the group. The group agreed to have further conversation about this topic. Jessica offered to continue making a connection with AESA and other states' executive directors.

c. School District budget landscape & implications for ESDs

The group discussed the importance of projecting trends and recognizing the trendline in spending. The group raised concern that many school districts are not aware of their trendline and that ESDs are uniquely positioned to provide assistance given their ability to recognize early warning signs of district financial distress. At the forefront is lack of ongoing ESSER dollars combined with low enrollment. The group agreed that this topic should be included as part of the breakout session at the AESD annual conference.

- d. Accreditation Panel updates** Larry shared that it was a record year for school/district participation in the AESD accreditation process. Accreditation. The group discussed the eastside and westside schedule (Westside: May 13-15, 2024 (@ CRESD 113); Eastside: May 20-21, 2024 (@ NEWESD 101)). Individual ESDs have their own schedule for the Third-Year Reviews. As the time nears for the statewide panels, Larry will work with the Superintendents to make sure the panels are filled.

IV. Legislative Updates

Lead: Melissa Gombosky

For Reference: [2024 Session Priorities & Updates](#)

Melissa provided updates on the 2024 legislative session and the status of AESD legislative priorities and advocacy efforts. She shared that today is day 23 of a session. And 1500 new bills introduced and by far one of the busiest weeks of the session.

V. AESD Annual Conference Updates & Input

Lead: Marcia Henkle, Michelle Price, Jessica Vavrus

a. 2024 conference updates & input

- i. **Updated conference logo/branding & Save the Date magnets:** Magnets were provided to each ESD to share with their board and staff.
- ii. **Web site & Registration:** The conference website is set to go live in mid-February. Jessica will send all executive board members and ESD executive assistants information on the registration process when everything is ready to go. Registration for the ESD Boards will be done through a google document, allowing the Executive Assistants to register those attending. PDenroller links will be provided for additional board members (parent/student members) and a separate link for guests who will be attending the Thursday reception and dinner.
- iii. **Budget & Sponsor Updates:** Jessica shared an update on the status of sponsor outreach. Many sponsors have agreed to continue their support. We are anticipating approximately \$25 – 30,000 in sponsorships to help offset the cost of the conference. This, combined with the new funding model for ESD board member and staff registration, is likely to result in a positive fund balance to carry forward to 2025.
- iv. **Draft Conference Program & Breakout session content:** Michelle reviewed the [draft conference program & breakout session content](#) with the group. The event will kick off with a

reception with heavy hors oeuvres. Dinner that evening will be on your own. A list of restaurants will be provided to the group. The group provided specific recommendations as to presenters and breakout session content. This information will be carried forward to the conference planning committee.

- v. **Business meeting items & Nominating Committee:** The group discussed action items for the Annual Business Meeting. These will include review and adoption of the 2024/25 Association budget and election of AESD Executive Board officers. Marcia led discussion on the process laid out in the Constitution for officer nominations and election, and the role of the Nominating Committee to oversee the process. Per the AESD Constitution, the officers are nominated by a Nominating Committee. President Henkle requested volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee. It was agreed that Merle Kirkley will represent as Past President, June Sine will represent as current executive board member, and Marcia Henkle as current President. June will serve as the Chair of the Committee and prepare a report for the board's next meeting.

b. Award of Distinction Committee & Nomination Timeline

- i. **Timeline & Process:** Jessica shared an overview of the process and timeline for the annual award. She reviewed [this document](#) with the group.
- ii. **Award subcommittee representatives:** Marcia solicited three volunteers to serve on the selection subcommittee. The following individuals volunteered to serve on the committee: Marcia Henkle, Mehret Tekle-Awarun, Dale McDaniel and Terry Brandon. The group will meet next week to review and refine the award criteria and discuss the rotation of selection of student artwork for the award. Information will be sent out through the Executive Board and executive assistants as to the nomination process and timeline starting in early February.

c. 2025 Conference Update

Lead: June Sine, Rob Roettger, Jessica Vavrus

June and Rob shared an update on the venue and dates for the 2025 conference. Hold the dates for April 16-18, 2025, in Spokane at the newly remodeled Centennial by Davenport Hotel.

VI. Good of the Order & Upcoming

President Henkle led the group in a round robin sharing of good of the order updates and reminders. She reminded everyone of the next meeting at PSED on March 12 at 11am. There will not be networking time prior to the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 1:00pm.