

NORTH CENTRAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE DISTRICT

Minutes of the March 24, 2021, ESD Board Meeting

I. CALL TO ORDER

The ESD Board met at the ESD with two board members joining via zoom. Board President Marcia Henkle called the meeting to order at 12: pm. Board members present were Larry MacGuffie, Susan Albert, Mary Kunkle, Ed Daling and Michael Musick. NCESD staff present included Superintendent Michelle Price; Assistant Superintendent Linda McKay; Director of Technology Pete Phillips; Executive Director of HR/Workers Comp Suzanne Reister; Executive Director Business office Trisha Schock; and Executive Assistant Heather Small.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

** It was moved by Harlan and seconded by Susan to approve the Consent Agenda with noted changes. Motion carried.

A. Approval of Minutes

Approved the minutes of the February 24, 2021 board meeting.

B. Approval of Financial Reports

Approved the financial reports as presented.

C. Approval of Vouchers and Payroll

Approval of vouchers and warrants

The following warrant numbers as audited and certified by the auditing officer, as required by RCW 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified, as required by RCW 42.24.090, are approved for payment. In addition, payroll amount \$973,875.27 for March payroll.

March Mid-Month Warrant Register 801134750 to 801134806 totaling \$190,326.46

February Comp Tax Wire Transfer Number 2020000049 totaling \$94.68

March Co-op Mid-Month Warrant Register 801134807 to 801134807 totaling \$118,366.61

March Payroll amount was \$973,875.27

Warrant numbers and amount of expenses will be provided at the board meeting.

D. Personnel

New Hires

- Morgan Harwood, NetServ Support Technician, effective March 22, 2021.
- Becca Freimuth, Communications Specialist, effective April 1, 2021.
- Stephanie Andler, Title I/LAP Director/MTSS Regional Implementation Specialist, effective July 1, 2021.
- Jennifer Weeks, Occupational Therapist, effective August 16, 2021.

Resignations

- Samuel Mack, effective March 31, 2021

E. Travel Requests

- None

F. Surplus

- See Attached

III. STAFF REPORTS

A. Educational Services - Linda McKay

Linda shared that we have a new hire on the agenda today, Stephanie Andler. Stefanie will be stepping in with Judi leaving at the end of June. We are excited for her to join the team.

The team is out and about more in districts. I am going to Cashmere tomorrow, and was recently in Grand Coulee. We also had a group from Wenatchee School District here in the building for trainings the last couple of weeks.

Linda continued that she is spending a lot of time as the ESD Superintendents lead and also working on tribal program requirements, with two initiatives to support more native educators. Native educators are the smallest represented in our schools. Current demographics show that Nespelem is 50% native teachers. Omak, Okanogan and Grand Coulee all have less than 10% native teachers on staff.

Trish and Linda are collaborating with districts on the ESRA dollars and state and categorical dollars so our districts are not leaving money on the table. We are helping them maximize the dollars in creative ways to sustain their programs.

Linda also continues to be involved with the learning recovery plan efforts. A template for this work will be coming from OSPI and should be out by the end of April.

There will be summer school and other extended learning opportunities for student and funding will be available to help support these programs.

We are continuing to adapt to this work and remain busy.

B. Administrative Services - Trisha Schock

Our districts have lost almost \$16 million in transportation and enrollment funding drops.

OSPI is waiting to implement ESRA 3. Schools will have a requirement to address the learning recovery plan. Lots of district questions are coming in with questions on how to spend these dollars.

As Linda shared earlier, we are working to help districts spend out their funds.

On the district front we are doing work with Orondo on a 3-year contract for business manager services.

ESRA and state long-term care are both a focus right now.

On the ESD financials we are looking good fiscally. We have had no disruption in our services or programs overall. Part of the big driver of that is that our travel was put on pause in the past year. Revenues are coming in and we are maintaining our expenditures.

We have some fluctuations with additional science kits and tech expenditures coming up.

C. Technology Services - Pete Phillips

Pete shared that the NetServ department is business as usual and have been out in districts this whole time.

eRate is alive and well. The due date is this week for districts to get their contracts signed and in. We are excited about both the renewals and new contract opportunities.

One of the projects we have been working on are the new cameras on the sport fields and gyms.

We continue with both Wi-Fi and security system upgrades, which have both been big projects for the team.

CCL team just had an online event call Future Fest for 5th - 8th grade teachers. Pete shared the flyer with the board.

We continue to do computer science work although it has been put on the back burner this past year.

We are underway with the 5th annual Stem Summit planning and are hoping to get 1,000 educators attending this year.

The AESD statewide team is still working on the Regional Educator Networks which happen monthly for teachers. The network is helping teachers to build engagement in the hybrid world as well as in moving forward so we don't lose what we have learned.

We are still the warehouse for PPE at the refurbishment center and are organizing and distributing to our districts.

Lastly, really excited to get back into our building and use our facility and getting some projects done this spring.

D. HR/Workers Comp and Crisis Co-op - Suzanne Reister

Suzanne reported as you can tell from the agenda we are in the middle of our hiring season. We had two interviews yesterday and two interviews tomorrow. Very activity in the hiring arena.

Our new communications specialist starts on April 1st. We are very excited to have her joining the team.

Last week I was asked by Pateros Superintendent Greg Goodnight to facilitate the interviews for their new principal. Really fund to be out in the district for two nights helping with that.

Workers Comp - handing and trying to deal with recent proposed rule changes. They do a run off test and we have to meet a threshold to be stabilized. We just received a letter that the rules are changing on that. We are working with the ESDs and our actuary and others to help them understand that we don't just fund year to year, that we fund for the long term. Hoping that we can have opportunity to talk to them.

The loss control team has been out in districts the last several weeks and they will be out the next 3 days delivering science kits to our districts.

We continue monitoring the unemployment fraud claim situation and staying as up to date on information.

On Crisis Coop, Mike will soon be going out and doing mini sessions in districts on fire drills etc. The plan is to keep it simple and help take the load off teachers. We hope in the next few months to be out offering that service.

We have had several districts contact us on the Employee Assistance program. ACI has been wonderful putting together virtual trainings. We aren't counting the number of people accessing it but we know this valuable.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. AESD Report

a. AESD Executive Meeting and Mini Conference - April 14th

The conference will be from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm. This will be available via zoom or in person on the 4th floor. Dinner will be provided for those attending in person beginning at 5:00 pm.

Marcia added that this is going to be a good conference and good information for new board members.

Michelle shared that it is combining new learning together with the business meeting and a good time to reconnect everyone.

b. Network Reset

Michelle shared that when the network first started Dr. Susan Leddick came in to design the core values of the network and now the work has expanded over the last 2 years and grown beyond the framework of supports. It is 3- month process, with individual interviews and working with different groups to come up with the plan. The proposal is to start this work in late April.

They will ask the executive board to approve this item on the next agenda.

B. Foundation Report

Susan provided the foundation report.

The foundation continues meeting every month and are currently in fundraising mode. Last year we were able to fund all the mini grants and are starting to get the reports back from the teachers on how their grants were spent.

The applications will be online again this year. They are asking for contributions from individuals. All information is located on the foundation website. Individual grants are \$300.00.

The strategic planning process begins next month and will probably stay with the same focus, which is increasing getting information out to the communities on the foundation.

Several foundation members will be going out to rotary groups to share about the work the foundation is doing and will be inviting teachers who received grants to come share their stories as well.

They are rethinking the grant recognition this year since it likely will not be in person this year.

The foundation is doing well and currently looking for a new board member.

V. Superintendent / Board Reports / Communication

A. The Latest of Michelle's Moments

Michelle shared that she has helped facilitate and coordinate vaccination opportunities for school district staff in our region. By the 10th of April all those who were interested will be fully vaccinated.

On Friday the CDC came out with a new recommendation of 3 feet social distancing in the classroom when there isn't a high risk. Our health district sent a recommendation to the DOH that they are currently reviewing. Chief medical officers are supportive of the 3 feet. There will be a press conference on Friday.

There is a watch on numbers and the different variants. Currently, hospitalizations are not increasing.

There continues to be a concern for kids social emotional and mental health.

All our districts report they will move as quickly as the DOH allow them to.

This year the Friend of Children Awards will go to school district nurses and health assistants. We will do a presentation at an upcoming meeting in May via zoom.

For our strategic plan, we kicked off the SWOT analysis by sending out survey. We are hoping to get back a large amount of feedback. We will also present this to our staff at our staff meeting on Friday.

We recently worked with Orondo on their Superintendent position. Lance Young, who has been their principal, will be taking on that role.

Palisades is contracting with Waterville for Tabatha's time as Superintendent. Waterville will hire high school principal due to the change.

AESD submitted a proposal to OSPI and the legislature for ESD stability dollars. Through COVID we have purchased PPE and other equipment. We have asked for funds to support our COVID efforts.

Our office doors will be back open to the public on April 12th.

We have a new self-check sign-in station at the front entrance. We are having them record their phone number and purpose in the building for contact tracing, if needed.

Non-exempt staff will return to building 60% of the time and exempt 40% of the time.

Lastly, we have had a lot of positive connections with our private schools during this time. We are a trusted source for those schools. We are bringing on the new charter school Pinnacle Prep who we will be providing services for.

The next board meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2021.

The meeting adjourned at 1:21 pm.

Board Chairperson

Board Secretary