

OnBoard

A Summary of the November 2020 Board Meeting

“On Board” is a monthly publication summarizing key highlights from the most recent ESD 123 Board of Directors meeting. To read complete board meeting minutes or find further information, contact the ESD Superintendent’s Office at 509.544.5785.

One Team Updates

Please join us in welcoming our newest members to Team ESD:

- **Ana Bernal**, ECEAP Family Support Specialist (Moses Lake)
- **Veronica Teague**, ECEAP Family Support Specialist (Pasco)
- **Jennifer Castaneda**, ECEAP Family Support Specialist (Pasco)
- **Noelle Sernett**, Teaching & Learning Specialist
- **Monica Garcia**, Marijuana Prevention & Education Specialist
- **Iise (Janeth) Gutierrez Pena**, ECEAP Assistant Teacher (Finley)

Farewell, and best wishes, to the following employees who have submitted their resignations:

- **Julia Walker**, 21st Century Site Coordinator
- **Roxana Claro Rincon**, ECEAP Family Support Coordinator
- **Misha Zamora**, ECEAP Assistant Teacher

Modification to Superintendent Evaluation Process Approved

Provisions in the Superintendent Contract require that the Superintendent’s job performance will be evaluated at least annually by the Board, and that annual goals and objectives shall be considered by the Board in evaluating the Superintendent to the extent applicable. The mechanisms by which the evaluation requirements are addressed are at the discretion of the Board.

In the spirit of continuous improvement, the Board approved the recommendation by the subcommittee to change the mechanism of the categories by deviating from the traditional approach for evaluating against professional standards, and focus instead on the current Strategic Direction Initiatives, which are Internal Culture, External Partnerships, Growth & Expansion, and Operational Excellence. Current evaluation categories map well to strategic initiatives. This would change as strategic directions update in future – as they evolve over time, the superintendent’s evaluation would evolve accordingly.

Upon approval, Superintendent Weisner commented, "This is a better reflection of the alignment to our current Strategic Direction throughout the organization that gives everyone guidance in those four focus areas. This is a very positive step in the right direction."

AESD Executive Board Meeting

Director Terry Brandon attended the AESD Executive Board meeting held via Zoom on Wednesday, November 11. OSPI Superintendent Chris Reykdal spoke and shared a forewarning about the governor’s announcement.

The AESD Annual Conference for April 2021 has already been canceled; however, there will be a survey for the ESD Boards of Directors to suggest various opportunities for in-service training and professional development in the coming year.

Superintendent Report

OSPI Superintendent Chris Reykdal discussed at the AESD Executive Board meeting how the infection rate is different in the school community than the general community. Transmission occurs outside the school systems (practicing the safety protocols with face-covering shields and masks and physical distancing), and it does not classify as an “outbreak” at school.

The superintendents feel schools are the safest place for students and help with social-emotional needs for students and families. The challenge the districts are facing is that when adults have tested positive and many have to quarantine, there are not enough teachers, substitutes, paraeducators, and/or district staff to operate the schools.

Mr. Weisner visited with Dr. Knowlton, Superintendent at Clarkston School District, who shared there were 140 students, administrators, and staff who needed to quarantine. The district was able to pivot within 24 hours from a hybrid model to a remote learning model for the next two weeks. Some districts have COVID dashboards to indicate positive case numbers among students and staff.

Through our efforts, the district superintendents are encouraging each other to get their boards to understand that if you have the appropriate safety measures in place, they can move forward to make plans to bring students back into schools. At the national level, cases are increasing, which does not make it easier for school boards and superintendents when they need to make decisions.

Mr. Weisner continues meeting with the superintendents every Monday and Wednesday for collaboration. Our safety measures on campus are exemplary, and we continue to work with our ECEAP and 21st Century programs to make sure that students and staff are safe.

Fiscal Report

Michelle Dearlove, Assistant Superintendent, Finance & Operations, shared that she received a procurement report on statewide PPE equipment that the total is a little over \$2 million across the state. The ESD 123 region has the second largest order of \$350,000.

Also, DCYF provided a contract to extend the ECEAP summer funding through the end of October, which allowed us to order items and deploy for classrooms and provide assistance to ECEAP families for overdue utilities and rent payments.

School districts are trying to submit their year-end fiscal reports to us, which were due on November 16th. The legislature is very interested in the reports from the year 2019-2020 to see how the school districts spent their money during the closure and with educating remotely.

Teaching & Learning Report

Teri Kessie, Assistant Superintendent, Teaching & Learning, shared the following:

[Shifting Schools: Leveraging Hybrid Learning](#)

As many districts are preparing for a hybrid learning model, which is more complicated than a remote learning model, 8 sessions are scheduled starting the week of December 7 to support teachers in their journey to returning face-to-face with students.

[Washington MTSS: Regional Implementation Specialist \(RIS\)](#)

The RIS is a new position we will be presenting next month. The purpose of the position is to provide training and technical assistance as part of a statewide Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) Support, which will focus on equitable implementation of evidence-based supports to students, support districts in establishing training and implementation plans, provide training to district and school teams, and build opportunities for regional collaboration. OSPI would like us to hire by January, so as soon as they give us the job description, we would like to post for hiring process. Teri will present the recommendation next month for the Board approval.

[Southeastern Washington Work Force Summit](#)

The Work Force Summit was hosted by ESD 123 in partnership with the Washington STEM Foundation of the Mid-Columbia on Tuesday, November 17 via Zoom. The purpose was to bring together leaders from business and education to learn how we can collaboratively create the workforce of the future. Some highlights include a kick-off by our own Darcy Weisner, attended by some influential individuals such as Kris Johnson, President of the Association of Washington Business, Lori Matson, Tri-City Chamber of Commerce, Angela Johnson, CEO of Washington STEM, and representatives from Senator Patty Murray’s office.

Over 70 people were in attendance at each session throughout the day, with 300-400 participants all together from across the state – including Seattle, Olympia, and Vancouver. A diverse population of students and professionals served together on panel discussions on a variety of topics. All sessions are being recorded for the WA STEM YouTube Channel.

Teri is proud of our team and gave a special thank you to the following staff:

- **Greg Fancher**, Career Connected Learning Coordinator
- **Mary Kirby**, Educator Growth & Development Coordinator
- **Lorianne Donovan-Hermann**, Regional Science Coordinator
- **Cole Thompson**, Technology Help Desk Specialist

Instructional Services Report

Troy Tornow, Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services, reported that everyone in the Instructional Services division is doing a great job providing services to the districts. Every day is a new day with new challenges and opportunities to collaborate to do the best we can in the current circumstances.

- [The Special Education Consortium](#) has done a great job fulfilling our contracts at the districts that are open. We continue to receive revisions from the districts to increase our services.
- [21st Century](#) is contracting with Kennewick School District to provide tutoring services for middle and high school students, along with providing parent support with online platforms for students. This is a contract outside the 21st Century grant, and it is an innovative and great team effort by the program staff.
- [The Early Intervention Birth to 3 program](#) team worked with Kaylee to develop proper forms approved by the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF). There is a high priority PPE delivery for high-need young children because their families need the support.
- [Leadership Network](#) was held yesterday, we continue getting ourselves better. We are still working on the Cultural Playbook.

Human Resources Report

With the governor’s new mandate, Kaylee Bolt, Human Resources Director, shared that we will not have more than 15 staff in the office (25% capacity). Everyone here follows the safety protocol, and a new schedule started November 17. Fingerprinting services will be provided four days a week as it is an essential need for our districts. Para training and testing will be provided even in the remote environment.

Kaylee also shared the [improved ESD 123 CORE Evaluation](#). The goal of the evaluation revisions is to provide a simplified evaluation and goal performance model, to establish elements of a healthy performance review/evaluation process that will encourage regular and balanced feedback, with a strong focus on goals, two-way conversation, and self-evaluation, and to develop performance improvement plans when necessary. The new evaluation system will provide opportunity for supervisors and staff to deepen alignment around expectations, provide clarity about opportunities for professional growth, and provide insight for leadership on how the ESD is doing as a team toward meeting our department goals and organizational strategic priorities.

Open Public Meeting Act Waiver Extended

The governor’s Open Public Meeting Act (OPMA) waiver has been extended through Dec. 7; however, Superintendent Weisner shared that he does not anticipate any changes, and the virtual meetings may continue through January 2021.

The next Board meeting will be **Tuesday, December 15 at 3:30 p.m.** via Zoom.



One Team...Helping all students realize their dreams and aspirations...

We are ESD 123!

