

NWESD English Language Learner (ELL) Cooperative COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

I. INTRODUCTION

WHEREAS, legislatively approved staffing ratios preclude the resident districts from generating sufficient staff to meet the needs of students with English Language Learner (herein after referred to as "ELL") needs;

WHEREAS, cooperative student programs provide a more efficient and economical basis for managing and implementing some ELL-related services;

WHEREAS, districts have chosen to avoid unnecessary duplication of unusually expensive programs and rather choose to try to free up resources to provide educational programs not otherwise available;

WHEREAS, Northwest Educational Service District 189 (hereinafter referred to as "NWESD") has historically provided special instructional support services on a cooperative basis;

WHEREAS, several local school district Boards of Directors within the Northwest Educational Service District 189 (hereinafter referred to as NWESD) service area have determined that support and training to districts to build effective ELL programs can be accomplished on a cooperative basis more economically and efficiently, they have requested that NWESD form an ELL Cooperative to help provide this support;

WHEREAS, RCW 39.34, RCW 28A.310.180, and RCW 28A.310.340 authorize the school districts and educational service districts to join together to engage in various activities, including having the educational service district provide cooperative service programs; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors and Superintendent of NWESD have agreed to coordinate and operate the Cooperative.

NOW THEREFORE, an ELL Cooperative service program is hereby created wherein NWESD will provide ELL-related education services to the district which is signatory to this Agreement for Cooperative Service Program (herein referred to as "Agreement"), according to the terms and conditions contained herein.

II. NAME/PURPOSE

This Cooperative will be known as the NWESD ELL Cooperative (hereinafter referred to as "Cooperative"). The purpose of the Cooperative is to develop capacity by providing support and training to districts to develop effective ELL programs.

III. MEMBERSHIP

Membership in this Cooperative will be limited to school districts and private schools located within the boundaries of NWESD, or their sponsored entities. All membership applications require submission of two (2) appropriately completed copies of this Agreement, signed by the local school district Superintendent, or private school Administrator.

Membership in this Cooperative requires all members to sign this Agreement. "District" shall hereafter refer to districts that have signed the Agreement for the initial 2016/17 program year, or any successor year, and agree to be financially responsible as a Cooperative member for the annual fees established pursuant to Section V of this Agreement.

IV. ORGANIZATION FINANCE/BUDGET MAINTENANCE

It is the desire of the members to have NWESD operate and supervise the Cooperative. To this extent, NWESD will incorporate in its General Fund Budget the dollars collected from the districts participating in this Cooperative, will account for the expenditures of this budget as all other expenditures in the General Fund are accounted for, including the internal controls necessary to protect the funds of this Cooperative, and will collect the monies from the members of this Cooperative and spend said monies for the operation of the Cooperative as allowed for by this Agreement.

Prior to the start of each year, NWESD will develop a proposed annual budget, including indirect costs of nine percent (9%) for the NWESD administration of the Cooperative. Such budget will be provided to each District representative and the Advisory Council members for review.

Each District choosing to participate will pay a 2018-19 membership fee in the amount of four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500.00). This membership fee will include training and support for one district administrator and up to three district ELL specialists. However, one (1) exceptional situation has been identified and will apply. The K-8 Conway School District will participate as a component of the Mount Vernon School District and will collectively be considered one (1) district (e.g., the \$4,500 fee and training/support seats would be proportionately based upon October 1 student full time enrollment).

These rates may be adjusted annually by the Advisory Council, but will minimally be set at a level that permits recovery of all operating costs, including NWESD indirects.

Invoicing will occur in October. Any adjustments to the fee schedule that are approved by the Executive Committee will be provided to all participating districts within thirty (30) days. Any deficit incurred by the Cooperative may be reclaimed from subsequent year(s) profits.

V. ADVISORY COUNCIL

An Advisory Council consisting of the superintendent of each participating District, or his/her designee, is hereby created. The purpose of such Advisory Council is to monitor the performance of this Agreement, amend this Agreement (with concurrence of all parties affected), and terminate this Agreement as provided in Section VII.

Activities of the Advisory Council shall take place as needed, called by a majority of its members or by the Superintendent of NWESD, or his/her designee. Decisions by the Advisory Council will be made by a vote of greater than fifty percent (50%) of a quorum. A quorum is defined as at least fifty percent (50%) of the representatives appointed to the Advisory Council. Participation may occur via technological participation, including email providing at least seven (7) calendar days prior written notice was provided to each District superintendent or designee.

VI. DUTIES OF DISTRICT

In accordance with this Agreement, each participating district shall:

- A) Waive any locally established procurement requirements that are more restrictive than those established by statute for fees/purchases initiated pursuant to this Agreement.
- B) Not use federal funds for payment of any fees/purchases related to this Agreement, unless it provides prior written notice to the NWESD Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Compliance. This will assure the District and NWESD can proactively explore and meet any federal procurement requirements.
- C) Pay necessary membership fees to NWESD. Delinquent accounts are to be assessed an interest charge of one and one half percent (1.5%) per month.
- D) Appoint one district administrator to serve on the Advisory Council, pursuant to Section V and

assure this representative attends/participates in scheduled Advisory Council meetings. The appointed district administrator will participate in a professional learning community.

- E) Appoint up to three district ELL Specialists to attend trainings that will enhance their ability to design and deliver professional learning opportunities for classroom teachers. The appointed ELL Specialist(s) will participate in a professional learning community with their colleagues.
- F) Participate in, and support, decisions related to the setting of the annual Cooperative fees.
- G) Participate in, and support, decisions related to the priorities of ELL training development.

VII. DUTIES OF NWESD

In accordance with this Agreement, within the resources provided from districts participating in this cooperative, NWESD shall:

- A) Employ and/or contract with the personnel to meet the terms of this Agreement for its duration.
- B) Act as overall administrator for Cooperative consistent with this Agreement and will bring to the attention of the participating districts any concerns with implementing the terms herein.
- C) Maintain adequate records for the accounting of the costs of Cooperative, including the payment of bills and auditing of those bills.
- D) Keep on deposit with the designated County Treasurer, all funds attributable to Cooperative which have not been used to operate the Cooperative. (No separate fund will be established, but a separate accounting of these funds will be accomplished.)
- E) Maintain a minimum fund balance of no less than one month (1/12) of total budgeted cooperative expenditures as per NWESD Policy 6060.

VIII. TERM OF AGREEMENT/TERMINATION

This Agreement's duration is from September 1, 2018, through August 31, 2019, and will be automatically renewed for each consecutive fiscal year (September 1 through August 31) following August 31, 2019, unless written notice of termination is given in the manner provided herein. For a termination to be effective, written notice must be provided to the other party by April 1 prior to the termination date, as provided below.

- A) If the districts wish to terminate the Agreement in its entirety, the Advisory Council shall provide written notice to the NWESD no later than April 1 of the preceding program year (e.g., April 1, 2019, for the 2019/20 program year).
- B) If the NWESD wishes to terminate the Agreement in its entirety, the NWESD shall notify the member Districts no later than April 1 of the preceding program year (e.g., April 1, 2019, for the 2019/20 program year).
- C) Any participating District may terminate its participation in this Cooperative upon the conclusion of this Agreement's annual term, August 31, providing written notice is provided no later than April 1 of the preceding program year (e.g., April 1, 2019, for the 2019/20 program year).
- D) Any participating District may also terminate its participation upon the approval of the remaining Cooperative members after they have considered and approved resulting rate adjustments, pursuant to Sections IV, V, and VI.
- E) By mutual agreement of the parties, this Cooperative can be discontinued at any time, without the prescribed required notice.

This Agreement may be modified only upon recommendation by Advisory Council as per Section V, and fully executed by NWESD and the Districts, specifying conditions and date of modification.

IX. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Disputes arising out of this Agreement, excluding indirect and administration costs, shall be resolved in the following fashion:

- A) If the dispute is between participating Districts, then the disputing parties will present their arguments first to the NWESD Assistant Superintendent for Teaching & Learning to make a determination. If need be, it may then be referred to the Superintendent of NWESD.
- B) If the dispute is between one or more participating District(s) and NWESD, then each participating District will appoint someone to represent it, NWESD will appoint someone to represent it, and those parties will appoint someone as a neutral representative. This panel's decisions will be limited to the provisions of this Agreement, be determined by a majority vote, and be binding on the parties.

X. DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS ON TERMINATION

Since NWESD as the designated administrator of the Cooperative, will have title to all equipment acquired through this Cooperative, and is operating other Cooperatives for the various school districts within its service area; should the Cooperative dissolve, title to all remaining equipment and assets from the Cooperative will remain with NWESD to be used for NWESD purposes.

If any District decides to discontinue participation in the Cooperative, no assets will be distributed to said departing district on such termination.

XI. CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN

In accordance with RCW 28A.400.330, employees, agents, and contractors of the Cooperative and its Members are prohibited from working at a District school if they have or may have contact with children at a public school during the course of their employment and have pleaded guilty to or been convicted of the crimes identified in RCW 28A.400.322. Any failure to comply with this section shall be grounds for the District immediately terminating the contract.

XII. INDEMNITY

NWESD shall defend, indemnify, and hold harmless a Member District in full for any and all claims against the District or its employees, officials, or contractors which arise from the acts or omissions for NWESD and its employees, officials, and contractors in the provision of the services under this Cooperative Agreement. The Member Districts shall defend, indemnify, and hold harmless NWESD in full for any and all claims against NWESD or its employees, officials, or contractors which arise from the acts or omissions of the District and its employees, officials, and contractors in the provision of the services under this Cooperative Agreement.

XIII. ASSIGNMENT/WAIVER/SEVERABILITY/HEADINGS

Rights or responsibilities required or authorized by this Agreement are not assignable by the parties.

No provision of this Agreement or right to receive reasonable performance or any act called for by its terms shall be deemed waived by breach thereof as to a particular transaction or occurrence.

If any term or condition of this Agreement or application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other terms, conditions, or applications of this agreement, which can be given effect without the invalid term, condition, or application; to this extent, the terms and conditions of this agreement are declared severable.

The headings of each of these sections are provided only to guide the reader and shall not be used to change the meaning of the content of any of said sections.

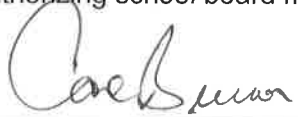
XIV. SUSPENSION AND DEBARMENT

The parties to this Agreement certify, and each relies thereon in execution of this Agreement, that their entity nor its Principals are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, or declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded for the award of contracts by any Federal governmental agency or department. "Principals", for the purposes of this certification, mean officers; directors; owners; partners; and, persons having primary management or supervisory responsibilities within a business entity (e.g., general manager; plant manager; head of subsidiary, division, or business segment; and similar positions). Further, each party agrees to provide the other(s) immediate written notice if, at any time during the term of this Agreement, including any renewals hereof, it learns that its certification was erroneous when made or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances. Each party's certification via the execution of this Agreement is a material representation of fact upon which each party has relied in entering into this Agreement. Should either party determine, at any time during this Agreement, including any renewals hereof, that this certification is false, or should it become false due to changed circumstances, it may terminate this Agreement in accordance with the terms and conditions therein.

XV. READ AND UNDERSTOOD/SIGNATURES

By signing this Agreement, the parties acknowledge that they have read and understood this Agreement, including any supplements or attachments thereto and do agree thereto in every particular. The parties further agree that this Agreement, together with any appendices, constitutes the entire Agreement between the parties and supersedes all communications, written or oral, theretofore related to the subject matter of this agreement. This Agreement may be modified or amended by written mutual consent of the collective parties signing this Agreement. With the signatures below, the parties indicate approval by their respective governing board to enter into this Agreement.


By signing below, each party affirms that this Agreement has been approved by his/her board of directors or he/she has been given authority by such board to enter into this Agreement. A copy of authorizing school board minutes or resolution, as appropriate, will be attached hereto.



Superintendent
Mount Vernon School District
Skagit County, Washington

8-16-18

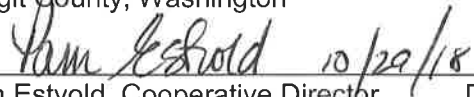
Date



Larry Francois, Superintendent
Northwest Educational Service District 189
Skagit County, Washington

10/30/18

Date



Pam Estvold, Cooperative Director
NWESD Asst Supt for Teaching & Learning

10/29/18

Date

MOUNT VERNON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 320
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, August 15, 2018, 6:00 p.m.

Call to Order and Flag Salute: Director Coffey called to order a regular meeting of the Mount Vernon School Board on August 15, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School, 314 N. 9th Street, Mount Vernon, Washington, 98273.

Roll Call of Members: Present at the meeting were Directors Coffey, Cook, Otos, Ragusa, and DeLeon. Also present was Superintendent Bruner. A quorum was present. Notes by C. Ledin. A large number of staff was present.

Set Consent and Regular Agendas:

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and unanimously approved, the consent and regular agendas were set as submitted.

Review and Approval of Consent Agenda:

Upon motion by Director Otos, seconded and unanimously approved, the items in the consent agenda were approved including the following:

Student & Staff Travel

- Staff: C. Ousselin; Washington Association for Language Teaching and American Council on Teaching Foreign Language Conference; Portland, OR; 10/11/18 – 10/12/18
- Staff: C. Ousselin; American Council on Teaching Foreign Language Conference; New Orleans, LA; 11/14/18 – 11/18/18

Agreements/Contracts

- Interlocal Agreement for Small Works Roster; participating district are Mount Vernon School District, Burlington-Edison School District, Concrete School District, Conway School District, LaConner School District, Sedro-Woolley School District, Stanwood-Camano School District, Coupeville School District and Oak Harbor School District; 09/01/18 to continuing
- Memorandum of Understanding; Treehouse; 09/01/18 to 08/31/23
- Cooperative Agreement; Northwest ESD; English Language Learner (ELL) Cooperative; 09/01/18 – 08/31/18

Personnel Report

- Certificated employment, out of endorsement; leave, retirement/resignation/termination
- Classified employment, retirement/resignation/termination, transportation department adjustments
- Extra/co-curricular stipends and supplemental contracts

Public Comments: Director Coffey called for public comments.

A large number of Mount Vernon Education Association (MVEA) members addressed the board. These included:

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- Paul Zickler
- Paul Hope
- Cheryl Thramer
- Seri Green
- Theresa McGuire Thomas
- Lance Belka
- Kaelyn Steward
- Jana Swanson
- Debbie Willer
- Candy Molner
- Elizabeth Churape
- Stacy Kelsey

Other speakers included:

- Larry Hilliar, Mount Vernon resident
- Dean Shelton, fire fighter
- Debra Cramer, spouse of a teacher
- Larry DeLaney, President of WEA 4th Corner, education association
- Allyson Marken, former student and daughter of teacher
- Anna Moss, current student

Each spoke passionately about their belief that teachers should be paid fairly and to receive additional compensation from the Washington State Legislature. Each shared a personal story relating to the basis for expressing the need for increased teacher wages.

Director Coffey thanked the speakers for their thoughtful comments.

Board Member Comments:

- Director Otos thanked those in the audience who shared their opinions; stating that he appreciated the comments.
- Director Coffey expressed to the audience that he is proud of the work teachers accomplish and to meet the students with whom they work. He was hopeful when the McCleary situation first arose that it would provide a better funding process for educators. There has been a significant amount of miscommunication regarding McCleary and available funding. The levy swap has a very different impact on each community. While the state is giving more money this year, it will not continue.
- Director Cook stated he is a certified public accountant and is very familiar with financials. He reviewed the budget in detail and school finance is very complex. He feels comfortable that the district has done a very good job with what they have. The approach is consistent and impacted by many dynamics.
- Director Ragusa thanked the audience members who spoke.
- Director DeLeon thanked the audience members for sharing their stories.

Superintendent's Report: There was no superintendent's report.

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Old Business

Resolution No. 19/17-18 Adopting the 2018-19 Budget: Executive Director-Finance, Jennifer Larson presented the resolution to adopt the 2018-19 budget. She explained the budget development process, noting that employees and salary adjustments are made first, then the needs list is addressed. The Northwest ESD 189 reviews the final proposed product, makes comments for changes, and then sends to OSPI for review. The McCleary decision now requires a multi-year budget be prepared. A public hearing is held, and then adoption.

Ms. Larson reviewed the budget numbers in detail, including the changes in current and future income and expense. She noted a 2.8% decrease in 2019-20. She reviewed the options and levy calculations and impact.

Upon motion made by Director Otos, seconded and unanimously approved, Resolution #19/17-18 was approved adopting the 2018-19 school district budget.

2017 Capital Facilities Plan – Impact Fees: Superintendent Bruner commented the board reviewed the impact fees during the November-December 2017 timeframe. The board agreed on a 35% Reduction. The City of Mount Vernon needs to approve the amount as they levy the tax. They requested the board reconsider the reduction percentage. Director Cook presented Information to the city council, who shared that they are sensitive to fee changes. The community trusts the district to properly use the money we collect. Impact fees shift the burden from current taxpayers to those that drive the development, and development is what brings the students and expense to the district. The City doesn't have to adopt our recommendation and they can choose a version of their own. The school district attorney recommended the district remain with the same amount suggested as significant research, discussion, and consideration was used to determine that amount. Director Ragusa said she feels the board has thoughtfully considered the discount and variables and that we should advise the Mayor our desire to hold the discount. Director Otos agrees, we should hold the discount we agreed upon. He stated he has been involved in the impact fee process since the 1980s. With property taxes going down, we will collect even less in the future. Impact fees are as named – an impact against expense. Director Coffey shared that the City thinks the bond addressed growth and it did not. It addressed current needs. The position of the school board is to represent taxpayers fairly and equitably.

Director Otos said there was significant discussion about affordable housing. The district should be a part of that discussion. He would like the district at the table for the low to moderate income housing discussions. Director Cook wants to be clear to the city that by maintaining our request to keep the same reduction, we are not being uncooperative and we would like to continue working together on low income housing.

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and unanimously approved, the board agreed to keep the recommended impact fees at the level set. A letter will be sent to the city explaining the district position.

New Business

Board Meeting Schedule 2018-19 School Year

Upon review of the proposed board meeting schedule for 2018-19, the board requested the work study sessions be changed to the first meeting of the month.

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Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and unanimously approved, the board adopted the 2018-19 school year board meeting scheduled as amended to have the work study sessions occur on the first meeting of each month.

Construction Related: Resolution 20/17-18 establishing the Intent to Construct New Madison Elementary was presented. This is a required step to submit the D forms to the State of Washington to secure funding.

Upon motion by Director Ragusa, seconded and unanimously approved, the board adopted Resolution 20/17-18 Intent to Construction a New Madison Elementary School.

Agreement with City of Mount Vernon; In Lieu of Financial Guarantees; Critical Areas at Harriet Rowley Elementary School: The agreement presented provides maintenance for the wetlands at Harriet Rowley Elementary School. It outlines the need for monitoring and maintenance with a biologist for five years.

Upon motion by Director Cook, seconded and unanimously approved, the board accepted the agreement with the City of Mount Vernon regarding the critical area maintenance at Harriet Rowley Elementary in lieu of financial guarantees.

Native Growth Protection Easement-Harriet Rowley Elementary School; City of Mount Vernon: This agreement provides the city with a permanent easement so the critical areas can be maintained and protected.

Upon motion by Director DeLeon, seconded and unanimously approved, the board accepted the agreement with the City of Mount Vernon to provide an easement to the critical areas as mapped at Harriet Rowley Elementary for the purpose of protection of critical areas.

Public Comments: A staff member thanked the board for listening to the concerns regarding the wage for the MVEA members.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.



Rob Coffey, Director
Board President



Carl Bruner
Secretary to the Board