



# Rural Education Center

---

Jim Kowalkowski, Director  
jimkowalkowski@davenport.wednet.edu  
WEBSITE...  
<http://ruraledcenter.wsu.edu/>

Housed at Davenport School District  
801 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Davenport, WA 99122  
Ph: 509.725.1481 FAX: 509.725.2260

In partnership with...  
*Washington State University & NorthEast Washington ESD 101*



## **Rural Education Center Meeting @ WASA Small Schools Conference**

**Tuesday, March 15, 2011 ~ 6:45 AM – 7:45 AM**

**Location: Orchard Exhibit North Room**

# MINUTES

Attendees: Jim Kowalkowski, REC & Davenport SD; Ashley Herridge REC & WSU; Bill Keim, ESD 113; Bill Glidewell, Orient & S. Valley SD; Paul Turner, Tonasket SD; Edwina Hargrave, Onion Creek SD; Bill Jordan, Prescott SD; Dave Iverson, Keller SD; Jasin Wellons, Keller SD; Bob McMullen, AWSP; Dan Bolender, McCleary SD; Peggy Douglas, Paterson SD; Lois Davies, Pateros SD; Dick Conley, Winlock SD; Mike Wyant, Entiat SD; Bruce Hawkins, ESD 123; John Dekker, WASA; Lori Larson, Valley SD; Elissa Dyson, Onion Creek SD & WSSDA Small Schools Task Force; Steve McCullough, Curlew SD; Jerry McDermott, NEWESD 101, Michael Dunn, NEWESD 101; Helene Paroff, NEWESD 101, Cory Plager, NEWESD 101; Jake Dingman, Oakesdale SD; Rich McBride, NC ESD; Mark Mansell, LaCenter SD; Marsha Smith, Damman, SD

### **1. Call to Order, Welcome, & Introductions**

Dr. Mark Selle, REC President & Superintendent-Valley School District & Orient School District  
Jim Kowalkowski, REC Director & Superintendent-Davenport S.D.

The meeting was called to order at 6:46am.

### **2. Updates & Revisions to REC By-Laws**

The REC by-laws haven't been updated in many years. The leadership committee decided it was time to update them. Jim sent a copy of the by-laws to everyone on the listserv. Lori Larsen from Valley School District has worked closely with the leadership committee and has worked on the updates and revisions to the by-laws. Please review the proposed new by-laws and at the next meeting in June they will be discussed and approved at that time.

### **3. Nominations for REC President-Elect for 2012-2013**

The REC needs a President-Elect for the 2012-2013 year. Peggy Douglas agreed to serve as the President-elect. We will take a formal vote at the June meeting. If there are others interested in becoming President-Elect please contact Jim Kowalkowski.

### **4. Update: 2011 Legislative Session - [www.leg.wa.gov/pages/home.aspx](http://www.leg.wa.gov/pages/home.aspx)**

The three most important words right now are budget, budget, and budget. The consolidation bill is dead. Remember that last year a bill passed to develop a reorganization commission. The Governor vetoed it. Continue to be alert and vigilant.

It was shared that the assumption with the legislators is that those that yell the loudest are the most credible. We need to let them know that isn't true. Make sure you let your legislator know how the cuts will affect your district and maintain close contact with your local legislator.

The third supplemental budget will come and we will wait and see what the numbers are. The budget will come out at last minute.

#### **5. REC Budget Update**

Dr. Mike Dunn/Jerry McDermott – North East Washington ESD 101

There are currently 76 members of the REC for the 2010 – 2011 year. There has made a big push to get more members. We have a current fund balance of \$33,961.50. Our fund balance is a little lower than in past years because the REC did a couple of studies.

#### **6. Diane Ravitch – WSSDA Annual Conference & More**

Dr. Mark Selle & Dr. Mike Dunn

Check out these two links:

- Diane Ravitch's website: <http://www.dianeravitch.com>
- The Bridging Differences Blog she writes with Deborah Meier: <http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/Bridging-Differences>

Diane Ravitch has not been to WA State to share the historical perspective. The President is going to VA to talk about reauthorizing NCLB.

Diane would like to get to WA State and we need to get her booked for the next conference. She is costly and her fee may limit other speakers they have at the meeting. She will be giving her presentation at WSSDA on Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at the Seattle Marriott.

#### **7. “Words of Wisdom” from ESD Superintendents**

One of the items that popped up was the move to absorb fund balances of school districts that are over budget. They believe the money is state funds but they are actually local funds.

The ESD's depend on core funding and the kind words to you can say to your legislator about them. Anything you can share with your legislator about ESD's would be greatly appreciated.

#### **8. WASA Smalls Schools Committee Update**

John Dekker & Lois Davies

There is great committee this year and were able to bring in great speakers.

WASA still needs more involvement from school districts. They need your ideas and connections. Most of the meetings are held at a conference and not much time is needed to serve on the committee. If you would like to serve on the committee please contact John Dekker or Lois Davis.

This year there has been a good turnout, the same as last year but they would like to see the numbers rise and are looking for ways to do this.

The Small Schools Committee is looking for a Chair-Elect. If you or someone you know might want to serve in this position please contact John or Lois.

#### **9. WSSDA Small Schools Task Force Update**

Elissa Dyson

The Task Force hasn't had very good attendance. The committee is a little concerned about the budget and that they

might eliminate WSSDA. They would like to see more support. They won't meet again until the fall. Everything is on hold for the next conference until they hear if they will continue with WSSDA or not.

#### **10. Other Items/Topics- "Round the Horn"**

Dr. Mark Mansell, REC President Elect

We are still focused on the same issues as a decade ago.

We are wondering what's on your mind that we can blend with the small schools conference and engage REC funding with this. It's been suggested that Principals are not needed in a district. They will be interviewing principals today to strategize. If things go well they will do a session at the summer conference. How do we take this on in a positive way?

Be sure to provide messages to our legislators this week and protect levy equalization. Get the message out to the public on the radios and in newspapers to engage them.

Jim Kowalkowski reminded everyone to let your legislators know why you have a healthy reserve in your budget so they don't question it.

In the last meeting it was brought up that the REC might want to join NEWS. Jim looked into this and if the REC joined each district would not be listed as a member. The REC has joined NEWS as an organization. If your district would like to join the cost is \$100.

#### **11. Announcements/Upcoming Events**

If you are a member of the REC and aren't receiving your listserv messages let Ashley know so she can add you.

The next REC Meeting will be at the WASA/AWSP Summer Conference in June in Spokane.