

ESD 112 Board Briefs

November 24, 2009 – 3:00 p.m.
ESD 112 – Columbia Room
2500 NE 65th Avenue
Vancouver, WA 98661

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ann Campbell, President
Richard Graham
Darlene Stickel
Ken Botero
Steve Wrightson
Bill Baumann



MEMBERS EXCUSED

Marilyn Koeninger

CALL TO ORDER

The ESD 112 Board of Directors' regular business meeting was called to order by President Ann Campbell at 3:02 p.m. on November 24, 2009, with a quorum of six members present.

SPECIAL GUEST RECOGNITION

Dr. Douglas Gill, Director of Special Education, OSPI, joined the meeting via K20 connection from Olympia. **Dennis Mathews**, *Associate Superintendent, Specialized Student Services*, provided a brief overview of the events leading up to the approval of Local Educational Agency (LEA) status granted to the ESD 112 Special Education Cooperative earlier this year. Dr. Gill was instrumental in securing this status and the board expressed appreciation for his work on behalf of the children of the state.

PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS

- "ESD Road Trip 2009-2010: Adventure Ahead!" concluded with Field Staff Days at Ocean Beach and Stevenson-Carson school districts and at ESD112 for Clark County field staff. President Ann Campbell attended the events and expressed how much she enjoyed meeting our field staff. President Campbell also commented on the professionalism and dedication of our staff. Dr. Richard Graham also attended the events and commented on how impressed he was with the three employees receiving 25 and 30 years of service awards.
- Legislative briefings were provided to Senator Craig Pridemore, Representative Tim Probst, and Representative Jim Jacks in individual meetings with cabinet and board members. The discussions focused on core funding needs for ESDs. Darlene Stickel attended these briefings and reported the meetings to be informative for both legislators and board members.
- Darlene Stickel attended the Washington State School Directors' Association Annual Conference on behalf of the ESD board and presented a detailed report of the activities and special speakers at the conference. Of special note were the presentations of best-selling author Susan Scott on "Fierce Conversations" and researcher Yong Zhao. Dr. Zhao presented information illustrating how the United States does not really suffer from a global achievement gap. Governor Christine Gregoire provided brief remarks to the audience and stayed for Dr. Zhao's presentation.
- Bill Baumann attended the AESD Executive Meeting held in Seattle and reported that a budget discussion on system building was a significant part of the meeting. Funding to pay for the mandated system has yet to be found.
- Steve Wrightson commented on the Life Skills Celebration held recently at Hockinson. The event was sponsored by the special education staff assigned to Hockinson.

DISCUSSION AND REPORTS

- **Brant Russell**, *Director, Communications and Information Management*, joined the meeting to report on the WESPAC security breach that occurred earlier this month in Vancouver School District. Mr. Russell shared details of the incident; outlined the status of the investigation; and summarized actions taken. The board will be informed of new information as it comes forward.
- **Tim Merlino**, *Chief Finance Officer*, reported on the final 2008-2009 budget. ESD112 closed strong with continued growth in revenue and reserves. Reserves increased in every area except the health benefit reserve. Due to the continued negative state financial picture we will need to continue to monitor potential loss of contracts.

- An executive session protocol review was conducted at the request of Bill Baumann. Materials prepared by **Marnie Allen**, *ESD 112 Attorney*, were reviewed and discussed.
- The 2010 AESD Annual Conference will be hosted by the ESD 112 Board of Directors in Vancouver. Superintendent Barnes reviewed a second conference agenda draft and identified our success securing keynote speaker David Lawrence. Dr. Lawrence is the former editor of the Miami Herald and a nationally recognized education advocate. The theme, suggested by the board, will be “Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow.” **Karen Schwartzrock**, *Director, Human Resources*; and **Lori Williams**, *Deputy Director, School and Agency Operations*, will co-chair planning for the event. The planning committee continues to move forward.

CORRESPONDENCE

A special email of appreciation was received by Dennis Mathews regarding the following individuals:

- From Clarese Sprague, Special Education Teacher in White Salmon:
“I just want to say that **Shawn Walsh**, *Network Specialist*, does a great job for me each time he comes to Henkle Middle School. Even though I have not requested his assistance, Shawn always checks to see if I need help. Shawn always has patience with me. He answers my questions and explains things so that I know exactly what he is talking about. Shawn is courteous and never makes me feel like an “idiot” for asking questions (even though sometimes my questions probably do seem “idiotic”). Without a doubt, the Special Ed Co-op is lucky to have such a hi-caliber individual assisting us with our technical needs!”
- **Leslie Ruby**, *Hockinson Special Education Teacher*, and **Tracy Rouse**, *Hockinson Special Education Paraeducator*, were presented with Life Saver Awards from Hockinson Fire District #3. Last spring, a student choked on his lunch. The pair worked together to administer the Heimlich maneuver and dislodge the food. “It was very scary,” said Leslie. “His airway was blocked and he was turning blue...yikes!” The awards were presented by **Steve Wrightson**, Fire Chief and ESD 112 board member.
- **Karla Karukes**, *La Center Special Education Teacher*, and **Carrie Lindsey**, *Kalama Special Education Teacher*, conducted a Person Centered Planning (PCP) meeting in Longview for a life skills student. Jo Perkins, Special Education, Longview School District, wrote “I want to thank you for your support of the PCP concept and sending Karla to help us through this process with one of our students. She did an AWESOME job in keeping the process moving and getting us to some areas that can be used in creating the IEP. She and Carrie were quite a team and it was good for me to see just how much that teamwork contributed to the process and product. While Karla led the discussion, Carrie sat back, asked probing questions, and was able to spot some tendencies that the rest of us hadn't observed.”

In addition, the following letters of appreciation were received by staff members:

- Thank you email from **Melissa Krueder**, *Human Resources Information Systems Coordinator*, for the hard work of **Julie Gaetze**, *Print Center Lead*, **Evelyn Hambleton**, *Graphic Technician*, and **Heidi Barnes**, *Director, Communications/Graphic Arts*, to design and print the “We Give They Receive” campaign promotional materials. They were gracious and efficient on very short timelines. A second email from **Melissa Kreuder**, *Human Resources Information Systems Coordinator*, praised the **Children Northwest team** for the fantastic job done at a recent “We Give They Receive” event. To date, \$11,000 has been donated for this year’s campaign.
- Brandon Ray, Camas School District, sent a note of appreciation to **Dennis Mathews**, *Associate Superintendent, Specialized Student Services*, for the assistance of **Jeff Andrews**, *Computer Network Consultant*, in providing a fresh perspective on a recent internet problem ultimately resulting in the identification of and solution for an issue that could have dragged on for the entire school year.

Other items in the correspondence file included:

- Invitation to **Jada Rupley**, *Associate Superintendent, Children, Youth and Family Services*, from Dr. Elizabeth Hyde, Director, Department of Early Learning, to serve on the ARRA State Advisory Council Taskforce.
- Letter from Brian Sonntag, Washington State Auditor, acknowledging the ESD as a Local Educational Agency (LEA).
- A resignation letter from Virgil Williams, member of the Regional Committee on School District Organization, effective November 1, 2009, and a thank you letter to Mr. Williams from Superintendent Barnes for his years of service.
- Obituary notice for Leo Blodgett, former ESD 112 superintendent and champion of education – 1919-2009.
- **Karen Schwartzrock**, *Director, Human Resources*, sent a thank you email to attorneys Lawrence Ransom and Tracy Miller for their outstanding ADA presentation to over 50 people in 21 different school districts.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Twyla Barnes reported the following items:

- **Tim Merlino**, *Chief Finance Officer*, provided a facilities update. Options for financing are being explored. A tour of potential sites is available to interested board members.
- The recent resignation of Virgil Williams requires the board to appoint a new member to the Regional Committee on School District Organization to represent District 1. Appointment protocol was provided in the board packet. Currently there are no requests for boundary changes.
- Work on the redesign of WSIPC will create several challenges. Superintendent Barnes has been assigned the responsibility to take the schedule of work forward within the next 18 months.
- President Ann Campbell, Superintendent Barnes, and Tim Merlino met with Evergreen Superintendent John Deeder, Joan Skelton, Evergreen Board President, and Mike Merlino, Evergreen Chief Financial Officer, to explore future opportunities for the ESD and Evergreen to work together.

PROPOSALS FOR ACTION

- **Motion passed** to approve the Consent Agenda including: Minutes of the ESD Board of Directors' meeting of October 27, 2009; Personnel Reports October 2009; and Financial Reports October 2009.

NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

Next board meeting is scheduled for December 18, 2009, at 11:45 a.m. in conjunction with the annual ESD Board/ERC Luncheon at Hamilton Hall on the Fort Vancouver Reserve. Board members' spouses are invited to attend. Please RSVP to Pat Bowden as soon as possible. The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.



For questions, please contact, Pat Bowden at (360) 750-7500 ext. 255 or email: pat.bowden@esd112.org. Approved minutes of the Board of Directors' meetings are kept in the ESD 112 Administration Offices and are public record.