



## ESD 112 Board of Directors Business Meeting March 26, 2024

### ROLL CALL

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Board Members Present: Mark Hottowe, President; Susan Barker; Kevin Davis; Nancy Miller; Heidi Rosenberg; and Darlene Stickel. Superintendent Present: Tim Merlino. Cabinet Members Present: Marnie Allen, Monique Dugaw, Mike Nerland, Jodi Wall, and Kathy Whitlock.

### CALL TO ORDER

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The ESD 112 Board of Directors Business meeting was called to order by Mark Hottowe, *President*, at 9:00 am on March 26, 2024. A quorum of six members was present.

### REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

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- Debrief Board Retreat: The board of directors discussed the ESD 112 Board Retreat that was held on March 25, 2024.
- Early Head Start & ECEAP Monthly Report: Jodi Wall, *Executive Director of Early Care & Education (ECE)*, shared highlights of the report including an update on efforts to increase bus service for ECEAP students through a partnership with the ESD 112 Specialized Transportation Cooperative. Transportation has been a barrier for many families that want to enroll their children in preschool. Sixty-one children at six ECEAP locations are now provided bussing to preschool. In October, the Early Head Start program also began offering transportation support to help Early Head Start families participate in playgroups. To help support the specialized transportation program, they are now helping to advertise bus driver positions with ECEAP families who are seeking employment.
- Superintendent's Report: Tim Merlino, *Superintendent*, briefed the board on the following:
  - ESD Budget Update: Superintendent Merlino shared a brief update on the budget.
  - Audit Update: The annual ESD audit is complete and there were no findings. The Audit Exit Conference will be held on April 2, 2024.
  - State Budget Plans 2025-27: The AESD network is collaborating with WASA and districts statewide to identify funding priorities for the next biennium.
  - ESA Visits: Districts in the ESD 171 region that are interested in joining the ESA were recently visited. Jeffrey Niess, *Executive Director of Specialized Student Services*, also met with Chimacum School District to discuss their possible entry into the ESA as a provisional member. He will meet with the Entiat School District Board later this week.
  - Safety Net: The ESA applied for \$3,625,000 in Safety Net funding this year, which was a \$900,000 increase.
  - New Superintendents: Tim shared an update on two new superintendents in the region who have been hired for next school year: Kalama School District – Dr. Wesley Benjamin; Ridgefield School District - Dr. Jenny Rodriguez. The Castle Rock School District appointed Tiffaney Golden as interim superintendent for the remainder of the school year.
  - AESD Conference: Darlene Stickel, Tim Merlino, Gavin Hottman, and Mike Nerland will attend the annual AESD Conference on behalf of ESD 112 on April 3-5, 2024.

- Employee Acknowledgements & Recognitions: Monique Dugaw, *Executive Director of Communications & Public Engagement*, shared employee acknowledgments for March. Justine Hanrahan, *Communications Manager*, was recognized by Margaret Rice, Washougal School District, for her work coordinating a press release regarding Washougal High School students serving student and staff meals for the first time from the school's new student-ran food truck. Karen Douglass, *PREVENT Community Project Coordinator*, was recognized as Member of the Year by the Skamania County Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber also named the One Prevention Alliance Coalition that Karen coordinates as their Business of the Year. Melissa Kreuder, *Director of Human Resources & SW Washington Unemployment Pool*, was recently awarded the Washington School Personnel Association's President Award.

## PROPOSALS FOR ACTION

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- **Motion passed** to approve the consent agenda items including minutes of the ESD 112 Board of Directors Meeting – February 27, 2024, and ESD 112 Board of Directors Special Meeting – February 27, 2024; ESD 112 Personnel Activity Reports for March 2024; ESD Expenditure Reports for February 2024; and EHS Budget Status/Expenditure Reports for February 2024.
- **Motion passed**: To pass Resolution R.23.10 – In the Matter of Approving Pre-Endorsement Waiver or Temporary Endorsement Special Education Assignment.

## PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS

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- Public Comments: There were no comments.
- Correspondence: This month's correspondence included an email from Joel Aune, Executive Director of WASA, commending Sara Moore for exemplary customer service, and an [ESD 112 News Release](#) announcing the winners of the High School Regional Art Show.
- Board Participation in Events:
  - Darlene Stickel attended the AESD Executive Board Meeting on March 12, 2024.
  - Heidi Rosenberg participated in the EHS/ECEAP Policy Council Meeting on March 21, 2024.

## CALENDAR

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- AESD Annual Conference – Campbell's Resort, Lake Chelan - April 3-5, 2024
- ESD Board of Directors Business Meeting – ESD 112 – April 23, 2024
- EHS/ECEAP Policy Council First Responder Fair – ESD 112 – May 18, 2024
- ESD Board of Directors Business Meeting – ESD 112 – May 28, 2024
- ESD Board of Directors Business Meeting – ESD 112 – June 25, 2024

## ADJOURNMENT

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The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.



For questions, please contact Sara Moore, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, at (360) 952-3318 or email: [sara.moore@esd112.org](mailto:sara.moore@esd112.org). Approved minutes of the Board of Directors' meetings are kept in the ESD 112 Administration Offices and are public record.