



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Ann Campbell, *President*; Darlene Stickel, *Vice President*; LeAnne Bremer; Dr. Richard Graham; Mark Hottowe; Marilyn Koeninger; and, Steve Wrightson.

CALL TO ORDER

The ESD 112 Board of Directors' Business meeting was called to order by Ann Campbell, *President*, at 3:00 p.m. on December 15, 2020 with a quorum of seven members present.

INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME OF GUESTS

- Ann Campbell welcomed attendees and introduced the following guests: Anne McEnery-Ogle, Mayor of Vancouver, WA; Sara Moore, *Administrative Assistant II, Teaching & Learning*; and, Amber Scott, *Administrative Assistant II, Board of Directors and Superintendent's Office*.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

- Improvements to Broadband Access in the County: Anne McEnery-Ogle, *Mayor of Vancouver*, shared information about a resolution the City had passed requesting that Clark Public Utilities conduct a feasibility study to improve broadband access across Clark County. The City is seeking support from school districts and local businesses. Through general consensus, the ESD 112 Board agreed to consider passing a similar resolution at the board meeting in January.
- ESD Connects Report: ESD Connects co-chairs, Sara Moore, *Administrative Assistant II, Teaching and Learning*, and Amber Scott, *Administrative Assistant II, Board of Directors and Superintendent's Office*, reported on activities and events led by the group over the last year.
- Early Head Start and ECEAP Program Monthly Report: Jodi Wall, *Executive Director for Early Care and Education*, highlighted several success stories of families that illustrate resiliency. The program is looking into ways to share the successes more broadly. Policy Council did not meet in December but will be meeting again in January 2021. The ECEAP program received \$100,000 from a special needs grant that allow the program to hire trained staff to support behavior concerns taking place in classrooms and to support the social/emotional well-being of children attending child care. \$86,000 in additional child care grants were also received and were awarded to address financial struggles of child care centers that have been operating throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The child care centers are benefitting from volunteers enrolled in ESD-U who are providing remote learning support to students.
- Communications & Public Engagement Program Report: Monique Dugaw, *Executive Director for Communications & Public Engagement* reported on the work of the communications team over the last year and in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Superintendent's Report: Tim Merlino, *Superintendent*, briefed the board on the following:
 - A. Superintendent News: Mark Ross, *Superintendent for the Battle Ground School District*, announced he will retire in June 2021. The district immediately announced his replacement as Denny Waters currently the *Deputy Superintendent* for the district. Dr. Steve Webb, Superintendent for Vancouver Public Schools, will be retiring at the end of this school year; a national search is currently

underway to fill his position. Dr. Jerry Lewis, *Superintendent for the White Salmon School District*, is also retiring at the end of this school year.

- B. School District Reopening Status: Clark and Cowlitz counties continue to experience COVID-19 rates above 400 per 100,000 which is impeding the ability of school districts to return students to the classroom. Rising COVID-19 case numbers are being experienced throughout the ESD 112 region requiring several districts to return to remote only learning.
- C. Vaccine: A small number of COVID-19 vaccines are being distributed to counties in Washington State with the priority given to health care providers and first responders. School district and child care personnel are currently part of phase two and may not receive the vaccine until March and/or early April
- D. ESD 112 Impact: ESD 112 continues to have employees needing to quarantine and/or get tested due to COVID-19 exposures from close contacts occurring primarily outside of the work place.
- E. Cabinet Member Retirement: Loy Dale, *Assistant Superintendent for School and Agency Operations*, has announced he will be retiring in February 2021.
- F. Lawsuit Update: A lawsuit filed against the ESA and Goldendale School District was settled for under the insurable amount.
- G. ESD 112 Legislative Forum: The first ever virtual forum was held on December 4th. Over 80 participants attended, including 14 of 18 Legislators from SW Washington.
- H. SPERO: The SPERO program is scheduled to be featured in an on-air news story by FOX 12. A link to view the coverage will be sent to board members.
- I. State Audit: The annual audit is scheduled to begin at the end of January 2021 and will run for three weeks into February. More information will be sent to board members as received.

PROPOSALS FOR ACTION

- Motion passed to approve the consent agenda items including minutes of the ESD 112 Board of Directors' Meeting – November 24, 2020; ESD 112 Personnel Activity Report for December 2020, ESD 112 Expenditure Reports for November 2020; and Early Head Start Budget Status/Expenditure Reports for November 2020.
- FIRST READING: First reading of proposed revisions to Board Policy 5515-Health and Additional Benefits was reported by Marnie Allen, *Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Legal Services*. The final reading and approval will be requested at the next board meeting.

PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS

- Correspondence
- AESA Annual Conference: Darlene Stickel attended and commented on the conference.
- ESD 112 Legislative Forum: Dr. Richard Graham and Mark Hottowe attended the event.

CALENDAR

- ESD 112 Board of Directors' Business Meeting – Zoom – January 26, 2021 – 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
- Annual ESD 112 Board and Policy Council Training – Zoom – January 26, 2021 – 5:30 pm-6:30 pm
- AESD Executive Board Meeting – Zoom – February 10, 2021 – 9:00 am – 10:30 am
- WASA/WSSDA/WASBO Legislative Conference – Webinar – February 21, 2021 – 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
- WASA/WSSDA/WASBO Week on the Hill – Virtual – February 22 – 26, 2021 – Time TBD
- ESD 112 Board of Directors' Business Meeting – Zoom – February 23, 2021 – 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
- WASA Small Schools Spring Conference – Zoom – March 22 – 23, 2021 – 8:30 am – 12:00 pm daily

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- The board moved into Executive Session at 4:20 pm for discussion of offering to sell property pursuant to RCW 43.30.110(1)(c). The session was scheduled to end at 4:30 pm.
- The Executive Session was adjourned at 4:30 pm and regular business reconvened at 4:30 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.