



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ROLL CALL

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

CALL TO ORDER

The ESD 112 Board of Directors' Business meeting was called to order by Darlene Stickel, *President*, at 3:00 p.m. on October 26, 2021 with a quorum of five members present.

INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME OF GUESTS

- Darlene Stickel welcomed attendees and guests.
- Kevin Johnson, *School Programs Director*; one guest signed in as John; and Jessenia Perez.
- Effie Triol, *K-4 Literacy Coordinator*, recognized Brenda Hitchins, *Washougal School District and ESD 112 Region Teacher of the Year*; and, Nancy Baldwin, *McKinney-Vento Liaison for Kelso School District, ESD 112 Region Classified Employee of the Year, and Washington State Classified Employee of the Year*, for their achievements.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

- Early Head Start and ECEAP Program Monthly Report: Mike Nerland, *Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning*, shared that employees received very valuable training, professional learning opportunities, and the ability to network with colleagues during an in-service day held on September 24th. He noted that, due to a staffing shortage, child care centers continue to maintain a wait list for families seeking child care. He was happy to report that several parents participated in the most recent Policy Council meeting.
- Open Doors Program Update: Kathy Whitlock, *Executive Director for Student & School Success* introduced Kevin Johnson, *School Programs Director*, to provide a report on the Open Doors program. Kevin outlined the impact of the pandemic on the program and shared how staff had to quickly transition to a remote operation. While the program has been effective, it has experienced reduced student enrollments. He expects that to continue to improve as in-person services are restored.
- Vaccine Mandate Update: Tim Merlino, *Superintendent*, and Marnie Allen, *Assistant Superintendent, Attorney, Human Resources & Insurance Programs*, updated the board on efforts to ensure employee compliance meeting the Governor's vaccine mandate.
- Superintendent's Report: Tim Merlino, *Superintendent*, briefed the board on the following:
 - A. Election Results: All ESD 112 incumbent Board members seeking reelection won their respective races to serve new terms.
 - B. COVID Update: COVID information posted daily in the Seattle Times, that highlight various data points around COVID, were shared and discussed. The information indicated that counties in the ESD 112 region continue to have lower vaccine rates and a higher number of cases than the state average.

- C. Proposals for November: The board was informed that two proposals effecting salaries will be brought forward at their November meeting for consideration.
 - D. ESSER Funds: The ESDs received a grant award from OSPI to assist with attendance issues in schools.
 - E. Facilities Update: The sale of ESD warehouse space is still on track to close in December. The board will need to approve a refinancing proposal once the sale is complete. A contract with Christensen, Inc. is being finalized to remodel warehouse space for a behavioral health center. The ESD also plans to remodel the 49th Street Academy for early learning space. Two Department of Commerce grants will help fund both projects. The ESD 112 Transportation Center remodel is also nearly complete.
 - F. PPE Update: ESD has continued facilitating ordering and delivery of PPE to school districts. Delivery delays have created some difficulty in obtaining masks and gloves and other needed items.
 - G. School District Visits: Tim Merlino has been traveling to school districts to meet with superintendents and check on how they are doing. Superintendents have been reporting they are happy with the support they are receiving from the ESD.
- Employee Acknowledgements and Recognition: Monique Dugaw, *Executive Director for Communications and Public Engagement*, shared a presentation highlighting employees who received acknowledgements and appreciation of work accomplished. The presentation showcased the following staff members and events:
 - A. Board Support: Wendy Niehaus, *Executive Assistant*, was recognized for her dedication and always being willing to help.
 - B. Klickitat Levy Support: Melissa Burt, *Copywriter/Graphics Designer*, received a thank you from Klickitat Superintendent, Brian Freeman, for her work creating a levy flyer for the district.
 - C. Grant Award: Mayra Najera, *Administrative Assistant*, applied for a state-funded digital imaging grant to pay for scanning insurance program documents. The proposal was selected and the program was awarded \$50,000 for this work.
 - D. Child Care Recognition: The child care staff working at Franklin Elementary were recognized by the school's *Principal*, Woody Howard, for their flexibility and the positive way they connect with students.

PROPOSALS FOR ACTION

- Motion passed to approve the consent agenda items including minutes of the ESD 112 Board of Directors' Meeting – September 28, 2021; ESD 112 Personnel Activity Reports for October 2021, ESD 112 Expenditure Reports for September 2021; and Early Head Start expenditure reports for September 2021.
- Motion passed to approve moving the time of the ESD 112 Board of Directors meeting on December 14, 2021 to 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS

- Public Comments: There were no requests made to make public comments.
- Correspondence

CALENDAR

- WSSDA Fall Regional Meeting – Zoom – October 27, 2021 – 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm
- AESD Executive Board Study Session – Zoom – November 10, 2021 – 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm
- AESD Executive Board Meeting – Hyatt Regency Bellevue – November 18, 2021 – 11:30 am – 1:30 pm
- ESD 112 Board of Directors' Business Meeting – Zoom – November 23, 2021 – 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
- ESD 112 Legislative Forum – Zoom – December 3, 2021 – 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
- ESD 112 Board of Directors' Business Meeting – Zoom – December 14, 2021 – 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

- ESD 112 Board of Directors' Business Meeting – TBD – January 25, 2022 – 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
- WASA/WSSDA/WASBO Legislative Conference and Day on the Hill – Olympia, WA – January 30-31, 2022
- AESD Executive Board Meeting – Zoom – February 8, 2022 – 9:00 am – 10:30 am
- Third Year Accreditation – Zoom – February 22, 2022 – 11:00 am – 2:45 pm
- ESD 112 Board of Directors' Business Meeting – TBD – February 22, 2022 – 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
- WASA Small Schools Conference – Wenatchee, WA – March 21-22, 2022
- AESD Annual Conference – Hyatt Regency Lake Washington – April 27-29, 2022

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:41 p.m.



For questions, please contact Wendy Niehaus, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, at (360) 952-3318 or email: wendy.niehaus@esd112.org. Approved minutes of the Board of Directors' meetings are kept in the ESD 112 Administration Offices and are public record.