



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Darlene Stickel, President; Mark Hottowe, Vice President; Dr. Richard Graham; Steve Wrightson; LeAnne Bremer; and, Ann Campbell. Marilyn Koenninger was 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 September 28, 2021 with a quorum of six members present.

INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME OF GUESTS

- Darlene Stickel welcomed attendees and guests.
- Kat Haynes, *Student Services Coordinator*, was recognized for her years of service and retirement.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

- Early Head Start and ECEAP Program Monthly Report: Jodi Wall, *Executive Director for Early Care & Education*, reported that EHS enrollment remains strong but ECEAP enrollment is not at full capacity. Some families remain hesitant sending their children to in-person services, and there is a staff shortage limiting the number of classrooms available.

The child care program continues to struggle with staffing primarily due to COVID exposures, staff quarantines, and the large number of employees leaving the field for other jobs. The staffing shortage is limiting the number of centers and classrooms that can be operated which is leaving many families on wait lists and unable to find care. Gavin Hottman, *Assistant Superintendent/Chief Business Officer*, also provided a budget update on the programs.

- Human Resources – Staffing, Vaccine Mandates: Marnie Allen, *Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources & Insurance Programs*, briefed the board on the current ESD work force, vacancies and turnovers, vaccine mandate compliance, accommodations for employees and next steps.
- Superintendent's Report: Tim Merlino, *Superintendent*, briefed the board on the following:
 - A. Regional COVID Update: The COVID case count in the region continues to be the highest yet. Some school districts are struggling to remain open with staffing shortages and many students quarantined for exposure and/or symptoms.
 - B. Facilities Briefing: The pending sale of office space to Church and Dwight is moving forward with a closing date anticipated in December. Bids will be accepted this week for the remodel work needed in the 2400 building.
 - C. AESD Report: The AESD network redesign work is nearly complete with a final report and suggested next steps due soon. The president of the AESD Executive Board had to resign and the position has been left unfilled because there is not a current president emeritus to step in which is the process outlined in the current constitution. The group has agreed to have the vice president run the meetings until April when the general membership can vote to fill the vacancies. A nominating committee has been formed to identify and recommend candidates.

- D. New Grants: Several new grants have been obtained in ESD programs. Funding has been received to expand prevention and substance abuse work in Kelso and to expand Summer Works services to all school districts in the region.
 - E. Federal Legislative Meetings: Meetings were recently held with representatives from U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell and U.S. Senator Patty Murray's offices virtually and over the phone. Discussion was centered around Early Learning, Mental Health Programming and Special Education Services.
 - F. Board Meeting Schedule: By general consensus Board members agreed to hold meetings virtually through December. They will reassess before the January 2022 meeting.
- Employee Acknowledgements and Recognition: Monique Dugaw, *Executive Director for Communications & 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. COVID Testing Program: Ann Varkados, *Superintendent*, for the Centerville and Lyle School Districts thanked the ESD for hiring Corina McEntire as the new Regional COVID Testing Coordinator. Dr. Varkados expressed appreciation for the extra support in testing efforts and noted that Corina provided awesome help.
 - B. Team Fingerprinting: The ESD 112 HR Team was recognized for their hard work fingerprinting 434 people in the month of August. This was the most ever in a month.

PROPOSALS FOR ACTION

- **Motion passed** to approve the consent agenda items including minutes of the ESD 112 Board of Directors' Meeting – August 24, 2021; ESD 112 Personnel Activity Reports for September 2021, ESD 112 Expenditure Reports for August 2021; and Early Head Start expenditure reports for August 2021.

PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS

- Correspondence
- Public Comments: There were no requests made to make public comments.
- ESD 112 Back to School Event: Darlene Stickel attended and commented on the event.
- AESD Executive Board Meeting: Steve Wrightson attended and commented on the meeting.

CALENDAR

- ESD 112 Board of Directors' Business Meeting – TBD – October 26, 2021 – 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- WSSDA Fall Regional Meeting – Virtual or Kelso High School Library – October 27, 2021 – 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
- AESD Executive Board Meeting – Zoom – November 9, 2021 – 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
- ESD 112 Board of Directors' Business Meeting – TBD – November 23, 2021 – 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- ESD 112 Board of Directors' Business Meeting with ESD Connects – TBD – December 14, 2021 – 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- WASA/WSSDA/WASBO Legislative Conference & Day on the Hill – January 30-31, 2022 – Olympia, WA

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 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.