



ESD 112 Board of Directors Business Meeting February 25, 2025

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Heidi Rosenberg, President; LeAnne Bremer, Vice-President; Susan Barker; Kevin Davis; Mark Hottowe; Mel Netzhammer, and Darlene Stickel. Superintendent Present: Tim Merlino. Cabinet Members Present: Marnie Allen, Monique Dugaw, Gavin Hottman, Jeffrey Neiss, Mike Nerland and Kathy Whitlock. Staff Members Present: Dax Logsdon, Jennifer Halleck, Effie Triol, and Tina Vessey.

CALL TO ORDER

The ESD 112 Board of Directors Business meeting was called to order by Heidi Rosenberg, *President*, at 3:00 pm on February 25, 2025, with a quorum of seven members present.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

- ESD 112 Regional Teacher of the Year: Effie Triol introduced Rachel Lake, Ocean Beach School District, who is the ESD 112 Regional Teacher of the Year for 2024. Rachel shared her experiences as a music teacher in a small school district and expressed the importance of electives in all schools.
- Program Highlight: Construction Services Group: Dax Logsdon, *Construction Services Group Director*, and Jennifer Halleck, *Associate Director of Construction Services, Operations & Programs*, shared an update with focus on tsunami and seismic updates for schools.
- Early Head Start & ECEAP Monthly Report: Tina Vessey, *Compliance & Quality Assurance Manager*, shared highlights of January's report and the 2024 Annual Report. Enrollment has increased and meets state requirements. Staffing remains an issue with job openings outnumbering incoming staff. Heidi Rosenberg, *Board Policy Council Liaison*, shared an update on the February Policy Council Meeting.
- First Reading of Revised Policies: Marnie Allen, *Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, and Insurance Programs*, reviewed proposed changes to policies 3205 and 5011 which reverts the language to 2020 Title IX regulations in compliance with state and federal law.
- Superintendent's Report: Tim Merlino, *Superintendent*, briefed the board on the following:
 - Levy and Bond Update: Superintendent Merlino shared an update on results for levies and bonds elections in the region on February 11, 2025.
 - Roosevelt School District Update: Tim Merlino and Mike Nerland, *Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning*, recently attend a Roosevelt School District board meeting. There is interest in continuing superintendent services in the 25-26 school year.
 - State Budget: A state budget shortfall is expected. The amount of the predicted shortfall continues to increase, which may impact some ESD programs. K-12 basic funding has been excluded from requests for proposed budget reductions from the Governor.
 - Special Education ESA: Mabton and Index School Districts have expressed interest in joining the ESA.
 - Federal Update: There have been no reductions to federally funded ESD programs. The board requested a discussion regarding sample WSSDA policy 4300 at the March business meeting.

- March Board Retreat: Superintendent Merlino reviewed the draft schedule for the board retreat scheduled for March 24, 2025.
- ESD 112 Annual Audit: Field work is expected to be completed in the next week.
- Proposed Budget Timeline: The proposed timeline for approval of next year's budget was reviewed.
- Promoting Public Schools: Superintendents have requested help from the ESD to create a communication program to promote public schools.
- Selection of AESD Award of Distinction Artwork: Board members reviewed entries in the Regional High School Art Show and selected a piece which will be presented to this year's AESD Award of Distinction recipient. Board members selected a photograph taken by Leonell Alpyorov, River Homelink.
- Employee Acknowledgements & Recognitions: Monique Dugaw, *Executive Director of Communications & Public Relations*, recognized Jill Driver, *Special Education Teacher*, for engaging students in their own paths to success. Jill serves students in the Methow Valley School District.

PROPOSALS FOR ACTION

- **Motion passed:** to approve the consent agenda items including minutes from the ESD 112 Board of Directors Business Meeting – January 28, 2025; Personnel Activity Report for January 2025; Expenditure Reports for January 2025; and EHS Expenditure Reports for January 2025.
- **Motion passed:** To approve the proposed EHS/ECEAP Board Policy Revisions to HR – Standards of Conduct, HR – Volunteers, and PMQI – EHS Reporting to Health & Human Services Officials.

PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS

- Public Comments: There were no public comments.
- Correspondence: Board members reviewed two emails, one from Asha Riley and one from Shawn Batstone, commending Monique Dugaw and the communications team on their work.
- Board Participation in Events: Mark Hottowe attended the ESD 112 Audit Risk Assessment Meeting on January 29, 2025. Heidi Rosenberg, Mark Hottowe, and Darlene Stickel attended the Audit Entrance Conference on February 10, 2025. Heidi Rosenberg participated in the EHS/ECEAP Policy Council Meeting on February 20, 2025. Mark Hottowe, Susan Barker, Darlene Stickel, and Kevin Davis served on Accreditation Panels on February 24 and 25, 2025.

CALENDAR

- ESD 112 Board of Directors Retreat – ESD 112 – March 24, 2025
- ESD 112 Board of Directors Business Meeting – ESD 112 – March 25, 2025
- AESD Conference – Spokane – April 16-18, 2025
- ESD 112 Board of Directors Business Meeting – ESD 112 – April 22, 2025
- ESD 112 Board of Directors Business Meeting – ESD 112 – May 27, 2025
- ESD 112 Board of Directors Business Meeting – ESD 112 – June 24, 2025
- ESD 112 Board of Directors Business Meeting – ESD 112 – August 26, 2025

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.



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