



ESD 112 Board of Directors Business Meeting May 27, 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, Mike Nerland, Jeffrey Niess, Jodi Wall, Kathy Whitlock. Guests: Krissie Lenahan, Sarah Washburn.

CALL TO ORDER

The ESD 112 Board of Directors Business meeting was called to order by Heidi Rosenberg, *President*, at 3:01 pm on May 27, 2025, with a quorum of seven members present.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

- Annual Policy Council & Board Governance Training: Jodi Wall, *Executive Director of Early Care & Education*, facilitated the annual training for the Board of Directors including a review of the Early Head Start (EHS) governance structure, which includes the Parent Policy Council, the ESD 112 Board of Directors, and program management staff. The board is provided with regular reports, annual self and community assessments, and updates on the program strategic plan and goals. Heidi Rosenberg serves as the board liaison to the Policy Council. Each year, program goals are established by staff and families based on the EHS self-assessment and community assessment.
- Program Highlight: ESD 112 Policy Council: Jodi Wall, *Executive Director of Early Care & Education*, introduced Sarah Washburn, *ECE Family Support & Health Services Manager*, and secretary of the EHS/ECEAP Policy Council, Krissie Lenahan. Policy council members are parents of children enrolled in EHS or ECEAP programs. Krissie shared her experiences with ESD 112 programs and as a member of the Policy Council. The ESD 112 Policy Council was recently recognized with a WASA Community Leadership award for their work in the community and advocacy for families.
- Early Head Start & ECEAP Monthly Report: Jodi Wall, *Executive Director of Early Care & Education*, shared highlights of the report. It was noted that the Central Park programs will be relocated to the new Central Heights early learning center. Updates to the new building are underway and the location is expected to open in August of this year.
- ESD Budget Report: Tim Merlino, *Superintendent*, shared an update on federal and state impacts to the ESD 112 budget. Gavin Hottman, *Chief Financial Officer*, shared an overview of the 2025-26 ESD budget. The final budget presentation and request for approval will take place during the June board meeting.
- Superintendent's Report: Tim Merlino, *Superintendent*, briefed the board on the following:
 - Staffing Plans: Superintendent Merlino hopes to have final funding information soon so staffing plans for next year can be finalized. The Governor signed the state budget last week but many state agencies are still determining program funding levels.
 - AESD Update: An update was shared regarding funding challenges throughout the state ESDs.
 - Gates Foundation Visit: The President of the National Gates Foundation recently visited the ESD 112 region to learn more about the investments they have made in counselors in rural schools through the Horizons grant. The visit included a meeting with students and staff at

Naselle-Grays Valley School District as well as a roundtable meeting for program partners at Lower Columbia College.

Rural CTE Update: Enrollment in the Rural CTE Program has grown from nineteen students to ninety-eight students enrolled in nine districts for the upcoming school year.

District Superintendent Update: Brett Blechschmidt was named interim superintendent of Vancouver Public Schools.

Visit from Secretary Senn, DCYF: Secretary Tana Senn visited ESD 112 last week to discuss early learning programs and toured the therapeutic educational programs.

Promoting Public Schools Campaign: Superintendent Merlino asked Monique Dugaw, *Executive Director of Communications & Public Relations*, to share an update on the promoting public schools campaign. The new campaign was requested by local superintendents with a goal of partnering with local businesses to share the great work happening in public schools. Outreach to local organizations and businesses has begun.

NSPRA Award: A NSPRA Golden Achievement Award has been awarded to WASA for their [Issues at the Core of Washington State's School Funding Dilemma](#) public information project which was supported by the communications team at ESD 112.

STEPS Graduation: Graduation for the STEPS program will be held on June 13, 2025.

End of Year Celebration: This year's End of Year Celebration for staff will be held on Wednesday, June 18, 2025.

- Employee Acknowledgements & Recognitions: Monique Dugaw, *Executive Director of Communications & Public Relations*, recognized Christine Katon, *Youth Workforce Program Manager*, who was awarded "The Sarah Anderson Memorial Outstanding Direct Support Professional Award" for the support and services she and her colleagues provide through the YES program. Erin Lucich, Director of School Improvement and Educational Leadership, was recently recognized as the recipient of the 2025 AWSP President's Award for her work supporting school leaders.

PROPOSALS FOR ACTION

- **Motion passed:** To approve the consent agenda items including minutes from the ESD 112 Board of Directors Business Meeting – April 22, 2025; Personnel Activity Report for May 2025; Expenditure Reports for April 2025; and EHS Expenditure Reports for April 2025.
- **Motion passed:** To approve the proposed EHS Community Assessment.
- **Motion passed:** To approve the proposed EHS Self-Assessment.
- **Motion passed:** To approve the EHS Baseline Grant Application for the budget period 9/1/25-8/31/26, in the amount of \$2,831,594, plus a non-federal share amount of \$707,898.
- **Motion passed:** To approve the ESD 112 2025-2026 FY Employee Work Calendar.

PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS

- Public Comments: There were no public comments.
- Correspondence: Letter from Allan Golston, President of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; email from Dr. Rachel Davenport, Superintendent of North Kitsap School District; and an article from The Columbian newspaper celebrating Mel Netzhammer's retirement from WSU-V; email from Superintendent Ann Varkados commending Curtis Ellis for technology support provided to Centerville and Lyle School Districts.

- Board Participation in Events:

- Susan Barker and Heidi Rosenberg served on the State Accreditation Panel on May 12-13, 2025, in Tumwater.
- Heidi Rosenberg attended the EHS/ECEAP Policy Council Meeting on May 15, 2025.
- Heidi Rosenberg attended the WASA Award Ceremony on May 16, 2025.
- Heidi Rosenberg attended an AESD course on Artificial Intelligence on May 19, 2025.

CALENDAR

- ESD 112 Board of Directors Business Meeting – ESD 112 – June 24, 2025
- ESD 112 Board of Directors Business Meeting – ESD 112 – August 26, 2025

BOARD EXECUTIVE SESSION

Heidi Rosenberg, President, announced that the board would take a short break then meet in an Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) regarding the Performance of an Employee for 15 minutes and would reconvene the public meeting at 5:25 pm. She shared that the board would not take action following the executive session. The public meeting was called back to order at 5:25 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:26 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.