



ESD 112 Board of Directors Business Meeting October 28, 2025

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Heidi Rosenberg, President; Kevin Davis, Vice-President; Susan Barker; 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. Guest: Denise Dishongh.

CALL TO ORDER

The ESD 112 Board of Directors Business meeting was called to order by Heidi Rosenberg, *President*, at 3:00 pm on October 28, 2025, with a quorum of five members present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Public Comments: There were no public comments.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

- Program Highlight: ESD 112 Wellness & Treatment Services: Denise Dishongh, *Director of Behavioral Health & School Safety Center*, provided an update on behavioral health services currently provided to districts, and how changes in funding sources have impacted services. ESD 112 Wellness and Treatment Services provides screening, assessment, brief intervention, individual, group and family treatment to children and adolescents who present with varying levels of substance use and/or mental health concerns. It is the goal of ESD 112's Wellness and Treatment Services to provide treatment services with minimal disruption to the daily lives of children and adolescents served, in accordance with their individual clinical needs, and in the least restrictive environment. Reductions in funding have reduced staffing as well as the number of service sites throughout the region. Programs are currently funded by district contributions, grant funding, partnerships with service providers, and Medicaid. Denise and her team are working to establish billing with private insurance. Behavior trends seen in students include anxiety, depression, and family stressors. An increase in suicidal ideation and sexualized behaviors continues to be seen in students in kindergarten through fourth grade.
- Early Head Start & ECEAP Monthly Report: Jodi Wall, *Executive Director of Early Care & Education (ECE)*, shared highlights of the report. This year, the ECEAP school-day preschool program began the first week of school with half days to allow children time to learn routines and make new friends. The change was appreciated by teachers and building leaders who felt the slow start helped them to get to know the children's strengths and interests better and plan more intentionally. The ESD has not been impacted by the federal shutdown. This has not been the case for all providers in the region and state. Three thousand Head Start students will lose access to services as of November 1, 2025. Jodi shared that families are struggling due to the loss of community resources. The new Nova program has opened and is serving students. Heidi Rosenberg, Policy Council Liaison, shared an update on this month's policy council meeting. The council is considering sponsoring a clothing swap to help families.
- Superintendent's Report: Tim Merlino, *Superintendent*, briefed the board on the following:
 - ESD Board Elections: Darlene Stickel, Mark Hottowe, and Mel Netzhammer, were reelected to their positions. A runoff election is being held to finalize the District 4 election between

John Deeder and Alfred Roe because neither of the top candidates received 50% of the votes cast in the original three-person race. District school board members will vote between October 27 – November 10, 2025. All new and re-elected board members will be sworn in at the January 2026 board meeting.

Therapeutic Education Program Growth: Superintendent Merlino shared that the therapeutic education programs have grown from seventy to over one hundred students since the last school year.

Quest Advisory Council Meeting: The Quest Advisory Council has requested additional services for K-4 students. More space will be needed to increase services to districts since the current building is at full capacity.

Land Purchases: Gavin Hottman, *Chief Business Officer*, shared an update on proposed property purchases in Dallesport, Vancouver, and Longview.

Construction Services Group (CSG): Superintendent Merlino shared an update on recent visits to CSG sites in Ferndale, Oak Harbor, Boisfort, Pe Ell, Aberdeen, Hoquiam, North Beach, and Taholah School Districts.

Legislative Forum: The regional Legislative Forum will be held on November 14, 2025, via Zoom. This year's legislative priorities document was shared, which was developed by superintendents in the region.

Washington School Public Relations Association (WSPRA) Awards: ESD 112 Communications received three WSPRA Awards of Excellence for work in North Kitsap, Kalama, and Longview School Districts.

- Employee Acknowledgments & Recognitions: Monique Dugaw, *Executive Director of Communications & Public Relations*, recognized Marnie Allen, *Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Insurance Programs, and Legal Services*, and Rana Karabay, *Property/Casualty Claim Administrator*.

PROPOSALS FOR ACTION

- **Motion passed:** To approve the consent agenda items including minutes from the ESD 112 Board of Directors Business Meeting – September 23, 2025; Personnel Activity Report for September 2025; Expenditure Reports for August & September 2025; and EHS Budget Status/Expenditure Reports for September 2025.
- **Motion passed:** To approve the proposed revisions to the EHS/ECEAP Policy Council Bylaws.
- **Motion passed:** To approve the proposed revisions to policies 1001, 2022, 2161, 3143, 3241, 5010, 5050, 5201, 5240, 5410, 5510, 6640, and 6801.
- **Motion passed:** To approve new policies 2145 and 6895. The board requested revisions to Policy 5161 that will be brought back to the board at the November meeting.
- **Motion passed:** To approve Resolution R.25.03 – In the Matter of Authorizing ESD 112 to join The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS) Purchasing Cooperative.
- **Motion passed:** To approve Resolution R.25.04 – In the Matter of Approval of the Purchase of Real Property.
- **Motion passed:** To approve Resolution R.25.05 – In the Matter of Approval of the Purchase of Real Property.

BOARD COMMENTS

- Correspondence: There was no correspondence this month.
- Board Participation in Events: Heidi Rosenberg attended the EHS/ECEAP Policy Council Meeting on October 16, 2025.

CALENDAR

- ESD 112 Board of Directors Business Meeting – ESD 112 – November 18, 2025
- AESA Annual Conference – Colorado, Springs – December 3-5, 2025
- ESD 112 Board of Directors Business Meeting – Red Cross Building at Fort Vancouver – December 9, 2025

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:07 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.