



## ESD 112 Board of Directors Business Meeting September 23, 2025

### ROLL CALL

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Board Members Present: Heidi Rosenberg, President; Susan Barker; Kevin Davis; 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: Melissa Kreuder, Denise McNeal, Chelsea Jacobson, Rachael Lafferty, Mayra Tapia-Mendez, Tena Graham, RaeLynn Forcella, Corey Hing.

### CALL TO ORDER

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The ESD 112 Board of Directors Business meeting was called to order by Heidi Rosenberg, *President*, at 3:00 pm on September 23, 2025, with a quorum of four members present.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

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- Public Comments: There were no public comments.

### REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

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- Program Highlight: Human Resources: Marnie Allen, *Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Insurance Programs, and Legal Services*, and Melissa Kreuder, *Director, Human Resources and SW Washington Unemployment Pool*, provided an update on the ESD 112 Human Resources (HR) department. Last year, the HR team recruited applicants for 285 positions, hired 207 regular employees and 156 temporary employees, and provided fingerprinting services for 4089 people. The team also onboarded over 200 new employees and supported over 800 employees with personnel services.
- Early Head Start & ECEAP Monthly Report: Jodi Wall, *Executive Director of Early Care & Education (ECE)*, shared highlights of the report. Last month, ECE welcomed back part-year ECEAP staff and held their annual pre-service event. Additionally, all staff from the Birth to Five centers came together for two full days of training. The new Columbia Early Learning Center has been renovated and is nearing the completion of permitting needed to open all of the classrooms.
- Regional Test Scores: Kathy Whitlock, *Executive Director of Student & School Success*, provided an update on student test scores in the ESD 112 region and state. Washington students perform consistently with or better than their peers from across the nation. Scores improved or remained steady in all grade levels in Math and nearly all grade levels in English Language Arts. Washington State will increase focus on mathematics improvement. Students in the ESD 112 region perform consistently with their peers across the state. ESD 112 will continue to support student improvement through a robust series of MTSS offerings, developing support for accessible education in cooperation with the statewide ESD network, focused support for rural districts, and professional development opportunities for teachers.
- Annual Board Policy Update – First Reading: Marnie Allen, *Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Insurance Programs, and Legal Services*, reviewed proposed changes to the ESD 112 policies listed below and three new polices:
  - Proposed Policy Revisions:
    - Law Updates: Policies 1001, 2161, 3143, 3210, 3241. 5010
    - Agency Alignment: Policies 2022, 5050, 5201, 5240, 5410, 5510, 6640, 6801

- New Policies: 2145 – Suicide Prevention, 5161 – Civility in the Workplace, 6895 – Pesticide Notification
- Darlene Stickel commended staff for their work reviewing and recommending revisions and new policies. The policies will move to second reading at the October Board Meeting.
- Superintendent's Report: Tim Merlino, *Superintendent*, briefed the board on the following:
  - Update on Recent District Strikes: An update was shared on recent employee strikes in Evergreen and La Center School Districts.
  - AESD Meeting with Office of Fiscal Management: The AESD superintendents met with the Office of Fiscal Management regarding cuts to core funding in the last legislative session and projected state deficits over the next four years.
  - Federal Aware Grant: OSPI will no longer accept federal AWARE grant funding due to the required assurances by the federal government which violate state laws. This impacts state grant recipients, including ESD 112.
  - Sales Tax Update: An update was shared on expected outcomes from Senate Bill 5814.
  - Property Purchase: The purchase of the property in Longview, adjacent to the Quest Academy, has been completed.
  - Building for the Future: Superintendent Merlino shared an update on properties under consideration to fulfill current ESD 112 facility needs.
  - Presentations to ESD 105 and NCESD 171: Monique Dugaw, *Executive Director of Communications & Public Relations*, and Tim Merlino shared presentations with superintendents in the Yakima and Wenatchee regions regarding crisis support services.
- Employee Acknowledgments & Recognitions: Monique Dugaw, *Executive Director of Communications & Public Relations*, recognized the ESD 112 Human Resources Team for their exceptional support of the Construction Services Group.

## PROPOSALS FOR ACTION

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- **Motion passed**: To approve the consent agenda items including minutes from the ESD 112 Board of Directors Business Meeting – August 26, 2025; Personnel Activity Report for August 2025; Expenditure Reports for August 2025; and EHS Budget Status/Expenditure Reports for August 2025.
- **Motion passed**: To move the November 2025 board of directors meeting date from November 25, 2025, to November 18, 2025.
- **Motion passed**: To approve the ESD 112 Open Doors School Improvement Plan.

## BOARD ORGANIZATION

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- Kevin Davis was elected to serve as vice-president for the remainder of the current term until the annual board reorganization in January 2026.

## BOARD COMMENTS

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- Correspondence: There was no correspondence this month.
- Board Participation in Events: Heidi Rosenberg attended the EHS/ECEAP Policy Council Meeting on September 18, 2025. Darlene Stickel attended the AESD Executive Board Meeting today.

## CALENDAR

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- ESD 112 Board of Directors Business Meeting – ESD 112 – October 28, 2025
- 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

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The meeting adjourned at 4:56 pm.



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