



EDUCATIONAL SERVICE DISTRICT 112

COUNTIES

CLARK
COWLITZ
KLICKITAT
PACIFIC
SKAMANIA
WAHIAKUM

ESD 112 Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 26, 2026

ESD 112, 2500 NE 65th Avenue, Vancouver, WA 98661

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SUSAN BARKER
KEVIN DAVIS
JOHN DEEDER
MARK HOTTOWE
MEL NETZHAMMER
HEIDI ROSENBERG
DARLENE STICKEL

SUPERINTENDENT

TIM MERLINO

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The ESD 112 Board of Directors' Business Meeting was called to order by President, Heidi Rosenberg, at 3:00 pm on May 26, 2026, with a quorum of six members present. Attendees and guests were welcomed to the meeting.

Mark Hottowe arrived at 3:04 pm and participated in all discussions and voting on action items. Mel Netzhammer left the meeting at 4:45 pm due to a scheduling conflict and did not vote on the action items considered.

- 1.1 Roll call of members present: Heidi Rosenberg, *President*; Susan Barker, Kevin Davis, John Deeder, Mark Hottowe, Mel Netzhammer, and Darlene Stickel.
- 1.2 Cabinet members present: Marnie Allen, *Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources & School Liability Programs*; Monique Dugaw, *Executive Director of Communications & Public Engagement*; Gavin Hottman, *Assistant Superintendent, Chief Business Officer*; Mike Nerland, *Assistant Superintendent, Teaching & Learning*; Jeffrey Niess, *Executive Director, Specialized Student Services*; Jodi Wall, *Executive Director, Early Care & Education*; and Kathy Whitlock, *Executive Director, Student & School Success*.
- 1.3 Guests present: Vickei Hrdina, *Director, College and Career Pathways & Partnerships*; Jake Ptacek, *Postsecondary Readiness Manager*; and Kayli Rhoads, *Regional Data Intermediary Lead*
- 1.4 Members of the public present: None
- 1.5 Superintendent present: Tim Merlino.

2. CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

- 2.1 Board Meeting Minutes
 - 2.1.1 ESD 112 Board of Directors' Business Meeting – April 28, 2026
- 2.2 Personnel and Finance Reports
 - 2.2.1 ESD Personnel Activity Report – April 2026
 - 2.2.2 Contract Report – May 2026
- 2.3 ESD Expenditure Reports
 - 2.3.1 ESD GF Budget Status Report –April 2026
 - 2.3.2 ESD GF Expenditure by Object Summary – April 2026
 - 2.3.3 ESD GF Warrant Log – April 2026
 - 2.3.4 ESD Accounts Payable Check Register
 - 2.3.5 Amended Financials
- 2.4 Early Head Start Budget Status/Expenditure Reports
 - 2.4.1 EHS Credit Card Report – April 2026

Vouchers are audited and certified by the auditing officer as required by RCW 42.24.180, and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 have been recorded on a listing made available to the board.

- 2.5 *ACTION:* A motion was made by Darlene Stickel and seconded by John Deeder to approve the consent agenda items listed above. **Motion passed.**

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- 3.1 Public Comments: None

4. PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

- 4.1 Program Highlight: Gates Grant Updates: Kathy Whitlock, *Executive Director, Student & School Success*, invited Vickei Hrdina, *Director of College and Career Pathways & Partnerships*, Jake Ptacek, *Postsecondary Readiness Manager*, and Kayli Rhoads, *Regional Data Intermediary Lead*, to share an update on programs funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. An update was shared regarding Post-Secondary Readiness initiatives, and the Regional P20 Data Center. Kayli Rhoads shared an overview of her role as Regional Data Intermediary Lead which includes interpreting complex data into actionable insights. All thirteen school districts participating in the Horizons Grant have signed data sharing agreements with ESD 112, and agreements are underway with higher education partners. Foyost, a new initiative offered through WSIPC in partnership with the Gates

Foundation, is a statewide platform that tracks students' paths after

graduation for eight years to help school districts measure how effectively their programs are preparing students for college and/or careers.

Jake Ptacek shared an update on the Horizons program which focuses on improving FAFSA completion, improving advising for students, and dual credit alignment through local, community-driven solutions. Horizons districts outperform the state on FAFSA completion by three percentage points. Wahkiakum County leads the state in FAFSA completion at the county level with an 88% completion rate.

Vickei Hrdina briefed the board on The Big Blur work underway to re-envision the education-to-workforce pipeline in SW Washington and the braided approach utilized by her team. Vickei Hrdina will present on the entire project at the AESA summer conference.

5. BOARD EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 5.1 Heidi Rosenberg, *President*, announced that the board would 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 3:55 pm.
- 5.2 Heidi Rosenberg shared that the board did not expect to take action following the executive session.
- 5.3 The public meeting was called back to order at 3:55 pm.

6. REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Early Head Start & ECEAP Monthly Report: Jodi Wall, *Executive Director Early Care & Education*, shared highlights of this month's report. Jodi briefed the board on the full day of professional development that was provided to Early Head Start (EHS) staff as part of the action plan. Work on the Corrective Action Plan has been completed and will be submitted. The ESD was awarded sixty-five slots in the ECEAP expansion which will include slots for Washougal and Wishram School Districts.
- 6.2 ESD Budget Report: Gavin Hottman, *Assistant Superintendent, Chief Business Officer*, shared a preliminary update on the 2026-2027 budget. The final budget will be presented to the board of directors with a request for approval on June 23, 2026.
- 6.3 Superintendent's Report: Tim Merlino, *Superintendent*, briefed the board on the following:
 - 6.3.1 Superintendent Merlino updated the board on regional issues.

- 6.3.2 A proposed property purchase was discussed with the board of directors.
- 6.3.3 Gavin Hottman shared an update on ongoing facilities projects at multiple locations.
- 6.3.4 An update was shared on upcoming visits from Representative Stonier and Senator Cortes.
- 6.3.5 The ESD is in the process of hiring coordinators to support the Regional Math Initiative.
- 6.3.6 The Rural CTE program will be paused due to low enrollment and bell time scheduling issues.
- 6.3.7 The board was briefed on the expected state budget outlook.
- 6.3.8 Thirty schools in seventeen districts in the ESD 112 region were recognized by the Washington School Recognition Program. Three districts outside the region that belong to the Special Education ESA were recognized for growth in students with disabilities including Mason, Naselle-Grays River Valley, and Wahkiakum School Districts.

7. ACTION ITEMS

- 7.1 *ACTION:* A motion was made by Darlene Stickel and seconded by Kevin Davis to approve the proposed EHS Community Assessment. **Motion passed.**
- 7.2 *ACTION:* A motion was made by John Deeder and seconded by Kevin Davis to approve the EHS Self-Assessment. **Motion passed.**
- 7.3 *ACTION:* A motion was made by Darlene Stickel and seconded by Susan Barker to approve the EHS Continuation Grant Application (#10CH013371-02) for the budget period of 9/1/26-8/31/27, in the amount of \$3,539,491 which includes a non-federal share amount of \$707,898. **Motion passed.**
- 7.4 *ACTION:* A motion was made by Susan Barker and seconded by Mark Hottowe to approve the ESD 112 2026-2027 FY Employee Work Calendar. **Motion passed.**
- 7.5 *ACTION:* A motion was made by John Deeder and seconded by Susan Barker to approve Resolution R.25.14. **Motion passed.**

8. BOARD COMMENTS

- 8.1 Correspondence: Letter from OSPI and the Washington State Patrol congratulating the ESD 112 Specialized Transportation Cooperative for exceptional results during their annual school bus inspections for the last two years.
- 8.2 Board Participation in Events:

- 8.2.1 Kevin Davis, Heidi Rosenberg, and Darlene Stickel served as panelists for the AESD State Accreditation Panels in Tumwater, Washington on May 12 – 13, 2026.
- 8.2.2 Heidi Roseberg attended the EHS/ECEAP Policy Council Meeting on May 21, 2026.

9. CALENDAR ITEMS

- 9.1 ESD 112 STEPS Program Graduation – Longview – June 12, 2026
- 9.2 ESD 112 End of Year Celebration – ESD 112 – June 12, 2026
- 9.3 ESD 112 Board of Directors Meeting – ESD 112 – June 23, 2026
- 9.4 ESD 112 Board of Directors Meeting – ESD 112 – August 25, 2026

10. ADJOURNMENT

- 10.1 The meeting was adjourned at 5:21 pm.

Heidi L Rosenberg
Heidi L Rosenberg (Jun 25, 2026 00:01:21 PDT)
Heidi Rosenberg, President

T. Merlino
Tim Merlino (Jun 24, 2026 11:21:31 PDT)
Tim Merlino, Superintendent