



ESD 112 Board of Directors' Meeting
April 25, 2023

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Mark Hottowe, President; LeAnne Bremer; Susan Barker; Kevin Davis; Nancy Miller; Heidi Rosenberg; and Darlene Stickel. Cabinet Members Present: Marnie Allen, Monique Dugaw, Gavin Hottman, Mike Nerland, Jeffrey Niess, Jodi Wall, and Kathy Whitlock. Guests Present: Vickei Hrdina and Makoa Jacobsen.

CALL TO ORDER

The ESD 112 Board of Directors Business meeting was called to order by Mark Hottowe, *President*, at 3:00 pm on April 25, 2023. A quorum of seven members was present.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

- Career Readiness & STEM Initiatives Programs: Kathy Whitlock, *Executive Director of Student & School Success*, introduced Vickei Hrdina, *Director of Career Readiness & STEM Initiatives*, to share program updates.
 - ESD 112 operates one of nine networks across the State of Washington. ESD 112 engages in Career Connect as well as STEM initiative work, which is not true for every ESD. Through creative fundraising and blending programs, the ESD has grown its team to include five program coordinators.
 - In this region, 90% of the students who began high school in 2015 graduated within five years. Of these high school graduates, 44% did not enroll in post-secondary education within one year. Career Connect SW works to re-engage youth in post-secondary education.
 - This year, over 3,000 students have participated in career prep or exploration programs. Career Connected learning helps all students see what they can be - beginning in Pre-K through high school and post-secondary education.
 - Vickei shared an overview of the new Rural CTE Expansion program which will be offered in partnership with Trout Lake School District. Rural schools may not have the capacity to hire CTE instructors. The eleven districts participating in this program will work collaboratively to make live virtual instruction available in districts that may not have a CTE instructor. Districts that have the capacity will house a teacher whose live onsite instruction is presented virtually throughout the network with a paraeducator available in each school to support students that are participating in the hybrid course. In the Fall of 2023, courses will be offered in A/P Computer Science, Information Technology I, and Careers in Education I.
 - Vickei also supports the ESD 112 Native Parent and Community Advisory which was relaunched this year. Twelve school districts routinely participate.
- Early Head Start & ECEAP Program Monthly Report: Jodi Wall, *Executive Director of Early Care & Education*, reviewed highlights of the monthly report including the innovative approaches being used by ESD 112 to enroll eligible students in EHS and ECEAP. The 49th Street Early Learning Center is now open and families and children are very pleased with the new learning environment. Heidi Rosenberg, *Board Liaison*, shared information on the recent Policy Council

Meeting at which officers were designated for the parent group. Plans have been made for Child Seat Installation and CPR/First Aid training for parents.

- Superintendent's Report: Tim Merlino, *Superintendent*, briefed the board on the following:
 - State Budget Update: An overview was shared on new funding available through 2023-24 state budget, including increases for special education, ECEAP, and mental/behavioral health services.
 - Mental Health Grant: Kathy Whitlock, *Executive Director of Student & School Success*, shared that the ESD was awarded a five-year career builder grant to provide paid internships for people that are post-bachelor and working towards their master's degree in mental health. Career pathways will also be developed for ESD staff that are interested in pursuing a career in mental health. This program will help to build a needed pipeline for SW Washington of mental health professionals.
 - Behavioral Classrooms: The ESD team has been working to secure space for Clark County and Columbia River Gorge behavioral classrooms with plans to open classrooms in September 2023.
 - CSG Update: Gavin Hottman, *Chief Business Officer*, shared an update on the leadership model for CSG due to the upcoming retirement of Kirk Pawlowski. Dax Logsdon will lead the statewide team moving forward.
 - Communications Award: The ESD 112 Communications program received an international Hermes Creative Award for its cumulative work over the last five years.
 - Option for Direct Deposit: Board members will now be offered the option to receive travel reimbursements through direct deposit.
- Superintendent Evaluation Process: Superintendent Merlino reviewed the timeline for this year's evaluation process.
- Employee Acknowledgements & Recognition: Monique Dugaw, *Executive Director of Communications and Public Relations*, recognized the following ESD 112 staff members: Sonya Shine, and Trista Greenwood and the Worker's Compensation Team.

PROPOSALS FOR ACTION

- **Motion passed** to approve the consent agenda items including minutes of the ESD 112 Board of Directors' Meetings – March 27, 2023 and March 28, 2023; ESD 112 Personnel Activity Reports for April 2023; ESD Expenditure Reports for March 2023; and EHS Budget Status/Expenditure Reports for March 2023.
- **Motion passed**: To adopt new Board Policy 6550 regarding Information Security.

PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS

- Public Comments: There were no public comments.
- Correspondence: There was no correspondence.
- Board Participation at Events:
 - The Annual AESD Conference was attended by LeAnne Bremer, Kevin Davis, Nancy Miller, Heidi Rosenberg, and Darlene Stickel, April 12-14, 2023.
 - The EHS/ECEAP Policy Council Meeting was attended by Heidi Rosenberg on April 20, 2023.
 - The ESD 112 Audit Exit Conference was attended by Mark Hottowe, Heidi Rosenberg, and Darlene Stickel on April 25, 2023.

CALENDAR

- ESD 112 Board of Directors Meeting – ESD 112 – May 23, 2023
- ESD 112 Board of Directors Meeting – ESD 112 – June 27, 2023
- ESD 112 Board of Directors Meeting – ESD 112 – August 29, 2023

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:32 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.