



ESD 112 Board of Directors Business Meeting August 27, 2024

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Mark Hottowe, President; LeAnne Bremer, Vice-President; Susan Barker; Heidi Rosenberg, and Darlene Stickel. Superintendent Present: Tim Merlino. Cabinet Members Present: Marnie Allen, Monique Dugaw, Gavin Hottman, Mike Nerland, Jeffrey Niess, Jodi Wall, and Kathy Whitlock. Guests: Ashley Bloodworth and Joshua Fritts.

CALL TO ORDER

The ESD 112 Board of Directors Business meeting was called to order by LeAnne Bremer, *Vice-President*, at 3:02 pm on August 27, 2024. A quorum of four members was present. Mark Hottowe joined the meeting at approximately 3:30 pm and participated in the policy first reading and board action discussions.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

- Tour of Florens Academy: Superintendent Tim Merlino shared an overview of the work required to open the Florens Academy. He commended the ESD 112 facilities team, human resources department, and Specialized Student Services administrators for their combined efforts to open the new facility. Jeffrey Niess, *Executive Director of Specialized Student Services*, introduced Dr. Joshua Fritts, *Director of Therapeutic Programs*, and Ashley Bloodworth, *Florens Academy Director*, who provided a tour of the Florens Academy.
- Program Highlight: ESD 112 Therapeutic Learning Programs: Dr. Joshua Fritts, *Director of Therapeutic Programs*, shared an overview of the ESD 112 therapeutic behavioral health programs:
 - The Curae Center is located in Camas and supports students grades K-5 in a day treatment setting. The program combines academic and behavioral interventions tailored to each student's individualized education plan (IEP).
 - The Florens Academy is a day school program for students with significant developmental and communication delays requiring intensive behavioral support beyond that of a traditional life skills classroom and caters to students needing 1:1 or 2:1 staff support due to struggles with aggression and/or self-injurious behaviors. The program is located on the ESD 112 main campus in Vancouver.
 - Students in grades K-8 who need behavioral interventions and reside in Klickitat and Skamania Counties, attend the Gorge Academy in White Salmon. The program emphasizes emotional, academic, and social development.
 - The Spero Center provides a nurturing, therapeutic educational environment for students in grades 6-12 whose mental health challenges affect their school attendance. The Spero Center is located on the ESD 112 main campus in Vancouver.
 - The Quest Academy provides a supportive, therapeutic learning environment for students in grades K-12 residing within Cowlitz County who require behavioral interventions to access their education.

- Early Head Start & ECEAP Monthly Report: Jodi Wall, *Executive Director of Early Care & Education*, shared highlights of this month's report. Yesterday, 160 child care staff attended preservice training at the ESD. The feedback from staff was very positive. Next Thursday is the first day of school for most programs. ECE was awarded a grant for health and safety upgrades to the Park Crest and Hough Early Learning Centers.
- First Reading of Revised and New Policies: Marnie Allen, *Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, and Insurance Programs*, reviewed proposed changes to ESD 112 policies and the new policies listed below.
 - Proposed Policy Revisions Reviewed: 1001, 1100, 1105, 1114, 1621, 2020, 4040, 5000, 5005, 5251, 5280, 5281, 5310, 5401, 5407, 5411, 5515, 5520, 6106, 6605
 - New Proposed Policies Reviewed: 2106, 3432, 4020, 5004, 6216
- Superintendent's Report: Tim Merlino, *Superintendent*, briefed the board on the following:
 - Hiring Update: Tim commended the human resources team for their work this summer hiring more than ninety new employees.
 - AESD Retreat: Superintendent Merlino and Gavin Hottman, *Chief Business Officer*, attended the AESD Retreat in the Tri-Cities. There was a focus on districts that are struggling financially and how to recruit qualified professionals to work in school finance.
 - Safety Net Award: The ESD will be awarded \$3,742,674 in funding which was 98% of the original request.
 - Roosevelt School District: Erin Lucich will serve as a part-time superintendent this school year for Roosevelt School District. IT staff are also helping to update the district's technology infrastructure.
 - Board Vacancy Timeline: Two options were presented for consideration for filling the board vacancy.
- Employee Acknowledgements & Recognitions: Monique Dugaw, *Executive Director of Communications & Public Relations*, recognized Laura Martin, D'Ann Monge, and Jessica Armistead.

PROPOSALS FOR ACTION

- **Motion passed**: to approve the consent agenda items including minutes from the ESD 112 Board of Directors Business Meeting – June 25, 2024; Personnel Activity Report for July 2024; Expenditure Reports for June & July 2024; and EHS Budget Status/Expenditure Reports for June & July 2024.
- **Motion passed**: To accept Nancy Miller's resignation from the ESD 112 Board of Directors
- **Motion passed**: To approve Resolution R.24.01 – In the Matter of Approving Temporary Out of Endorsement Conditional Certificate Special Education Assignments.

PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS

- Public Comments: There were no public comments.
- Correspondence: Board members reviewed a letter from Mark Deebach, *Assistant Superintendent of Ferndale School District*, commending Ken Kuiken, *CSG*.

CALENDAR

- ESD 112 Board of Directors Business Meeting – ESD 112 – September 23, 2024
- ESD 112 Board of Directors Business Meeting – ESD 112 – October 29, 2024
- ESD 112 Board of Directors Business Meeting – ESD 112 – November 26, 2024
- AESA Conference – Orlando, Florida – December 4-6, 2024

- ESD 112 Board of Directors Business Meeting – Red Cross Building at Fort Vancouver – December 10, 2024
- ESD 112 Board of Directors Business Meeting – ESD 112 – January 28, 2025
- ESD 112 Board of Directors Business Meeting – ESD 112 – February 25, 2025
- ESD 112 Board of Directors Retreat – TBD – March 24, 2025
- ESD 112 Board of Directors Business Meeting – TBD – March 25, 2025
- AESD Conference – Spokane – April 16-18, 2025
- ESD 112 Board of Directors Business Meeting – ESD 112 – April 22, 2025
- ESD 112 Board of Directors Business Meeting – ESD 112 – May 27, 2025
- ESD 112 Board of Directors Business Meeting – ESD 112 – June 24, 2025
- ESD 112 Board of Directors Business Meeting – ESD 112 – August 26, 2025

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no need for an executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:57 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.