



ESD 112 Board of Directors Business Meeting April 23, 2024

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: LeAnne Bremer, Vice-President; Susan Barker; Kevin Davis; Nancy Miller; Heidi Rosenberg; and Darlene Stickel. Superintendent Present: Tim Merlino. Cabinet Members Present: Marnie Allen, Gavin Hottman, Mike Nerland, Jeffrey Niess, Jodi Wall, and Kathy Whitlock.

CALL TO ORDER

The ESD 112 Board of Directors Business meeting was called to order by LeAnne Bremer, *Vice-President*, at 3:00 pm on April 23, 2024. A quorum of six members was present.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

- Program Highlight: Embedded Mental Health Services: Denise Dishongh, *Behavioral Health & Regional School Safety Director*, and Chris Selcer, *Mental Health Therapist*, provided an update on wellness and treatment services offered by ESD 112 in schools. Denise shared an overview of increased behavioral issues in schools, including the dramatic rise in behavioral interventions needed to support elementary students since 2015. These issues were further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2019, ESD 112 received state certification as a Behavioral Health Agency to provide additional support to schools. The ESD currently provides embedded services in fifty schools delivered by mental health therapists and interns.
- Early Head Start & ECEAP Monthly Report: Jodi Wall, *Executive Director of Early Care & Education (ECE)*, shared highlights of the report including an update on Collaborative Planning Days. These days are provided to create more capacity for staff to focus on projects and training based on the strengths and needs at each center. Staff were recently surveyed and reported higher levels of engagement and satisfaction, as well as reduced stress, as a result of having this time. Board members were asked to complete an annual self-assessment by May 15, 2024. Policy Council members will participate in the June board meeting for the annual board training and to share their experiences. Heidi Rosenberg, *Board Policy Council Liaison*, shared an update on an upcoming community event that is being planned by the council with support from ESD 112.
- ESD Budget Report: Gavin Hottman, *Chief Financial Officer*, shared an update on the ESD budget.
- Superintendent's Report: Tim Merlino, *Superintendent*, briefed the board on the following:
 - New Superintendents: Superintendent Merlino shared an update on expected changes in district leadership. At this time, thirteen districts out of thirty within the region are expected to have new or interim superintendents next school year.
 - Legislative Update: The AESD network is collaborating with WASA and all 295 school districts in Washington State to seek full funding for special education, transportation, and MSOC. ESDs will also request the restoration of mental health funding for school districts that was reduced in the recent session.
 - OSPI Visit: Superintendent Chris Reykdal will meet with regional superintendents on May 17, 2024.
 - ESA Update: Jeffrey Niess, *Executive Director of Specialized Student Services*, shared an update on districts that are interested in joining the ESA Specialized Education Cooperative.

- Insurance Update: Marnie Allen, *Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources, Legal Services, and Insurance Programs*, shared an update on the insurance programs, including challenges due to increases in property and casualty insurance.
- Superintendent's Evaluation Timeline: Superintendent Merlino shared a proposed timeline for this year's annual evaluation by the board of directors.
- Employee Acknowledgements & Recognitions: Mike Nerland, *Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning*, recognized Melissa Kreuder, *Director, Human Resources & SW Washington Unemployment Pool*, who was elected President of the Washington School Personnel Association.

PROPOSALS FOR ACTION

- **Motion passed:** to approve the consent agenda items including minutes from the ESD 112 Board of Directors Retreat – March 25, 2024, and ESD 112 Board of Directors Business Meeting – March 26, 2024; ESD 112 Personnel Activity Reports for April 2024; ESD Expenditure Reports for March 2024; and EHS Budget Status/Expenditure Reports for March 2024.
- **Motion passed:** To approve the EHS Non-Federal Share Waiver (Grant #10CH011303-05) for Budget Period 9/1/23-8/31/24, for up to \$466,170.
- **Motion passed:** To pass Resolution R.23.11 – In the Matter of Authorizing the Superintendent to Reduce Programs for the 2024-25 School Year and Issue Reduction Force and Other Required Notices

PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS

- Public Comments:
- Correspondence: There was no correspondence this month.
- Board Participation in Events:
 - Darlene Stickel attended the AESD Annual Conference on April 3-5, 2024.
 - Heidi Rosenberg participated in the EHS/ECEAP Policy Council Meeting on April 18, 2024.

CALENDAR

- AESD Accreditation Panel – CRESO 113, Tumwater, May 13-15, 2024
- EHS/ECEAP Policy Council First Responder Fair – ESD 112 – May 18, 2024
- ESD Board of Directors Business Meeting – ESD 112 – May 28, 2024
- ESD Board of Directors Business Meeting – ESD 112 – June 25, 2024

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:06 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.